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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK KELLY, a Senator from the State of Arizona.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, continue to guard the path of the godly. Lord, You have filled us with reverential awe for You. So please keep our feet from stumbling or slipping. We acknowledge that without the shield of Your favor, our law-makers labor in vain.

Bless them as they embrace Your promise in Psalm 84:11, which states, "The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right." May this promise motivate our Senators to refuse to deviate from integrity.

Mighty God, be a refuge and strength for us all.

We pray in Your loving Name. 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, May 12, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK KELLY, a Sen-

ator from the State of Arizona, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, later this morning, the four congressional leaders will meet with President Biden and Vice President HARRIS at the White House.

Speaking for the Democrats, our hope is to come together and find common ground where we can work in a bipartisan way to overcome the many challenges of our time. We cannot be small-minded or passive. We must be big and bold to meet the changes in the world, the rapid changes that are occurring in the world.

The world is rapidly changing and has been for some time. Just like the steam engine launched the Industrial Revolution and a century of tumultuous change and electricity changed things dramatically in the latter half of the 19th and early parts of the 20th century, the internet has launched the technological revolution.

We are living through that period of massive change everywhere: in media, communications, transportation, how we learn and work and live. The world is not going back to the old way that it was, and America needs to adapt so our workers, families, and businesses can

compete and prosper in the 21st century.

There are so many different changes. Let me just point out one that our society has basically neglected, and that is about childcare. When I was a kid in the late fifties and early sixties, the typical American family had two spouses, only one of whom worked. I would get home from school every day, and there would be my mom for me, my brother, and sister, with milk and cookies, to make sure we drank our milk. She didn't care if we ate our cookies.

And she asked us: Did you have homework? We went out to play, but she was keeping an eye on us. We would play in the street. That was one of the places I learned the most, just playing stickball and other stuff in the streets of Brooklyn.

But, in any case, that is not true anymore. The typical American family is not the way it used to be. The vast majority are either single-parent families or two-parent families where both work. That means that childcare is much more needed to maximize both the happiness and productivity of our society in the 21st century.

Parents sweat over childcare. They need to go to work, but who is going to watch the kids? Can they afford childcare? Is it good enough for the children, of course, whom they love? Our children are our most precious possession. And if we don't dramatically change childcare, we are going to fall far behind, far behind. I read somewhere that of the 37 OECD nations, we are 36th in childcare. Only Turkey is lower.

In general, these things should not be partisan issues. Infrastructure and jobs, putting our economy on firm ground should be the work of both Democrats and Republicans.

Another change, obviously, is climate. In the fifties and sixties, we didn't even imagine a world with climate change. In the last 20 years, it

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



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has become apparent that we had better do something about it or we could have worse times than this COVID year, every year, 10 or 15 years from now. The dramatic changes that will discombobulate our society and risk our health and our economy, just as COVID did, will happen if we don't do anything. So fighting climate change and making sure America leads the world in emerging industries that deal with climate should be the work of both Democrats and Republicans.

This Congress has proven that we can legislate in a bipartisan way, just most recently on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill and a bipartisan water infrastructure bill. I believe we will continue that trend by taking up and passing a bipartisan competition bill this work period.

So as we head to the White House today, I hope our other leaders are thinking about how we can come together to solve our Nation's problems in a bold and lasting way. One hundred percent of Democrats' focus—and I think I can speak for Speaker PELOSI as well as myself and President Biden—is on delivering help to the American people.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, speaking of bipartisan legislation, today the Commerce Committee will begin marking up the Endless Frontier Act, one of the most significant investments in American innovation in generations. The bill will be at the core of comprehensive legislation to address American competitiveness and security in the 21st century.

Once again, for the information of the Senate, it is my intention for the Senate to consider and finish competitive legislation before the end of the month. There have been productive bipartisan talks over the last week to improve the Endless Frontier Act.

This is an issue I have worked on with my friend the Republican Senator from Indiana for the past few years. He has been a great help, a great partner, and I appreciate his work. And, of course, Senator CANTWELL, our chairman of the Commerce Committee, and Senator WICKER, our ranking member, have come together. And everyone had to give a bit here, there, and everywhere, but I think we have a strong bill that should get strong bipartisan support.

The simple truth is very simple. The Endless Frontier Act is legislation our country desperately needs. For decades after the Second World War, our country led the world in science and technology, from healthcare to computers, from telecommunications to manufacturing, to defense. Our workforce brought these innovations to the global economy, and it produced more than half a century of prosperity.

People in the last 50 years, from 1950 to 2000, thought the future was going to be better even than the present, and it

created the usual American optimism. But things have changed, and one of the things that has changed is years of Federal investment in sciences, and they have exposed long-term weak spots—serious weak spots—in our economic competitiveness. This could hurt us dramatically in the next 50 years.

The longer we put off investing in sciences, the likelier it is that other countries, like China but others too, will overtake America as the global leader in innovation, and that will have profound consequences for our economy, our national security, even the future of human liberty, and it will have a lot to do with whether Americans believe that the future economically will be better for them than the present, which is part of the American hallmark and trademark, our sunny optimism, which we must restore. There has been a sourness in the land lately. It is our mission to restore it.

So to take the initiative back, the Endless Frontier Act provides \$100 billion for basic research through the National Science Foundation, focusing on the critical technologies of tomorrow, where we have to stay the leader: AI, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, quantum computing, cyber security, 5G, battery storage, and so much more.

This bill will nurture tech labs and tech hubs across the country in places where they are not now. We have to spread the wealth. The clock is ticking on the need to make these critical investments.

The Chinese Communist Party has gone to extraordinary lengths to steal a generation of American intellectual property and cheat their way to innovating and economic growth. We do not, we definitely do not—Democrats, Republicans, liberals, conservatives do not want a future where the Chinese Communist Party dictates the global order and how the world uses 5G, artificial intelligence, quantum computing.

That is why the Endless Frontier Act is resoundingly bipartisan. We already have six cosponsors from each side—six Democrats, six Republicans—because these issues affect the future of our entire country. I greatly look forward to the good work that Chair CANTWELL and the Commerce Committee will do to advance the bill this week.

REPUBLICAN PARTY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on a final topic, I am not in the habit of commenting on the House Republican minority, but today they have reached a new and very dangerous low point. Earlier this morning, the House GOP ousted LIZ CHENEY from the party's leadership. Her crime? Telling the truth—telling the truth that Joe Biden is the legitimate President of the United States and Donald Trump is lying when he says the election is stolen.

Congresswoman CHENEY spoke truth to power, and for that she has been

fired. Make no mistake, the Congresswoman and I disagree on so many policy issues, but we both agree that truth matters. And she, like so many characters in history—I am just thinking now of Sir Thomas More—had the courage to tell the truth and paid a big price for it.

So this is sad—a very dark moment for the Republican Party. Republicans are seeking to perpetuate and act upon the big lie that the election was stolen, simply to placate the most dishonest President in American history. This President lies at will. He doesn't care of the consequences for the future of grand, great, and wonderful democracy. He only cares about himself and feeding his ego, and truth has nothing to do with that. It mattered—what happened matters a great deal, and what the former President is trying to do hurts our country dramatically. The former President's lies, right now, are poisoning our democracy, eroding our faith in government, and exciting a plague—often nasty, sometimes racist—of voter suppression laws.

I had thought that January 6 revealed the devastating consequences of the big lie. I thought that the invasion of our Capitol by an armed mob—a mob that sought to delay the peaceful transfer of power; a mob that I was within 15, 20 feet of at one moment—would demonstrate to all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, both ends of the Capitol, the awful price of Donald Trump's lies. But after a brief and all-too-short period of introspection, it appears that the big lie is no longer on the retreat among Republicans but, instead, is spreading like a cancer.

Far be it for me to tell House Republicans who should lead them, but it is truly a dangerous—dangerous—sign of our times that the price of admission in today's Republican Party is silence in the face of provable lies.

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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, a one-party takeover of our political system—that is what Senate Democrats brought to the Rules Committee just yesterday, their side's top priority for multiple years now.

The supposed rationales for the bill continue to change. A few years ago, when majorities of Democrats were mistakenly convinced that foreigners had hacked voting machines and tampered with tallies in 2016, this was marketed as an election security bill. But it keeps morphing to suit new headlines. Lately, it has been called a racial justice bill. Some Senators say it is really a response to some recent State-level legislation, even though their bill predates those bills by multiple years.

A partisan power grab in search of a justification—that is what we have here. Voter turnout last November was the highest in decades. African-American turnout was twice as high in Mississippi as it was in Massachusetts. Democrats' hysterical attacks against the new election law in the State of Georgia have been dismantled even by typically left-leaning fact checkers.

There is no crisis. Our Democratic friends just want the power to rewire our democracy on a partisan basis. S. 1 would take the Federal Election Commission—the bipartisan panel that regulates elections and private citizens' speech—and make it a partisan body run by the Democrats.

It would let Washington Democrats act like a nationwide board of elections on steroids, neutering popular things like voter ID and forcing legalized ballot harvesting onto all 50 States. This bill would let bureaucrats snoop around more in free speech; attack citizens' privacy so dramatically that even the liberal ACLU is unhappy; and even send public funds—get this: public funds—directly to politicians.

Republicans put forward amendments to fix those things. If Democrats had wanted real, bipartisan solutions, Republicans were there, right at the table, and ready, but Democrats voted us down. They wouldn't even let us redirect any of that public money to the opioid crisis. They wanted that cash for their own campaigns.

This partisan power grab failed to advance out of committee for the same reason it must never ever become law as currently written. It will shatter public confidence in our democracy if the Democratic Party decides it can rig the rules.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a different matter, yet again, air raid sirens have been sounding in Israel. Israeli civilians have been huddling in basements, shelters, and hospital stairwells. Hamas rocket attacks are lighting up the skies, hitting buildings, and terrorizing, injuring, and killing innocent people. Of course, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic jihad receive significant support from Iran.

Fortunately, a remarkable percentage of the incoming rockets have been intercepted in midair by Israel's Iron Dome system. Americans should take some pride of our own in defending our friends with these high-tech defenses,

which we have helped Israel bring online and have advanced our own joint missile defense efforts at the same time. Missile defense is expensive but vital. It is yet another reason I am concerned with this administration's intention to underfund defense.

Whatever complaints Palestinians have with Israel's Government, wanton violence against civilians is completely and totally inexcusable. This is barbaric terrorism, not a legitimate protest; nor is it legitimate for Israel's obsessive critics to suggest any equivalency whatsoever between these inexcusable attacks and Israel's measured and quite targeted response against terrorists.

Yesterday here in Washington, street protesters screamed—listen to this—“Israel is a terrorist state.” On the streets of Washington, they screamed: “Israel is a terrorist state.” Some Democratic Members of Congress echoed that rhetoric almost exactly.

Look, the State of Israel has every right of self-defense. Its national security leaders have continued to display restraint and invest so much in precision and avoiding civilian casualties. That has been the approach of the Israeli Government.

Israel must know that their friends and allies here in the United States stand with them as they seek to restore deterrence, that we support their right to peace and security, and that we will not relax our efforts to hold terrorists and terrorists' supporters to account.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now one final matter, Mr. President. This morning, I will be joining three other congressional leaders to meet with President Biden at the White House. There is certainly no shortage of important business to discuss.

The President campaigned on a promise that his agenda would unite a divided nation. And he inherited a favorable situation. Vaccines were flooding America. Science had proven schools can reopen. Job openings were beginning to pile up.

Republicans sought to continue the 2020 bipartisan streak on COVID relief, but our new President and our Democratic colleagues preferred a one-party approach. They used the end of the pandemic to pass what the President's own staff admitted—admitted—was “the most progressive bill in American history.” Not exactly shopping for consensus.

Republicans were upfront with our concerns. We said these old liberal ideas would slow rehiring, slow down the reopening, and stoke inflation. Of course, just a few minutes ago, the Bureau of Labor Statistics published the most dramatic monthly inflation report in more than a decade. Many of the things American families buy have grown more expensive at a dizzying pace. Last week's incredibly dis-

appointing jobs report showed what happens when Washington taxes working people to pay other people more to stay home.

I am going to discuss these and other concerns with the President today, but I also hope we can begin to come together on pressing issues that should actually unite us.

The last time Congress took comprehensive action on surface transportation infrastructure, 83 Senators signed on. By the way, that bill was produced by Senator Boxer, myself, and Senator INHOFE—a totally bipartisan effort across broad ideological lines. The last time we drilled down on water resources, the margin was 92 to 6. Infrastructure can and should be a bipartisan issue; the same for supporting working families; the same for supporting our national defense.

If the President can remember that he promised to govern for all Americans, not just the far left, if my Democratic friends can remember they have just a 50–50 Senate and a closely divided House—not exactly a sweeping mandate for a socialist agenda—there is much we can deliver together for the country.

I hope today marks the start of a new course correction from this White House and a more successful dialogue across party lines. That is what Americans need, and that is what they deserve.

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. CORNYN. 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.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the motion to discharge the Brooks-LaSure nomination.

The Senator from Texas is recognized.

MEDICAID

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, more than 4 million Texans, including half of the children in my State, depend on the stability of the State's Medicaid Program to provide healthcare for themselves and their families. Everything from emergency room visits to mental health care, Medicaid funding

is vital to the health of our most vulnerable friends and neighbors. The same is true in virtually every State across the country.

Unfortunately, a recent move by the Biden administration has put the healthcare of these vulnerable citizens in jeopardy. A few weeks ago, the Biden administration rescinded approval of Texas's 1115 waiver extension. I know that is an obscure reference to most folks, but, basically, here is the long and short of it. The previous administration reached an agreement with the State that will enable billions of dollars to flow to Texans in need. Now, for some reason, the Biden administration is trying to stop it.

The real question is, Why? Why would the Biden administration try to jeopardize the healthcare for 4 million Texans, while the President has consistently talked about ensuring every American has access to quality healthcare. Just 2 weeks ago in his joint session to Congress, he said:

Healthcare should be a right, not a privilege in America.

So why would the administration take an unprecedented action to reduce access to healthcare for some of the most vulnerable people in my State?

Well, the official answer from CMS is to correct an administrative error. But two Federal health officials did an unusual thing in Washington, DC, albeit anonymously. They told the truth. They told the Washington Post that this was done to "push State officials toward accepting the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion." It is pretty bold to admit that this was not about an administrative error at all but about forcing Medicaid expansion onto the State of Texas.

Many people will recall that this was a portion of the Affordable Care Act which was held unconstitutional in an opinion written by Chief Justice Roberts. Chief Justice Roberts said that the Federal Government cannot put a gun to the head of the State and force it to accept the Medicaid expansion since it is a joint program between the Federal Government and the State. Now the administration is engaged in a game of political chicken, with 4 million Texans on the line, and the only ones who are getting hurt are the low-income and uninsured Texans whose healthcare relies on this safety net.

This move by the administration would have been damaging during normal times, but it is even more damaging after this unprecedented year for our healthcare providers. In fact, it is downright reckless. Hospitals and providers in Texas have been pushed to the brink during the pandemic. On top of the additional expenses associated with COVID-19, they have faced serious financial shortfalls from the pause on nonessential medical procedures as well as the hesitancy of patients to seek care because they have been worried about contracting the virus.

Now, more than ever, hospitals and healthcare providers need reliable

funding to plan ahead for their financial stability and uncompensated healthcare costs. If this funding stream goes away or is disrupted, it will directly threaten the healthcare for uninsured Texans and harm the livelihoods of healthcare providers as a whole.

In rural areas and those that are already underserved, the consequences of this move could not be more dangerous. Let's say the Biden administration refuses to change course and Texas loses billions of dollars in Medicaid funding. If uninsured patients in small towns go only to local hospitals for emergency care, they will receive that emergency care because that is another Federal law, called EMTALA. But without the Federal funding to offset those costs, how would these hospitals make ends meet? If these patients aren't paying out of their pockets and the Federal Government is not helping to cover the costs, what will happen?

It is pretty simple, actually. Without funding, the rural hospital will close.

So those same uninsured patients will start visiting the second closest hospital. In my State—it is a big State—that is, maybe, 30 minutes down the road. Maybe it is more than an hour away. Once again, without Federal funding to help cover the costs of treating rising numbers of uninsured patients, what will happen?

Well, that hospital will close too. We will descend into a death spiral of hospitals and healthcare providers that close their doors because they can no longer afford to provide healthcare. The hardest hit patients won't be those with private health insurance; they will be those low-income and uninsured patients, especially in rural and underserved areas.

So the consequences of this irresponsible move by the Biden administration could not be more serious, and they will be felt far and wide because this funding is vital to our healthcare system as a whole.

It is not hyperbole to say that these are going to have life-and-death consequences. While patients in Texas may be the first to get caught in the game of political chicken, they will not be the last. There are only four States that don't have approved or pending 1115 waivers. Four—only four—don't have approved or pending 1115 waivers. Every other State could find itself in the same situation as my State in the coming months.

Florida was granted a waiver around the same time as Texas. What will happen to vulnerable Floridians? Tennessee is already facing legal challenges to its waiver. Will its providers be in jeopardy too? North Carolina, South Carolina, Missouri, Idaho—the list of States that could be impacted by this life-or-death game of chicken goes on and on. The most vulnerable patients in States across the country could lose access to healthcare because of the Biden administration's irrespon-

sible and reckless actions. Something must be done.

To state the obvious, the nominee to lead the CMS, Ms. Brooks-LaSure, did not rescind the Texas Medicaid waiver approval. In fact, she has not been confirmed as yet, but before her nomination can advance, Members of the Senate deserve a commitment from the administration that it won't try to force the hand of States by putting the healthcare of millions on the line.

If we don't step up now and push back against this reckless move, what State will be next? How far will the administration go—in the words of Chief Justice Roberts—to put a gun to the heads of the States, forcing them to dance to Washington's tune?

I have asked the administration to work with Texas to ensure that millions of impacted individuals won't lose access to healthcare, but, so far, there has been zero progress. The administration has been unwilling to provide any assurance that an agreement with Texas could be reached before the end of this fiscal year—something that would have dire consequences for our providers, especially those in mental and behavioral health.

As a reminder, the CMS said the only issue with the Texas waiver was an administrative error. Now it won't even commit to providing reliable care for these patients. This unprecedented action by the CMS threatens the security of the Texas Medicaid Program. It disrespects the continuity of this agreement, and it erodes the partnership between the State and the Federal Government.

I think it also violates the constitutional authority of the States. The Federal Government is one of delegated powers, with the rest retained by the States and we the people. That was the basis upon which the Supreme Court of the United States struck down the compulsory Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act. Yet now the administration seeks to do through the backdoor what it could not do through the front door. This sets a dangerous precedent of the administration's undoing of agreements, negotiated in good faith between the States and the Federal Government, for purely political reasons, and it could have cascading consequences across the country.

I appreciate Ms. Brooks-LaSure's experience in working with States to develop these waivers as well as her willingness to talk to me about this issue, but she doesn't have any authority to force the Biden administration to undo its terrible and reckless mistake, at least not yet. Until Texas can receive a waiver and an assurance that this action will be rectified and the rug will not be pulled out from under our poorest patients, I cannot support this nomination.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for the healthcare of their most vulnerable populations and push the administration to find an alternate path forward.

If they are willing to do this to my State, they will do it to your State and every other State in the country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Democratic whip.

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, they did it in a closed room. No one in the public was allowed to watch. They did it by a voice vote so that there would be no physical record of how individual Congressmen—how they voted. And they decided to remove a Member of the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives this morning in that fashion. These proud, courageous disciples of Donald Trump didn't want to be on the record publicly as to where they stood on the fate of Congresswoman CHENEY.

This is the same Congresswoman CHENEY who was reelected to leadership in the House just a few weeks ago. This is the same Congresswoman CHENEY who is one of the most ideologically conservative Members of the House. She voted with President Trump nearly 93 percent of the time while she was in office. With a name like CHENEY, it is hard to question her Republican credentials.

No, the decision, in private, in secret this morning by a voice vote, was not about a disagreement over policy but the issue as to whether or not LIZ CHENEY dares to tell the truth.

She refused to defend or ignore the big lie that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump, and in today's Republican Party, it seems like that is all that is necessary for grounds for removal.

More than 6 months after the 2020 election was held, it is clear that the big lie has been spread in a big way. And that lie is not just a threat to the future of the Republican Party, it is a threat to our democracy.

Since the start of this year, Republican State legislatures, inspired by Donald Trump's big lie that the election was stolen, have introduced more than 360 bills with restrictive voting provisions in 47 States—one of the most notorious examples, the State of Georgia.

Remember, the State of Georgia—hotly contested in the 2020 election, and then the Trump troops came in and went to court over and over and over again, suggesting there was election fraud and dishonesty in the Georgia election. And the Georgia election officials, virtually all Republicans, stood up and said it was an honest election, a close one, but it was an honest election. They were challenged over and

over again, to the point where the former President of the United States, while he was still in power, called an election official in Georgia and basically threatened him; that if he didn't change the votes and give President Trump what he thought he needed to win, he would pay a price for it. It went that far.

To his credit, this election official stood up and said: The results are accurate and I stand by them and I am not going to change it.

It went that far.

And there was a big turnout in Georgia. In fact, there was an amazing turnout in the runoff elections for the two Senate seats won by JON OSSOFF and RAPHAEL WARNOCK, our colleagues here in the U.S. Senate. So even with that big turnout and even with the certainty that that election was honest from start to finish, the Georgia Legislature decided to change the laws for voting in Georgia. It wasn't volume they were looking for; it was loyalty. They wanted to make sure that the voters in the future would be friendlier to the Republicans.

And so they changed the Georgia election law and made it harder for people, particularly people of color, young people, the elderly, and people of limited means, to vote. That law—that Georgia voting law—represents a blatantly political effort to subvert our democratic process.

Republicans of conscience know this, but it seems there is no future for those Republicans, if we reflect on the vote taken this morning in the House of Representatives Republican caucus. LIZ CHENEY's expulsion from her role in the Republican conference is just the latest example of what happens to Republican officials who dare to speak the truth about the 2020 election. They are not only silenced, they are purged from the party ranks.

Our own colleague Senator MITT ROMNEY, not long ago a Republican candidate for President of the United States, was just censured by a Republican county organization in his State because he refuses to support the big lie of Donald Trump. The unfortunate reality is that, today, the loudest voices within the Republican Party have joined Donald Trump in declaring war on the basics of our democracy.

That is why we in Congress need to do something. Immediately. This week, the Rules Committee held a markup on a measure that would combat voter suppression and protect our democratic process. It is known as the For the People Act.

This is a democracy defense plan. It will ensure that all eligible Americans can exercise their constitutional right to vote without facing burdensome barriers at the ballot box. The For the People Act invests in election infrastructure, provides State and local officials with resources to run safe, secure elections.

In addition to combating voter suppression, the bill also reforms a broken

campaign finance system that gives wealthy donors and big corporations far too much influence over our electoral process. By passing it, we will say, loud and clear, that America's elections are not for sale to the highest bidder. Above all, this legislation will strengthen the integrity of our democratic process and put more power in the hands of the people.

Now, I know some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are attacking the bill as a "takeover" of the Nation's election system. The truth is, American elections have already been taken over by special interests. This bill will start to restore our democracy and make it more accessible to every eligible American.

I would love to know what my Republican colleagues find so objectionable about the legislation's core provisions. Listen, it automatically registers American voters when they get a driver's license; it guarantees at least 15 days of early voting; ends partisan gerrymandering nationwide; and brings greater transparency to the campaign finance system. These are reforms that will make our democracy whole again, and they are desperately needed, particularly at this moment in our history because in the world's greatest democracy, people shouldn't have to wait in line for hours on end to have their voices heard. And yet that is the reality for voters in States just like Georgia. And it is not an accident; it is intentional. Look at the people standing in the lines, and you can understand why they are being discouraged from voting by waiting so long.

Let's be honest about these restrictive voting provisions being passed in State legislatures across the country, because they are grounded in one lie after another. The truth is that President Trump's own officials at the Department of Homeland Security declared that the 2020 election was the most secure election in American history.

The truth is, judges across the country, including many appointed by President Donald Trump, threw out more than 63 lawsuits that his followers filed, challenging the results of last year's elections. Why? There was no evidence, no basis in fact for the big lie.

But the truth is, the big lie won't just die with the 2020 election. It will sow distrust in our electoral system for years to come, unless my Republican colleagues act with courage. A few have done so. This morning, one paid a heavy price.

The question to all of us is: Are we prepared to either discredit democracy or defend it?

Rejecting the big lie is the defense of our democratic process. We have to join together in making certain that every American's right to vote is protected.

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

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

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND
EMPLOYEES WEEK

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, our Nation just concluded National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Because the Senate was not in session last week, I want to take this opportunity to recognize these heroes and everything they do to protect our people and uphold the rule of law.

Every day, correctional officers go in to work to guard and operate our Federal prisons, State prisons, and local jails. They not only administer justice on behalf of innocent victims, but they also defend the guilty from unjust adversity.

They combat the drug trade so that addicts can recover. They fight back against vicious prison gangs so that inmates can have a chance to find redemption instead of recidivism. They confront the most violent offenders so that persons with short minimum-security prison sentences don't turn out to have what is a death sentence.

Without safety, security, and structure, our prisons and our jails would devolve into anarchy, into chaos, and crime. Correctional officers combat these forces of disorder so that these facilities can instead be centers of self-improvement and, indeed, correction. As a result, many inmates are able to pursue education, learn marketable skills, and find solace in God.

The profession of a correctional officer is both noble and very dangerous. Fewer than 450,000 correctional officers protect and police approximately 1.5 million inmates in a normal year, around the clock, every minute of every day.

Riots, jailbreak attempts, and targeted anti-police violence are common and result in particularly high-risk situations for correctional officers. In a 9-year period measured by the National Institutes of Health, correctional officers suffered over 125,000 work-related injuries and 113 tragically lost their lives.

Correctional officers willingly endure this danger, suffer these injuries, and sometimes give their lives so that our families, neighborhoods, and communities can be safe. The least we can do is to recognize their sacrifice and express our gratitude.

This year, our correctional officers did even more than usual. For the past 14 months, they have worked tirelessly to keep our inmates healthy in the middle of this global pandemic. They shifted normal confinement arrangements, and they maintained order among the population under enhanced stress due to coronavirus protocols.

Correctional officers have done an amazing job and saved so many lives

during this crisis. Sadly, some even paid the ultimate price for their work. They should be proud of their work, and we ought to be proud of them. So from the floor of the U.S. Senate, I certainly can say I am proud of our correctional officers.

But our Nation should go beyond gratitude. We ought to give correctional officers the funding, the wages, the equipment, the facilities, and the support that they need.

To start, Congress can finally crack down on contraband cell phones. Inmates use them to maintain their criminal enterprises from behind bars and to terrorize those who put them there. They also use them to victimize other inmates and to prey upon random victims outside prison walls. In other words, prisoners use these cell phones to undermine the life's work of correctional officers.

Contraband cell phones are even used as tools of retribution against the officers themselves. In 2010, a gang member imprisoned in South Carolina used a contraband cell phone to order the murder of Captain Robert Johnson. Captain Johnson was then mercilessly shot six times in the chest and stomach in his own house. Remarkably, he survived the attack, and he is now a leading advocate for taking action against contraband cell phones.

Regrettably, the use of contraband cell phones shows no sign of slowing. On the contrary, they are becoming ubiquitous weapons inside of our prisons. While available technologies can be helpful, it is also increasingly clear they are not capable of solving the problem alone. So that is why I will soon be reintroducing my Cell Phone Jamming Reform Act. This bill would empower State prisons to install jamming technology and turn contraband cell phones into nothing but useless paper weights. This easy and common-sense step will honor the hard work of correctional officers to clean up our streets and to keep our Nation safe.

The men and women of this country—law-abiding citizens and those who serve their time alike—owe a debt to our Nation's correctional officers. So I, once again, want to thank them for their courageous and diligent service. And I hope they took time last week to celebrate National Correctional Officers and Employees Week because they certainly deserved it.

ABORTION

Mr. President, a few years ago, mainstream news articles trumpeted, supposedly, stunning news out of Scandinavia: Iceland was close to eliminating Down syndrome. Eureka. Fantastic.

How is it possible? Have these Icelandic scientists discovered some amazing and miraculous new gene therapy? No, they hadn't because Iceland wasn't eliminating Down syndrome. Iceland was eliminating babies with Down syndrome using prenatal testing to identify genetic anomalies and then aborting the babies that had those anomalies.

According to one Icelandic genetic counselor—and this is a direct quote. I am not making it up. You might think I am.

We don't look at abortion as murder. We look at it as a thing that we ended.

Imagine, how ghoulish that is. That is what this counselor and some like him believe, that a baby is just a "thing." But if they are honest with themselves, I think if they look into their hearts, they know the truth: Babies with Down syndrome aren't just "things." They are living human beings of inestimable value who are loved by their Creator, even if they aren't protected by the law or valued by too many in society.

Sadly, Iceland is no exception. In many parts of the world, a Down syndrome diagnosis is tantamount to a death sentence. And while in America, thankfully, we are more welcoming, sadly, we still terminate roughly two-thirds of babies diagnosed with this genetic condition. That needs to change.

A civilized nation has a responsibility to protect our most vulnerable people, and that means we have an obligation, especially, to protect unborn babies with Down syndrome.

My home State of Arkansas passed a law to do just that—to make it illegal for an abortionist to perform an abortion if they know it is motivated solely by a Down syndrome diagnosis. You would think this law would be uncontroversial. You would think a country that cares about ending discrimination against people with disabilities would leap at the chance to outlaw a particularly evil and final form of discrimination. After all, this Congress has taken many steps in recent years to protect those with disabilities. But, no, you would be wrong. That is not what happened. The abortion lobby kicked into high gear and got a liberal judge to block Arkansas' pro-life law from going into effect.

The pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute denounced laws to protect babies with Down syndrome as "dangerous and coercive." Now, this should not be surprising coming from the Guttmacher Institute. After all, it is named after a former leader of the American Eugenics Society, as so many abortion advocates can also trace their lineage to the dark, so-called science of eugenics of early last century.

These modern-day eugenicists and a few liberal activist judges are putting babies with Down syndrome at grave risk every day. These babies can find no refuge under the laws of many of our States and our Nation.

But, thankfully, that may be changing. The State of Arkansas is fighting to save its pro-life law in court, and tomorrow, I and Representative ASHLEY HINSON, along with many of my colleagues in Congress, will submit an amicus brief urging the court to protect these most innocent and vulnerable young babies. Time will only tell if the courts will hear these pleas.

But while we will make the most persuasive legal arguments available on the law and the facts, I must add that the most effective advocates for justice will always remain those little babies with Down syndrome and the parents who brought them bravely into this world. They will be the first to tell you that a person with Down syndrome isn't a burden. It isn't just a "thing," to quote the Icelandic eugenicists. These babies are persons. They are fearfully and wonderfully made. They are created equal in the eyes of and image of God, just like each and every one of us.

So let us fervently pray that one day soon, our laws will reflect this very basic truth and protect these innocent children.

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

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

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge the nomination of Chiquita Brooks-LaSure from the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BROWN. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN assumed the Chair.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 184 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
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	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Cornyn	Graham
Blackburn	Cotton	Grassley
Blunt	Cramer	Hagerty
Boozman	Crapo	Hawley
Braun	Cruz	Hoeven
Burr	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Capito	Ernst	Inhofe
Cassidy	Fischer	Johnson

Kennedy	Portman	Shelby
Lankford	Risch	Sullivan
Lee	Romney	Thune
Lummis	Rounds	Tillis
Marshall	Rubio	Toomey
McConnell	Sasse	Tuberville
Murkowski	Scott (FL)	Wicker
Paul	Scott (SC)	Young

NOT VOTING—1

Heinrich

The motion was agreed to.

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

The motion was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 108, Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

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 Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 185 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Baldwin	Cantwell	Collins
Bennet	Capito	Coons
Blumenthal	Cardin	Cortez Masto
Blunt	Carper	Cramer
Booker	Casey	Duckworth
Brown	Cassidy	Durbin

Ernst	Markey	Schatz
Feinstein	McConnell	Schumer
Gillibrand	Menendez	Shaheen
Graham	Merkley	Sinema
Grassley	Moran	Smith
Hassan	Murkowski	Stabenow
Hickenlooper	Murphy	Sullivan
Hirono	Murray	Tester
Hoeven	Ossoff	Thune
Johnson	Padilla	Toomey
Kaine	Peters	Van Hollen
Kelly	Portman	Warner
King	Reed	Warnock
Klobuchar	Romney	Warren
Leahy	Rosen	Whitehouse
Lujan	Rounds	Wyden
Manchin	Sanders	

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Heinrich Young

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 30.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Louisiana.

IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS FOR STUDENTS ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am going to talk for a few minutes about mental health for our kids. I think many Americans have known and, unfortunately, some Americans have loved some of our fellow citizens who suffer with depression and anxiety and thoughts of suicide. It is a particular problem for our young people. CDC reports that one in four young Americans have actually considered suicide, and, in fact, the second leading cause of death for young people is suicide.

I am sure there are a lot of reasons for this. I think it is harder to be a young person today. Many of our kids see things that those of us who are older didn't have to deal with until we were adults—drugs, of course; alcohol; also, social media. You can still find kindness in America, but unfortunately you have to go offline to do it.

Some of our young people—many of our young people—just need someone to talk to. Some of them, when their anxiety and their depression is acute, need medical treatment, and this bill will simply provide a mechanism for our young people to receive it.

The bill, as I said, is called the Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act. It would provide that schools—our universities—be required to print phone numbers for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Crisis Text Line, and a campus mental health center or program on the student ID cards.

This bill would not require our schools to tear up current ID cards. It would be phased in. And if a school doesn't use an ID card, they don't have to start using an ID card. My bill

would simply require that the schools put the information on their website.

This bill passed unanimously by UC in our last Congress, but, unfortunately, the House ran out of time to take it up.

Toward that end, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I am going to ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1585, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1585) to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1585) was passed as follows:

S. 1585

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 “Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act”.

SEC. 2. ADDING SUICIDE PREVENTION CONTACT INFORMATION TO SCHOOL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(30)(A) In the case of an institution that creates and distributes identification cards for students at any time after the date of enactment of this paragraph, such institution shall include phone contact information on each such card for the following organizations:

“(i) The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

“(ii) Crisis Text Line.

“(iii) A campus mental health center or program, as determined by the institution.

“(B) In the case of an institution that does not create and distribute identification cards for students at any time after the date of enactment of this paragraph, such institution shall publish the suicide prevention contact information specified in subparagraph (A) on the website of such institution.

“(C) If an organization in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) ceases to exist, the Secretary may designate a different entity with a similar purpose to be included on the identification card.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect beginning on the day that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2021.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE NOMINATIONS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise in support of the President's nominees to serve on the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors. I would like to thank Senator PORTMAN for working with me to swiftly advance the nominations of Ron Stroman, Amber McReynolds, and Anton Hajjar to fill the remaining vacancies on the Postal Service Board of Governors.

Today, we are voting on the nominations of Mr. Stroman and Ms. McReynolds, and I expect to take up Mr. Hajjar's nomination soon.

The Board of Governors is an independent, bipartisan body that provides leadership, strategic vision, and oversight of the U.S. Postal Service—one of the oldest and most trusted American institutions.

For nearly 250 years, the Postal Service has served communities all across our Nation. Countless Americans rely on the Postal Service to deliver critical medications and financial documents, to run their small businesses, to cast their ballots, to stay connected with family, and so much more.

But the Postal Service continues to face enormous challenges. From longstanding financial constraints to the impacts of the ongoing pandemic, the Postal Service has struggled to provide timely delivery and plan for its future.

Our dedicated postal workers have shown time and again that they can get the job done when they are given the right tools and measures. The Board of Governors will be responsible for guiding the Postal Service through its current challenges and working with Congress to ensure that Americans can rely on the Postal Service to deliver their mail each and every day.

Mr. Stroman, Ms. McReynolds, and Mr. Hajjar are each highly qualified to serve as Governors. They are all accomplished leaders who bring diverse experiences and backgrounds that are currently not represented on the Board.

Most importantly, they each understand the public service mission of the Postal Service and are committed to improving and preserving reliable delivery service for Americans all across our country.

Ron Stroman is a lifelong public servant who served as Deputy Postmaster General for nearly 10 years. He has a deep operational knowledge of the Postal Service and an extensive

record of working across the aisle on postal issues.

Amber McReynolds is the chief executive of the nonpartisan, nonprofit National Vote at Home Institute and a former senior local government official for Denver, CO. She is a proven leader who drives innovation and understands how the Postal Service impacts both State and local governments.

Anton Hajjar is an accomplished lawyer who understands the unique challenges faced by the Postal Service's large and diverse workforce. He has worked extensively in labor-management relations, including forging compromises between Postal Service workers and management. And prior to his decades of legal experience, as a high school student he spent a summer as a substitute letter carrier.

Each of these nominees will each bring a fresh perspective to the Board, and I look forward to working with them to strengthen this vital public service for years to come.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting each of these highly qualified nominees to serve as Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

I yield.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

AMERICAN FAMILIES PLAN

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, Washington has been on a dizzying spending spree over the past couple of months, passing trillion-dollar bills right and left. It is nearly impossible to calculate the total cost. And now, President Biden and the Democrats in Congress are proposing several trillion dollars in even more spending.

With tax day approaching on May 17, the time has come to pay the bills for all of these government giveaways. And guess who will be forced to pay for it? Well, of course, it is the American people.

Right now, Democrats are hoping to finance their ongoing spending splurge by increasing taxes on hard-working Americans across this country. One of the key tax hikes included in the President's so-called American Families Plan would hit farm families especially hard.

The Biden proposal would eliminate a protection that allows Iowa farm families to pass down their assets to the next generation without a tax penalty. The Farm Bureau says the end result would be a significant tax increase on our farmers and ranchers.

This is the last thing the ag sector needs as they continue on their economic recovery. While hiking taxes on our farmers who help feed and fuel our Nation every single day, my Democratic colleagues also want to give a tax break to high-income coastal elites.

And don't just take my word for it. Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, the leader of the socialist squad in the House, says the Democrats' proposal to repeal the cap on the State and local tax deduction is “a gift

to billionaires” and “a giveaway to the rich.” Never in a million years did I ever think that I would agree with AOC, but there is no arguing on that particular point.

Those aren’t the only parts of the Democrats’ tax strategy that make no sense. According to recent reports, their demand to raise taxes on capital gains could actually cost the government money. The calculation is that if rates get too high, people will just stop selling their assets.

Well, here is an idea: Rather than taking more of Iowans’ hard-earned dollars to pay for their plans, maybe Democrats could stop their reckless spending. But let’s be honest, that probably won’t happen. They are the party of tax and spend, after all.

Rather than raising taxes, my friends across the aisle could start by collecting the \$380 billion in taxes that is already owed, but not paid, every year. Current and retired government employees alone owe over \$3 billion in delinquent taxes. Why should Iowans be paying the salaries and benefits of those who aren’t even paying their own tax bill? They shouldn’t. And that is why I am helping lead an effort that would collect the billions in back taxes owed by Federal employees.

Another solution: We could bring in billions of dollars by closing a tax loophole that literally goes all the way to China. If the communist regime was treated the same as a U.S. citizen, it would be required to pay taxes on interest from our debt to China.

But as a result of a three decades old treaty, communist China is exempt from paying taxes on these profits. Instead of increasing taxes on farm families and working Americans, the Biden administration should collect the hundreds of billions of dollars that is already owed to us and close the loophole that treats communist China better than our own U.S. citizens.

Right now, to pay off your annual Federal tax bill, you would have to set aside every penny you earned from January 1 until mid-April, every single penny.

Folks, Washington should be working for you, but it turns out you are working for Washington, and you can’t even claim the government as a dependent on your tax return. This plot to pick-pocket taxpayers to pay for the left’s unpopular progressive policies is bad for our Nation’s economic recovery and even worse for working Americans who get stuck with the bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. First, I would like to associate myself with the remarks from the Senator from Iowa, who very clearly stated the problems that people all across the country are facing. I love the line about we can’t even claim the government as a dependent because the government truly is dependent upon the people of this great country.

Tax day is just a few days away so I come to the floor to oppose the tax

hikes proposed by President Biden. Today, tax revenues in America are at a near-record high of all times. We don’t have a revenue problem; we have a spending problem. Yet President Biden wants to take more money out of the wallets of America’s hard-working men and women.

How much is he calling for? Astonishingly, \$3 trillion in additional taxes. This is on top of the taxes that are already being paid. It is the biggest tax increase in over half a century.

It is supposed to pay for a lot of liberal spending ideas. It is a big liberal agenda that this President is promoting. Yet even with these historic tax increases being proposed, our Nation will still need to continue to borrow money from China.

In just over 100 days, President Biden has already put \$1.99 trillion on our Nation’s credit card. Now he wants more. In total, President Biden’s agenda would cost more than America’s total commitment to World War II. Are these liberal spending proposals as important to our Nation as was our victory in World War II? Of course not.

As I have said before, our economy was already on track to be back to normal this summer. That was before President Biden passed his spending bill on a party-line vote crammed through the Senate after a middle-of-the-night debate, crammed through on a direct party-line vote using budget reconciliation.

President Biden has said—it is interesting, astonishing, and amusing to listen to the President when he says only the rich will have to pay these taxes. The American people have seen this movie before. We know as Americans that when we hear politicians say only the rich will pay, it is time to hold on to your wallet because they are coming for you.

Working families are going to pay in the form of higher prices, lower wages, and fewer job opportunities.

We are already seeing higher prices. We are seeing significant inflation since the day President Biden has taken office. We see it again today with the newest economic statistics that have come out. We hear about it at home on the weekends as we talk to folks at home about what is happening with their day-to-day life and their expenses.

Experts tell us that President Biden’s tax hikes could destroy a million jobs—a million jobs. When Republicans cut taxes in 2017—and it is good to be here on the floor with my friend and colleague from Ohio who is one of the four horsemen who put that proposal together on behalf of the Republicans—revenue at the Federal Government actually went up. It is the same thing that happened when taxes were cut under President Coolidge and Kennedy and Reagan and George W. Bush.

If you cut taxes, there is more money in people’s hands. They can do what they want to do with that money and make better decisions than the govern-

ment. I think it is very important to let people keep more of their hard-earned money. They make better decisions than Washington, DC, does.

People can decide what they want to spend, what they want to save, what they want to invest, how much they want to donate. And all four of these are very good for our Nation. That means more jobs, more growth, and, ultimately, more tax revenue with more people working, even though each is paying less in taxes individually.

I have much more confidence when money is in the hands of the American people than I do when it is in the hands of the politicians in Washington, DC.

I would urge all of my colleagues to say: Stop these tax hikes. Stop this reckless spending. Let people keep more of their hard-earned money and make decisions for themselves.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, first, I would like to congratulate my colleague from Wyoming for his thoughtful remarks. I mean, he is absolutely right. This is not the time for us to be raising taxes.

It is tax day coming up next week, and Senator ERNST of Iowa put together this colloquy to focus us all on that issue and the fact that here we are coming onto tax day, yet there are proposals out there saying you are not paying enough tax. So all of you who think you are paying too much tax, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the administration would like to increase those taxes substantially.

It is going to really hurt our economy and hurt workers. That is my big concern about this proposal in this so-called infrastructure package. Our economy is kind of limping along still, in part, because we have spent so much in stimulus that it has overheated the economy, and you can see the inflation that is hitting us. You can see it in the gas prices when you go to the pump or food costs or, if you are trying to buy lumber these days, check out the cost.

On the one hand, Democrats are encouraging more inflation through stimulation that really wasn’t needed based on what we had learned from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office—and that has overheated the economy—and, by the way, as former Secretary of the Treasury Larry Summers predicted. This was in a Democratic administration, two of them.

I am concerned about the spending, but then to pay for the spending, these tax cuts are really a mistake. What I would like to do is go back to the economy we had before COVID. That economy was really helping everyone. It was an inclusive economy.

Two years ago, just before COVID, we had significant economic growth, which most people know about. What folks might not know about February a year ago, just before COVID hit, it was the 19th straight month of wage growth of 3 percent or more on an annual

basis. Think about that, 3 percent or more wage growth. We haven't had that in Ohio, my home State, in a long time, perhaps a decade and a half.

That kind of wage growth was primarily focused on lower income and middle-income workers, so the benefit wasn't just to the companies and the people at the high end. The benefit was primarily to those who were at the lower end of the economic scale.

We had a study by the Congressional Budget Office, as we looked to these corporate tax cuts that were made in 2017, and they said that 70 percent of the benefit was going to go to workers in terms of higher wages and better benefits. That is exactly what happened. I think they were right. We tied the 50-year low in unemployment at 3.5 percent. We also had historically low unemployment for some groups—Hispanics, Blacks, Asian Americans.

In fact, before the pandemic, we reached the lowest poverty rate we ever had in this country. We started keeping track of it back in the 1950s, the late fifties. We had the lowest poverty rate going into the pandemic than we had ever had. You probably haven't heard that much because it wasn't reported much. Again, it was not just a growth economy; it was an inclusive economy.

Importantly, the tax reform that was put in place in 2017 didn't just help stimulate this kind of inclusive growth but also stopped these companies in America from going overseas. I remember this word "inversion." The companies were literally inverting, meaning they were switching and becoming foreign companies to get out from under our Tax Code. We have two big companies in Ohio that did this. Probably some companies in your State did too.

We were losing jobs and losing investments because they went overseas and took the investments with them. This was not a good situation for American workers.

In addition, there was a lockout effect while companies were saying: I am not going to bring my cash home because it costs me too much. I will keep it overseas and invest it over there.

So \$1.6 trillion from overseas earnings came back to our company after the 2017 tax reforms because we changed the way we taxed internationally, and companies no longer had this incentive to keep their money overseas—\$1.6 trillion.

As a result of the 2017 changes, the largest U.S. companies increased their domestic research and development spending by 25 percent to \$707 billion. They increased their capital expenditures by 20 percent to \$1.4 trillion. Before the pandemic, we had a good economy, but, importantly to me, it was an opportunity economy, creating jobs and increasing wages right here at home. All that progress could be thrown away through the tax increases that are being proposed.

The centerpiece of the Biden plan is corporate tax increases that would

raise the combined Federal and State corporate rate from an average of 25.8 percent. That is the 21-percent Federal rate plus the average of the State income tax for corporations. Twenty-one percent, by the way, is above the average of the OECD, the developed countries in the world. When we put it in place back in 2017, we did it at 21 percent, specifically, to get right at the average so we wouldn't be noncompetitive. We would be able to compete and win.

Since then, other countries have come below us, so we are actually above the average now. Yet the Biden administration would like to take this rate from 21 up to 28, but when you add the State and local, you know, the State taxes, it is to 32.8 percent. Again, it would put America, of course, as having the highest corporate tax rate in the entire world. It gives us a much higher tax rate than many of our competitors like China. Why would we want to do that?

Based on analysis by the Joint Committee on Taxation, these combined corporate tax hikes are actually five times as big as the corresponding tax cuts were in 2017. Let me repeat that because it is fascinating. Democrats are proposing, they say, to get rid of the 2017 tax cuts, but that is not what they are doing. They are actually proposing going back and adding five times more tax increases than were cut.

The Joint Committee on Taxation—again, a nonpartisan group—says the tax cuts were about \$300 billion over 10 years, and the proposed tax increases are about \$1.5 trillion. That just makes no sense for our workers. Again, CBO has said 70 percent of the benefit went to workers. Who is going to get hurt by doing this? The workers.

The Biden plan also eliminates what is called the FDII, or the foreign-derived intangible income provision. That is the one that incentivized U.S. companies to bring their intellectual property back here. We wanted that. We did it on purpose. The companies that did that brought all their IP back here, including Google, Cisco, Qualcomm, Synopsys, and Facebook—some pretty big companies and a lot of others. We wanted them to bring that valuable IP back here, and they did because it creates high-paying, high-skilled jobs here at home. Why would we want to stop that? That was the carrot to bring it back.

It also makes it more costly for U.S. companies to operate outside the United States, again, punishing American workers who have jobs here that support international sales. Studies by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office have shown, again, it is workers who will bear the brunt of that. This is what many seem to miss. When we talk about how this proposal makes us less competitive, we are really saying that it makes American workers less competitive. It ties their hands behind their backs.

In Ohio—this is one example—we have Procter and Gamble. Procter and Gamble makes a lot of diapers and a lot of other products. It is not cost-effective for them to make diapers here and ship them overseas so they have diaper plants overseas. That is the only way they can be competitive. These tax increases would punish companies like that if they are to do business overseas, even though they are creating jobs here in America by doing that. There are about 13,000 people who work for Procter and Gamble in Southwest Ohio, where I live. Forty percent of them have their jobs because of international sales. You are talking about losing thousands of jobs in America if they can't be competitive globally.

We want our American companies to be competitive globally, at least we should. These tax hikes are going to hurt our competitiveness and put domestic jobs at risk.

By the way, the Biden administration knows all this is going to happen. They know that increasing the corporate rate is going to make us noncompetitive. Taxing international overseas earnings, taxing companies more that want to bring their IP back will make us less competitive. We know this because when Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen announced these proposals, she said: Help us, other countries in the world. Raise your taxes, too, to make it a "more level playing field." It is a plea by America to other countries, saying: Please raise your taxes, too, so we can all be in this together. Other countries aren't going to do that. Again, they actually lowered their taxes since 2017, on average.

By the way, it is interesting. The Irish Finance Minister said right after that, when he was asked at a press conference "Are you going to raise your taxes?" he said "No, we want to be competitive. We want to bring jobs." Of course, they want to bring jobs to their countries. Other countries are looking at us and saying: Wow. America is just going to show the white flag and allow us to now beat them in terms of this global competition that is out there.

That is the real world. It may sound good to raise taxes on business, but it is going to hurt workers, and it is going to make us noncompetitive. I really hope the Biden administration is not successful in this effort. I don't want to see the workers hurt whom I represent in Ohio. I want to see us get back to that economy wherein we had not just low employment but rising wages and low poverty rates—the kind of inclusive economy we should all want.

There are all sorts of other issues here, and I know my colleague from Iowa is probably going to talk about some of those, like the estate tax and the capital gains tax. I mean, there are all sorts of things that are being talked about. Yet, in this first package of infrastructure, just the corporate taxes

alone are going to be so damaging to our economy. Instead of pursuing these kinds of partisan tax hikes, let's focus on getting back to where we were pre-COVID—back to that strong job and wage growth and back to that competitive opportunity economy.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we are now in the final week of tax-filing season. While filing season typically ends on April 15, this year, taxpayers have until May 17 to file or to request an extension.

This is also the third filing season under the tax cuts and reforms that the Republicans enacted in 2017. For the vast majority of Americans, this means they are paying significantly less in income taxes than they were under prior law. Moreover, thanks to a nearly doubling of the standard deduction, most Americans are paying less without having the headache of itemizing their taxes.

More importantly, prior to the pandemic, tax reform contributed to the best economy America had seen in decades. Unemployment reached a 50-year low and was at or below 4 percent for 24 consecutive months. Family incomes and workers' wages experienced robust gains. In fact, wage growth was the strongest for low-wage workers. As a result, we actually saw income inequality decline.

Unfortunately, the current administration's ambitions to use the pandemic as an excuse to pass a Big Government, anti-growth agenda threatens our return to a thriving economy.

First came its \$2 trillion untargeted COVID relief bill that focused more on enacting a liberal wish list rather than on pandemic relief. A lot of my colleagues have referred to only 10 percent of that \$1.9 trillion bill actually being related to problems caused by the pandemic.

The dangers of passing this untargeted and largely unnecessary spending are already beginning to weigh on our economic recovery. Throughout the economy, prices are soaring, and job growth is tepid. April's jobs growth data fell short of expectations by more than 700,000 jobs. This is deeply concerning, and it ought to be to every one of the Members of the Senate.

I have heard firsthand from business after business in my State of Iowa that they are desperate for workers but that job applicants are scarce. As my Republican colleagues and I have warned our Democratic colleagues for months, this is the natural result of the Democratic policies that pay people more not to work than to work. Yet, despite the obvious overreach of their liberal agenda, my Democratic colleagues are preparing to double down with an additional \$4 trillion Big Government spending spree. Then, in turn, to finance their progressive dreams, they are proposing trillions of dollars of job-killing tax hikes.

You just heard from my colleague from Ohio, Senator PORTMAN, who went into that very deeply, how those tax policies are going to hurt our economy and the workers in our economy.

Their proposals to roll back critical reforms to our corporate tax system would result in the United States once again having the highest corporate tax rate among our major trading partners and incentivizing companies to move headquarters abroad.

Small businesses are also in their crosshairs. Family businesses and farms could be decimated by proposals to hike capital gains taxes and subject paper-only gains in family business assets to taxation immediately upon the transfer of that farm or that business at death.

My Democratic colleagues' tax proposal would make the United States a less attractive place to invest. It would erode American competitiveness and slow our Nation's postpandemic economic recovery. That means fewer jobs. It means lower wages for middle-class Americans.

Postpandemic prosperity won't be achieved through higher taxes and Big Government spending programs or the government itself, which consumes and doesn't produce wealth. The real wealth of America is created by the working men and women of this country. If we are going to have this growth, it is going to be achieved through pro-growth policies and in the unshackling of our economy from stringent pandemic-era restrictions as we move toward a vaccinated world.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I was on the floor earlier this week, and I made a point that I think is really relevant to the discussion that we are having today as we are now looking straight into these proposals coming from the administration that would end up totaling \$6 trillion in new spending. Now, that is not the annual appropriations; that is new spending.

The point that I had made was that we have to go back pre-COVID and remember what was going on in this economy. Everything was thriving, really thriving, and people kept talking about how great the economy was. In Tennessee, I had so many people who would say: You know, I have more money at the end of the month, and before, during the Obama years, I had too much month left at the end of my money.

Do you know what? They liked having some money left over at the end of the month.

That economy we had pre-COVID came about because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It came about because of the work of President Trump and a Republican-led House and Senate and, indeed, because of the support from some of our Democratic friends. This gave us, our country, the most robust economy we have seen in decades. Unem-

ployment had hit 3.5 percent—historic lows. Wage gains were at a record high.

Pro-growth policies, like the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, had set a new standard. We proved we don't have to tax and spend ourselves into oblivion to make a difference in the lives of struggling families. It is a legacy that my Democratic colleagues wish the American people would forget because that memory is getting in the way of their work on behalf of big spending, big government, and big programs that take big bucks right out of the American taxpayers' pockets.

The Democratic agenda is not cheap. It is going to take a lot of taxpayer dollars. So how does President Biden intend to pay for this? It is called a \$2 trillion tax hike that targets all of the usual, supposed villains but that in reality would harm the very people my colleagues across the aisle insist they are trying to help.

Let's look at the proposed corporate tax hike. Corporations are the left's favorite villain, and they would certainly suffer under this scheme, but it is not the CEOs and the high earners who would feel the pain. As it stands, the proposal would impose a combined corporate tax rate higher than any other developed nation. It would put us at the top of the heap in tax rates. The only way American corporations would maintain their competitiveness is if other countries were to set aside their advantages, which, of course, we know would never happen. Not only will the Amazons and the Apples bear the brunt of this decline, so will nearly a million small businesses. We call them the mom-and-pops, and they are organized as C-corps.

Workers won't escape the fallout either. When the cost of doing business goes up, growth and investment stagnate, wages fall, and the people driving the economy suffer. That is right. This is going to hit Main Street in local communities where you are going to see small businesses that cannot afford to keep up with inflation, that cannot afford these high taxes, and that cannot afford increased regulation. They are your friends and neighbors who have these small businesses. They are the ones who are going to suffer. And why will they suffer? Because the Democratic majority never ceases to have an outsized appetite for the taxpayers' dollar.

Even conservative estimates from the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation show that workers will bear a quarter of that new cost of doing business. The workers, the laborers, are going to have this on their shoulders. Think about it. Think of what you are doing to families.

The view doesn't look any better from the owners' side. Anyone taking advantage of an IRA or a pension plan will see a bigger tax bill too.

Watching this White House make fiscal policy is like watching reruns of the Obama administration. The formula is the same: Pitch a big idea.

Sound compassionate. Make a big promise—you are going to help all of these people—and then send the bill to hard-working taxpayers. They do it every time.

Increasing taxes is bad enough, but now they are demanding bigger payouts from struggling families and small businesses on Main Street in your community, and they are doing this in the middle of a pandemic recovery. They locked you down, and now they are going to push you down. They are going to shut the doors of your small business, your version of the American dream. Do they give a ripping flip? Probably not. It is all about getting the money to pay for what they want to do. It is a power grab.

I would encourage my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop the madness, because we know this will cause irreparable harm to our Nation's already fragile recovery.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore, The Senator from Alabama.

(The remarks of Mr. TUBERVILLE pertaining to the introduction of S. 1582 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The senior Senator from Utah.

ISRAEL

Mr. LEE. Madam President, as I offer these remarks on the Senate floor today, tensions between Israel and Palestine continue to escalate to levels we haven't seen in years. Innocent lives have been lost, and hundreds face injuries.

While the global media reports largely paint Israel as the instigator of violence, this portrayal is patently false. It is simply not only not backed up by fact, it is contrary to the facts.

Hamas, a U.S.-declared, U.S.-designated terrorist organization, purposely exploited a nonviolent point of tension as justification to trigger a violent set of conflicts.

On Monday night, Hamas launched thousands of rockets into Israeli cities. The intended targets? Well, the intended targets were any Israeli person, civilian or not, residential or commercial. The goal? Just to create destruction and terror.

So to paint this action of armed aggression as anything other than offensive terrorism is disingenuous, and we in the United States and the U.S. Government itself must acknowledge and affirm Israel's right to take proportional action to defend itself against these attacks.

What is perhaps even more disturbing and distressing than the media's portrayal of these ongoing events is the Biden administration's ongoing nuclear conversations in Vienna with Hamas's No. 1 supporter—the Iranian regime.

Iran, of course, is a well-known state sponsor of terrorism. It is a major

funding source for Hamas, and their leaders continue to heap praise on Hamas, specifically for its attacks against Israel.

Israel is undoubtedly our strongest democratic ally in the Middle East, and together, the United States and Israel have made great strides—tremendous strides, historical, unprecedented strides—toward peace and stability through the region through the Abraham Accords.

The Biden administration's nuclear talks with Iran, as well as its posture of willingness to concede on sanctions relief to Iran without any meaningful corresponding gains to U.S. security, undermine both the U.S.-Israel relationship and the new partnerships formed by the Abraham Accords.

We really must stand with our strongest democratic ally in the region, and we need to do that by recognizing Israel's right to self-defense against terrorism.

U.S. policy really ought to be geared toward strengthening and not undermining this valued relationship. We certainly undermine that relationship when we legitimize a regime that is funding these very same terrorist activities.

I have gotten updates. Some of them are difficult to come by, given that sometimes it is hard to find real-time, accurate facts on what is happening on the ground. In addition to relying on U.S. media, I have relied on media sources from throughout the world. I have also spoken to people familiar with the area and in some cases, people who have lived or currently live in Israel.

My friend Ruth Lieberman, a joint citizen of the United States and of Israel, recently commented, just noting the exasperation that is in the air, noting the genuine source of frustration that she feels. She said:

My kids are sitting ducks, and the world thinks we're the aggressors.

Ruth is one of many Israeli citizens—one of countless Israeli citizens—subjected to these attacks. It is Ruth and her husband and their children who are among the many whose lives are put at risk every single day as a result of these cowardly acts of aggression.

So we can't hesitate to condemn violence when we see it; nor can we, nor should we ever step back and pretend that this is something that can be perceived as a situation where language of moral relativism or even moral neutrality can fairly be applied. On some days, that would almost be a good day, if you could truly look at both sides, if the mainstream media could look at both sides with language of moral equivalence, but they don't. They don't even do that. Instead, they largely refuse to blow the whistle on the aggressor and heap only blame and vitriol on our ally, which is not the aggressor.

There are others who, regardless of whether they use terms of moral equivalence wrongly or even unfairly, heap blame on Israel and on Israelis.

Some will resort to a different tactic, expressly or in some cases implicitly saying: Yeah, I know this is bad. Yeah, I know it is bad when hundreds and then thousands of rockets rain down on Israeli citizens, innocent victims, civilians, often in residential neighborhoods. Yeah, I know that is bad, but then again, Israel has a strong military, in part because the U.S. supports its strong military and shares funding and equipment with the Israeli military.

Let's think a little bit about the flawed logic there, how truly messed up that is. You know it is cold comfort to the men and women and children whose lives are put in danger every single day when they have rockets raining down on them; it is cold comfort to them when their loved ones die or are afraid to go outside even when they haven't done anything wrong; it is cold comfort to them to say: Well, at least Israel has a strong military.

Look, Iron Dome and David's Sling—these great technologies that have been developed with the support of the United States—they provide a great source of security and comfort and safety to the Israeli people, and these same technologies benefit the American people as well. But let's remember, those technologies are not foolproof. They can't catch every single rocket. The more rockets that fire, the more difficult it is to protect citizenry from casualties. So let's never make that mistake of saying it is not that big of a deal because Israel is well fortified and has a strong military infrastructure and Israel has sophisticated, top-of-the-line, state-of-the-art equipment.

It doesn't excuse—nor can it in any way, shape, or form negate—the terrors to which they are subjected. Look, whenever someone aggresses and starts firing on someone else, they are opening up a whole can of worms. We can't be good allies and we can't be good global citizens unless we are willing to call out acts of unprovoked aggression, acts of violence, acts even of terrorism.

Unless we are willing to step out and call those evil and unprovoked and unwarranted—unless we are willing to do that—we won't have the credibility that we need, not just with our allies but also with our enemies. We have to make sure that Hamas doesn't enjoy our support—not directly, not indirectly, not through our acquiescence or otherwise.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the people in Israel. Everyone gets hurt—the Israelis and the Palestinians—when Hamas engages in violence and then tries to pass that violence off as somehow a defense on their part. Nor can we allow Israel to be castigated as the aggressor, as the instigator of these acts of violence, when it is plainly and clearly not true.

I hope our friends in the media and in the Biden administration will acknowledge that.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote.

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

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE NOMINATIONS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the two U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors nominees that are before the Senate this afternoon, as well as a third nominee under consideration later this month.

Like our Presiding Officer, I had the privilege of serving our country in a time of war and a time of peace, with three tours in Southeast Asia and a good deal of time in the Cold War after that. My dad had many years in the Navy, and my uncle, my mom's youngest brother, was an enlisted man, a third-class petty officer on an aircraft carrier in 1944, the USS *Suwannee*. There was a kamikaze attack, and it never recovered.

I know how important it was to my uncle, to my dad, and to myself when we would receive mail, whether it was in Southeast Asia, whether my uncle was deployed on his aircraft carrier or my dad was deployed around the world—how important the mail was.

I know how important the Postal Service was to tens of millions of people who voted last fall in local elections, State elections, and Federal elections across this country—more than ever, ever in the history of our country.

There are some people I know who think that the Postal Service is a relic and is not something that we need. Ask the people who receive their medicine, not just their mail today, not just the things that they have ordered to come and are delivered by the Postal Service—all kinds of stuff—but also the people who receive medicines, whether they are veterans or other people from all walks of life.

The Postal Service today has had a profoundly challenging year. It has had a profoundly challenging year with the global pandemic. Drastic reforms were made without full knowledge of their service impact, and a busy holiday season created tremendous challenges for this venerable institution.

Delays in mail and package delivery increased last year while employees struggled with the effects of the pandemic on themselves and their families. At a time when reliance on mail and package delivery was perhaps higher than ever, the U.S. Postal Service struggled to deliver mail and packages in a timely and a predictable way.

Delays in the mail service have real world impact in communities large and small. In Delaware, veterans of our Armed Forces had to wait longer for lifesaving medications and delayed packages. Our Delaware congressional delegation heard from literally hundreds of constituents in our State about missed paychecks, credit card bills, and court notices.

"Mom and Pop" shops in my State—and I guess in Arizona, the home of our Presiding Officer—may have suffered from the delays. "Mom and Pop" shops in my State and across the country have suffered from delayed deliveries of important supplies to run their business and to stay in business. Many poultry farmers, particularly in more rural parts of Delaware and on the Delmarva Peninsula, to include the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, too, were shocked to find that baby chicks died in the course of delayed postal deliveries to their farms.

These impacts were unacceptable. They were driven by the pandemic and decisions largely made at the top of the Postal Service.

Further, Postmaster DeJoy released in March a 10-year strategic plan that doesn't do enough to address the significant operational challenges being faced right now at the U.S. Postal Service. The plan limits operating hours and lowers service standards, which would harm many seniors and rural Delawareans up and down our State and across the country. If implemented, such a plan would make it harder, not easier, to restore confidence in the Postal Service.

Fast forward to today. By selecting these nominees to the U.S. Postal Board of Governors, it has become clear that President Biden recognizes the dire need to get the Postal Service back to its core mission—reliable, affordable, and on-time mail delivery service for Americans across this country.

These well-qualified nominees—and they are well-qualified nominees—also make clear President Biden's desire to drive innovation at the Postal Service that can keep costs low while boosting revenue opportunities and protecting the livelihoods of the men and women who work tirelessly to deliver our mail.

Ron Stroman, whom I have had the privilege of knowing for more than a decade, is himself a former Deputy Postmaster General, a role he served in from 2011 to 2020, a longtime Federal servant—and he is a servant. Mr. Stroman has intimate knowledge of this institution and how to make long-lasting positive changes in large organizations like the U.S. Postal Service.

Amber McReynolds is currently the CEO for the National Vote at Home Institute and Coalition. What do they do? Well, they work to make it easier for Americans to vote securely, to vote safely, and to vote conveniently. Delivering ballots by mail is one of the most solemn obligations that the Postal Service has. It is the underpinning of our democracy in this country.

Finally, Mr. Anton Hajjar is the third nominee, whose nomination we are considering later in this work period, not today. Mr. Hajjar is the former general counsel of the American Postal Workers Union, where he fought to make sure that mail carriers and other postal employees get the support that they deserve.

At the hearing we had last month in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I was thoroughly impressed with each of these nominees and their knowledge of the needs of the Postal Service. All three nominees exhibited professionalism, the expertise, the leadership, and the commitment—the commitment—that we need at the Postal Service Board of Governors. Think of the Board of Governors almost like a board of directors for a company. They don't run the Postal Service every day, but they help set the tone, policies, and oversee the operations.

Further, these three nominees agree that the Postal Service has tremendous opportunities ahead. The Postal Service is currently in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime update to the postal delivery vehicles, with a prime opportunity to be a leader in the fight against climate change. The Postal Service will replace up to 165,000 vehicles.

So, every now and then, we see postal vehicles—probably every day. We probably look at them sometimes and say: That looks like an old vehicle. The reason it looks like an old vehicle is because it is. Many of them are 25 years old. They run on gasoline. They run on diesel. They pollute, and they break down. We have an opportunity here to replace them with a new fleet of low-emission or no-emission vehicles powered by batteries and powered by hydrogen fuel cells.

The nominees we are considering today and later this month also agree that the Postal Service has an obligation to work with Congress to enact important postal reform legislation which would help the agency save tens of billions of dollars over the next 10 years.

How might that happen? One, by better integrating postal retirees' healthcare with the Medicare Program and by repealing a burdensome retiree health benefit obligation that most other large companies don't have to bear.

I often refer to a saying made popular by Albert Einstein. I am not smart like Albert Einstein, but I am smart enough to quote Albert Einstein. Albert Einstein used to say: "In adversity lies opportunity." Think about that: "In adversity lies opportunity."

The Bible says something like this: In all things, give thanks.

I think it was Henry Ford who said: "If you think you can or you think you can't, you're right."

But Einstein said: "In adversity lies opportunity." The Postal Service has faced considerable adversity over the last decade or two. This has been perhaps the most difficult stretch in its long and storied history.

You know, the Postal Service is not an idea that somebody dreamed up 30, 40, 50, or 60 years ago. It was originally outlined in the Constitution and the first Post Master General was a guy named Ben Franklin. After that storied history, we have an opportunity to face

the adversities the Postal Service faces today with an opportunity to confirm three well-qualified Postal Service Board of Governors to public service who will be ready on day one—not a month from now or a year from now, but on day one—to ensure that this invaluable institution is able to meet its vital mission.

I am proud to support them. I am proud to say I know them, and I urge my colleagues to support them as well—two of them later today and another one probably later this month.

With that I yield the floor.

VOTE ON THE STROMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stroman nomination?

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, 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 Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 186 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Hassan	Portman
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Romney
Blunt	Hoeven	Rosen
Booker	Johnson	Rounds
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Capito	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Smith
Cassidy	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Sullivan
Coons	McConnell	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Thune
Cramer	Merkley	Toomey
Duckworth	Moran	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	Young

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker

NOT VOTING—1

Heinrich

The nomination was confirmed.

(Thereupon, the President pro tempore assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). 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 action.

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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 109, Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, for a term expiring December 8, 2028. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

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 Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2028, 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 New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 67, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 187 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Hassan	Romney
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Blunt	Hoeven	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Sullivan
Cassidy	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Thune
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Moran	Van Hollen
Cramer	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Ernst	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	Young
Graham	Portman	
Grassley	Reed	

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—1

Heinrich

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). On this vote, the yeas are 67, the nays are 32.

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 Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2028. (Reappointment)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

EAGLES ACT OF 2021

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today I would like to address the national plague of targeted violence. Whether it is in our schools, houses of worship, restaurants, businesses, or even on our city streets, these senseless killings are impacting all of us.

I woke up Friday morning, April 16, to learn of another tragedy, this time in Indianapolis, where a 19-year-old walked into a private business and proceeded to kill eight innocent workers, including four members of the Sikh community. My heart breaks for another set of families and friends newly devastated and the unthinkable happening to them.

While it is still early in the investigation and an exact motive remains unclear, all signs indicate that that young killer suffered from mental illness. The killer's own mother contacted authorities just last May for fear that he was going to commit what she called "suicide by cop."

The date of April 16 is unfortunately significant, as it is the solemn anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre. Thirty-two students and educators lost their lives at the hands of a 23-year-old who had a well-documented record of mental illness. Despite clear homicidal warning signs, school authorities and counselors failed to intervene and help the troubled young man.

Earlier this April, tragedy struck when a 25-year-old man rammed his vehicle into a security barricade just steps from this Chamber. Fortunately for those inside, U.S. Capitol Police officers courageously intervened when the man brandished a large knife and lunged in their direction. As all of us know, this attacker tragically took the life of U.S. Capitol Police Officer Billy Evans. Officer Evans was a hero, and we mourn his loss.

While the Capitol attacker's exact motive is unknown, social media profiles indicate the man was a devout follower of a group that repeatedly holds racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-LGBTQ beliefs. It is too early to tell if these beliefs motivated this man to commit an act of terrorism, but what is clear is this man struggled with depression, hallucinations, and suicidal thoughts.

If someone had properly identified these symptoms as warning signs, perhaps this tragedy could have been avoided.

I could go on and highlight tragedies from just the past several years from all over the country. Post-incident investigations show that all of these violent actors often suffer from variations of mental health concerns, including depression, anxiety, delusions, paranoia, bipolar disorder, suicidal and homicidal thoughts, and adherence to bizarre conspiracy theories. Many of those who are closest to these attackers were aware of their conditions, and some even expressed concern about their propensity for violence ahead of their times of killing.

The EAGLES Act of 2021 is a bipartisan, commonsense piece of legislation. This bill carries the namesake of the Parkland, FL, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School mascot—the Eagles, that is—and it is a tribute to the 17 Eagles who tragically lost their lives 3 years ago at the hands of a former student struggling with severe behavioral problems and mental illness.

This legislation helps proactively mitigate threats of violence by reauthorizing as well as expanding the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center, which also goes by the acronym NTAC.

NTAC's approach is squarely focused on research. After every instance of mass violence, their team of social science experts canvasses the circumstances and the attacker's behavior to determine the facts.

NTAC's 2019 publication called "Mass Attacks in Public Squares" found that during the previous year, 93 percent of the attackers engaged in threatening or concerning communications prior to carrying out violent actions. Another 2019 NTAC study entitled "Protecting America's Schools" made an even more definitive finding related to violence in our educational system. This study concluded that all—in other words, every one—of the school attackers exhibited concerning behaviors prior to engaging in an act of violence.

A family member, a teacher, a coach, a fellow employee, or a neighbor's ability to observe someone's behavior, home life circumstances, work life factors, and other political stressors, coupled with NTAC's threat assessment training, can prevent harmful outcomes from occurring. But in order for this to be effective, we need to increase NTAC's ability to continue their research and get much needed training to their communities. The result will be increased opportunities for early intervention and referrals to mental health services for those in need and also get names to the FBI database so that they can't buy a gun.

Just recently, the EAGLES Act got a resounding endorsement from the National Association of Attorneys General. Forty attorneys general from all over the United States believe that NTAC's proactive approach is critical

to violence prevention and its training programs are urgently needed. These attorneys general are responsible for ensuring safe communities and are urging our quick action to pass this legislation. We cannot afford to ignore or delay their explicit plea for assistance.

So now, as a bottom line, I ask all of my Senate colleagues to consider the commonsense, practical solution provided in the EAGLES Act. The more research and threat assessment training that we can provide, the more violence we can prevent.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Madam President, on another matter, I have come to the floor I think Monday, Tuesday, and today because this is National Police Week, to honor our men and women in blue. It started way back in 1962. Our Nation has annually celebrated the lives and memory of the men and women of law enforcement who are killed in the line of duty.

The origin of National Police Week goes back nearly 50 years to President John F. Kennedy's proclamation that each May 15 be designated as "National Peace Officers Memorial Day." Over the years, this single day has grown into a weeklong opportunity to honor the sacrifices of our law enforcement professionals throughout America.

Normally, tens of thousands of police officers, deputy sheriffs, State troopers, and others sworn to uphold the rule of law would have gathered here in our Nation's Capital. They would be participating in a host of events that both honor their fallen colleagues and celebrate their comradery. Unfortunately, the global virus pandemic continues to take its toll on nearly every aspect of life, with National Police Week events being no exception. It is very disappointing to lose the opportunity to celebrate, as we have every year before last year, our communities' heroes in this public way. Maybe next year it will be back to normal.

Rather than gathering in-person along the National Mall, this year's events will include a virtual candlelight vigil. On Thursday, May 13, Americans will come together online to pay tribute to our fallen protectors. The name of each man and woman who gave their last measure of devotion during the previous year will be read aloud. I encourage everyone to join me in honoring their sacrifice during this event.

Despite the impact of COVID-19 and the risk to their individual safety, men and women of law enforcement continue to steadfastly uphold their oath to serve and to protect.

Pandemic or not, the National Law Enforcement Memorial remains a focal point of National Police Week. It is here where cops come to remember their departed friends and honor those families of the lost ones.

At the time of its dedication in 1991, the names of 12,000 local, State, and Federal law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty dating back to 1786 were engraved onto that memorial.

Each year, the curved stone walls are updated with the names of the recently fallen. Today, over 22,000 heroes are permanently venerated within those solemn 3 acres.

In our own Declaration of Independence, our Founding Fathers spoke of certain unalienable rights endowed by our Creator. Those specifically mentioned were life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. None of these rights are possible without every citizen's most basic level of security.

While the United States has layers of safety built into our system of government, none is more critical to our foundational rights than local law enforcement. Maintaining a free, safe, and civil society is squarely dependent on someone who is willing to answer the call without regard to time or circumstance and who puts themselves in harm's way to ensure that the innocent are protected and the law is upheld.

HONORING SERGEANT JIM SMITH

This call to service was embodied by Sergeant Jim Smith of the Iowa State Patrol, who courageously gave his life on April 9, 2021. Sergeant Smith was tragically killed during an attempt to apprehend a violent suspect.

Sergeant Smith, a 27-year-old Iowa State Patrol veteran and tactical team leader, put himself in harm's way on behalf of his fellow Iowans last month, and it cost him everything.

As his colleagues remembered Sergeant Smith during his memorial service, he was described as a completely genuine man who loved his family and loved being a civil servant on behalf of his community.

Sergeant Smith found his life's purpose as a dedicated law enforcement officer, and I know I speak for many Iowans when I say we are forever grateful for his service.

While I mourn the loss of Sergeant Smith, along with his family, fellow troopers, friends, and the entire Independence, IA, community, I am pleased that his sacrifice will not be forgotten. His memory, along with the 306 officers we tragically lost in 2020, will live forever, as their names will be inscribed on the stone walls of the National Law Enforcement Memorial. Iowans for generations to come will be able to visit Washington, find Sergeant Smith's name, and be reminded of the high cost of preserving our precious rights.

Earlier this week, I introduced a resolution to commemorate National Police Week. This resolution honors the brave men and women who put themselves in harm's way to make their communities a safer place. As in years past, the measure has significant bipartisan support and gives tribute to those who, despite knowing the inherent risk, chose to serve their fellow citizens. Thank you to my many Senate colleagues who signed on as cosponsors to this resolution.

In closing, I want to encourage everyone to visit the National Law Enforcement Memorial. As you enter the

memorial grounds in Northwest DC, you pass a statue of an adult lion keeping close watch over a pair of cubs. It is a telling illustration of the role undertaken by our cops vigilantly defending us 24 hours a day.

Underneath this statue is a quote from Vivian Eney Cross, the wife of fallen U.S. Capitol Police Sergeant Christopher Sherman Eney. The quote reads:

It is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived.

Despite the uncertainties our Nation currently faces, I am sure of one thing: The sacrifices of American law enforcement will never be forgotten.

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

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

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize National Police Week and honor the law enforcement officers who selflessly serve and protect our communities. Law enforcement professionals at all levels, from local police forces to sheriff's departments, to State police and Federal law enforcement agencies, leave home each day not knowing what challenges they will experience, but they are ready to face danger head-on.

National Police Week is a solemn occasion to honor those who tragically lost their lives while performing their duties. Sadly, last year proved to be particularly dangerous for officers, and 2020 was one of the deadliest years for law enforcement officers in recent memory. The COVID-19 pandemic certainly played a part in that unfortunate reality.

This year, the names of 394 officers killed in the line of duty have been etched into the walls of the National Law Enforcement Memorial. The deaths of 185 of those individuals were COVID-19 related, including Sergeant James Dancy of the North Little Rock Police Department.

HONORING SERGEANT JAMES L. "BUCK" DANCY

Sergeant Dancy was a 35-year-old veteran of the police force who helped mentor young officers at the department. He contracted COVID-19 while performing his job.

First responders like him were on the frontlines of the pandemic and kept going to work every day despite the risks to their own health. We are grateful they did. Sergeant Dancy's heroism and dedication are reminders that coronavirus took not only vulnerable populations but also dedicated public servants from us.

We also reflect on the other heroes from Arkansas who lost their lives in the course of their service to their communities this past year.

HONORING OFFICER TRAVIS WALLACE

Officer Travis Wallace of the Helena-West Helena Police Department gave his life while attempting to apprehend a suspect wanted in connection with a violent crime.

HONORING DETECTIVE KEVIN DWAIN COLLINS

Pine Bluff Detective Kevin Collins had a lifelong dream to serve as a police officer. He made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty while conducting an ongoing investigation.

HONORING OFFICER BRENT WILLIAM PERRY SCRIMSHIRE

Hot Springs Police Officer Corporal Brent Scrimshire had earned recognition as the Arkansas Southwest Region Officer of the Year in 2016. Sadly, he lost his life while conducting a traffic stop.

We honor the service and sacrifice of these Arkansans and law enforcement officers all across the country who courageously gave their lives while upholding law and order. Their deaths are tragic and call us to acknowledge their tremendous heroism and selflessness. They also invite us to appreciate the reality that the stakes of this occupation are a lot higher than most others; they are life and death. The perilous nature of policing and law enforcement is something we simply can't underestimate or fail to respect.

I am a proud cosponsor of the Senate resolution marking National Police Week because we must always remember the brave officers whose lives are cut short because of their service and sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER TYLER FRANKS

We also pray for the recovery of those injured in the line of duty, like Prairie Grove Police Officer Tyler Franks, who was shot while responding to a domestic disturbance call last week. Thankfully his condition is improving, but we know he has a long road to recovery.

By supporting policies to improve law enforcement training and resources, we can recognize the dedication and heroism so often displayed by these public servants and help make them more effective and safer at the same time.

Over the past year, we have witnessed increased calls for defunding or abolishing police forces across the country. Instead of this misguided approach, we need to improve investments and resources for the men and women in blue. That is why it is important that Congress fund programs like the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program, which has proven vital to helping States and local law enforcement agencies purchase equipment and support much needed training for officers.

We know there are more ways to ensure officers have the tools they need to enhance community safety and protect themselves so they can go home to the families they love and the support systems they rely on. That is why this week I will join Senators INHOFE,

BROWN, and TILLIS to introduce the Law Enforcement Training for Mental Health Crisis Response Act. This legislation will help provide police with better strategies and procedures to respond to calls involving a mental health crisis.

We also need to hold all those who perpetrate attacks against law enforcement accountable, so I urge my colleagues to pass the Protect and Serve Act. I am proud to support this legislation that will create Federal penalties for individuals who deliberately target local, State, or Federal law enforcement officers with violence.

On behalf of all Arkansans, I thank all of our law enforcement officers for making sacrifices to keep us safe. I will continue advocating for improved tools, resources, and training for officers so they can prepare for unpredictable circumstances.

Our safety and peace of mind come at a cost, and our police officers need our support and our gratitude for being the first ones to pay it. We honor them this week and every week for what they do and for what they represent.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 136

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I rise here today, and I have been in the Senate a little over 2½ years, and I never imagined that I would have to drift back to my days at Wabash College, as I migrated from a biology major to a political science major and, thank goodness, to an economics major.

In that time, I never in my wildest dreams thought I would be able to talk about macroeconomics because back then there were a couple of points of view. You had Milton Friedman, who was a disciple of monetary theory—that if you get too much out there circulating, your currency devalues and you get inflation. And then there was Keynes, who was a big disciple of the government, either through tax policy or spending. And, my goodness, how either one of them would react to what we are contending with today, I think it would give them some pause in terms of where we are at.

This has nothing to do with the underlying policy goals. I am someone that comes from a State legislature in Indiana where we tackle things like infrastructure, defined there and then as roads and bridges. We came together. We actually paid for it through user fees, which we haven't done here since 1993. That is fuel taxes, which generally would be at least one thing you would look at when you want to spend a lot of money on infrastructure.

So here we are today. We had a hearing a couple of weeks ago, and I will

cite him in a moment. Robert Reich was in there, and I threw that question at him: How could we have come so far from Keynes' economics and Milton Friedman, which has controlled the dynamic of this country, its monetary policy, and its fiscal policy, until just recently?

Then comes along the Modern Monetary Theory, a new approach to macroeconomics. This theory proposes that governments can spend however much they want, go into debt as much as they want, and have these structural trillion-dollar deficits that would work nowhere else. It only works now because we are the only reserve currency. Being the only reserve currency, people come to us with their currencies, and that keeps our interest rates down. That doesn't acknowledge that there are places like China, which will be a larger economy than ours and lends us money currently.

In places like China and most other places across the world—unless you were Greece, Italy, maybe Spain and Portugal, which kept the euro from being a prominent currency because they lived beyond their means—you cannot, just because you can get by with it in the short run, continue to do things into the mid and long term without consequences.

This fanciful theory has found its way out of the faculty lounge and into the halls of Congress. Considering that President Biden has proposed another \$4 trillion in spending. There is \$1.9 trillion that we have recently done—a done deal—borrowing every penny of it. We have not raised taxes. That is a false argument too. With the amount of taxes that you could raise, you wouldn't even cover part of our day-to-day trillion-dollar deficit. It adds to our debt.

When I got here, I think it was around \$20 trillion. Soon it is going to be over \$30 trillion. And listen to this: World War II was the highest debt we ever had as a country. We were savers and investors then. Now we are consumers and spenders. They paid that off. We had basically no debt until the wars came along that we financed by borrowing, not paying for it. Then, 2008 and 2009 came along, and that looks like chump change compared to what we are doing now.

Now we had an approach to one of the biggest challenges we have ever had as a country, navigating through COVID, and of course we did things that basically needed some new idea how to justify it—Modern Monetary Theory. It is a recipe for hyperinflation and continued higher deficits. By the way, the trillion-dollar deficit without any COVID, just in its own momentum forward, is going to be \$1.5 trillion in 4 to 5 years.

I am not surprised the big spenders in DC have latched on to a theory that tells them it is OK to spend irresponsibly and hike taxes. They may not acknowledge that pre-COVID we were in a pretty good place. We were raising

wages. Senator SANDERS and I would share that. We need to raise wages in places, but you can't do it through the government. That is not the productive economy. Everything that the government gets comes from the productive economy.

I am surprised there has not been more pushback because it is a flawed economic theory. When I asked Robert Reich about it, he dismissed it: Well, it is too new. It is too novel. I can't really talk about it.

That shouldn't be the foundation upon which you are having your spending plans laid out currently.

What it is, in my opinion, is a bunch of malarkey that is embraced because we want to spend like drunken sailors. Coming through a crisis, we can't do that. We have already done that. What we did in a bipartisan fashion in 2020 probably made sense. Continuing that forward, you can't base it upon this new idea that debt, deficits don't make any difference. It is kind of like a kid coming up with a modern dietary theory that says it is OK to eat cookies for every meal. It wouldn't work.

Many noted economists from across the political spectrum have warned that the implementation of the Modern Monetary Theory will pose a danger to the economy, and this wouldn't be center and right economists. Let's listen to a few of them.

The Secretary of the Treasury and Director of the National Economic Council, Lawrence Summers, back in the Clinton years, and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, who has been OK with accommodating some of it—he said that is not a new theory that you can rely upon. Even Paul Krugman, whom we know that generally he would be eating this up, he has reservations, and not to mention a host of others. I just told you what Robert Reich said when he dismissed it as something too new to comment on.

Now, Secretary Janet Yellen discussed Modern Monetary Theory's idea that interest rate payments can be handled by the central bank buying the debt back in 2019, calling it "a very wrong-minded theory because that's how you get hyper-inflation."

Joel Griffith, a research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, summed it up well when he wrote:

There is no free lunch. We will pay either through the visible burden of direct taxation, the hidden tax of inflation, or higher borrowing costs.

I said earlier that we are the only reserve currency. Interest rates are starting to go up. The Chinese could do things that could knock interest rates up two to three points quickly if they decided to take a different point of view. There is a lot of danger in living in the moment because you don't feel any of the pain that will inevitably come in the future, and it is not far out.

The acceptance of Modern Monetary Theory would lead to higher deficits and higher inflation. The underlying

policy in terms of higher wages, trying to do things to improve the lot of Americans, that is fair game for discussion. Just don't mislead them, putting all that debt on our kids and our grandkids. That would be like running a business, running it into the ditch, going to your banker, and thinking that you could get a loan. You would be laughed out of the office if you tried to do it 2 years in a row. That is now standard operating procedure with trillion-dollar deficits built into the system, not to mention this.

The Senate must abandon this fundamentally flawed, irresponsible economic model in favor of mainstream fiscal and monetary frameworks that work everywhere else. The European Union, a recent example, headed to be a reserve currency, and even Greece, Spain, Portugal and Italy have found that they can't do that and get by with it.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 136. I further ask 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I find this resolution somewhat odd, if I may say so. There are enormous crises facing our country and the world. The fact that we are spending time on the floor of the Senate to condemn a proposition or a theory does not seem to me to be the best way to be spending our time.

And the implication—and I think the Senator from Indiana made this implication—that the President of the United States is objecting to raising taxes is simply not factual.

The President has come forward with some very specific tax proposals, but his proposals are not meeting much support on the other side of the aisle because he is saying that he doesn't want to raise taxes on anybody in this country earning less than \$400,000 a year, but he does want to raise taxes on some of the wealthiest people in America and some of the largest corporations that today may be paying zero in Federal income tax. And he shares a concern that many of us share and that Warren Buffet reminds us of, that the effective tax rate for the billionaire class is actually lower than it is for working families.

The President's view, which I share, is that this Congress must address the enormous crises facing working families, and that is rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, making sure that our kids have quality childcare and pre-K, that we have to address the existential threat of climate change, and we have to address many of the other problems facing working families, and one way we do that is demanding that

the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes.

When we talk about resolutions condemning something—I am not, again, sure why we are condemning a particular theory—we might be today thinking about condemning the actions of the Republican Party in the House of Representatives today. They got rid of a Member of their leadership for the crime of suggesting that that party should not maintain a big lie implying that Donald Trump won the election. Shall we condemn that? I think that is worth condemning.

I think we might want to condemn the fact that we have more income and wealth inequality today in America than at any time since the 1920s. Let's condemn that. Maybe we want to condemn the fact that every scientist who has studied the issue tells us that climate change is a threat to our Nation and the world, and we have done virtually nothing to lead the world in addressing climate change. Let's condemn that inaction.

Let's condemn the fact that in the richest country in the history of the world, we have the highest rate of childhood poverty of almost any major country on Earth. How about condemning that?

Let's condemn the fact, maybe, that half of our people are living paycheck to paycheck. Let's condemn the fact that we live in a country which has institutional racism.

We can go on and on. There are a lot of things to condemn, but I don't know that it is in the best interest of the U.S. Senate to be condemning a particular economic theory.

You don't like it, argue against it. That is fine. But I don't know that we have to spend our time condemning it.

So with that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. So I don't disagree with what Senator SANDERS said in terms of policy that needs to be debated, but a classic tactic when you are focusing on how you are going to pay for something is to change the subject. And whatever you think about what happened over in the House of Representatives, whatever you think about the other issues, this is about being honest with future generations and where has that worked and been a good end result.

When it comes to some of the taxation part of it, that is a smokescreen because even if you raise all the revenue they are talking about with those taxes—and I am a believer that corporations should pay their fair share. Multinationals that flatten their tax rate, that is different from many C corps, many corporations. But the dishonesty in that argument is that you couldn't cover even 20 percent of our existing structural deficit. So you need to be honest.

If you want to do this, ask your kids, ask your grandkids if they are willing to put that burden on them. And there is no theory out there, other than this which is being used as a current rationalization, that would make that ever have a pleasant outcome.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, if I could respond?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I am not sure—the Senator from Indiana suggested a moment ago that the President was not interested in raising taxes, and, of course, he has a very specific proposal to raise taxes.

And I would suggest to my colleague from Indiana that if we want to talk about the burden on our kids and on our grandchildren as a result of the national debt, maybe we should also be discussing the fact that, under the last administration, a massive tax break was given to the very wealthiest people in this country and the largest corporations. We were told that that tax plan would pay for itself, but, in fact, it will result in almost \$2 trillion in additional national debt, and virtually all of those benefits went to the people on top.

So all that I am saying is, we can argue taxation; we can argue economic policy; we can argue why we are the only major country on Earth not to guarantee healthcare to all people; we can argue why we are paying, by far, the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs; we can argue why we have a political system that allows billionaires to buy elections—a lot of things that we could be talking about, but I am not sure that it is in the best interest of the Senate to be condemning a particular economic idea that some economists have brought up.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. I know we have a vote coming up, and I won't belabor it.

I think the basis for maybe a good conversation, because we are not going to solve it today, is when it comes to the tax package that was put through in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017—and I would have some authority on this, Senator SANDERS. I spent 37 years in the trenches running a small business that ended up being a larger company. Three of my kids run it with a good young executive team—the American dream. And my observation was that we had kind of hit the sweet spot.

And the CBO, which actually put that original cost of \$1.5 trillion—\$150 billion per year, over 10 years—said that we were actually generating record revenues pre-COVID and that they could have revised, and still might, that trajectory.

I think if we are going to go forward, you have to realize that there is a limit to anything you can do through government. And when you try to raise taxes, you have to be honest about it. Over 50 years, regardless of what the

tax rate has been, the economy has generated about 17 percent of our GDP with tax revenues because when they are high, there is less economic activity. You actually find a sweet spot, like we did with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, and the economy was proving it pre-COVID.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

VOTE ON STROMAN NOMINATION

Mr. SANDERS. I know of no further debate on the Stroman nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stroman nomination?

Mr. SANDERS. 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 senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 188 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Cantwell	Kelly	Schumer
Capito	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Cassidy	Markey	Sullivan
Collins	Menendez	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Thune
Cortez Masto	Moran	Toomey
Cramer	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Ernst	Ossoff	Warren
Feinstein	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Portman	Young

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—2

Heinrich Leahy

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). 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.

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. 110, Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2026.

Charles E. Schumer, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Jon Tester, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Tina Smith, Cory A. Booker, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Chris Van Hollen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Alex Padilla.

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 Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2026, 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 New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), are necessarily absent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 189 Ex.]

YEAS—60

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

NAYS—38

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

NOT VOTING—2

Heinrich	Leahy
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The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 38.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2026.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

To the Secretary of the Senate:

The bill (S. 1, A bill to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anticorruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes) having been referred to the Committee on March 17, 2021, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the bill as follows -

1. On the question of reporting the bill favorably with the recommendation that the bill be passed 9 ayes to 9 nays; and

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 bill because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1261, the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, having been referred to the Committee on

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

On the question of reporting the nomination without recommendation, 11 ayes to 11 noes.

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.

MEMORIAL DAY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to the veterans throughout Michigan's history who have given their lives while serving our country. Whether they served in the Civil War or the Korean war, in the Middle East or the South Pacific, we owe these heroes so much.

Aleda E. Lutz is one of those heroes. She grew up in a large family; she was the youngest of 10 children—and her parents were immigrants from Germany. She graduated from Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw and the Saginaw General Hospital School of Nursing. When World War II broke out, Lutz felt called to serve her Nation.

She enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps in 1942 and began working as a general duty nurse at Selfridge Field. When she had the opportunity to become a flight nurse, she signed up. It wasn't easy; it required a lot of training. But Lutz, known as "Lutzzy" to her friends, was smart, determined, and extraordinarily brave. She made the cut and joined the elite 2 percent of World War II nurses qualified as flight nurses. She was promoted to first lieutenant and transferred to the 802nd Medical Air Evacuation Transport Squadron, which soon deployed to North Africa.

Lutz transported more than 3,500 patients from the frontlines while earning six battle stars. She was known for her professional skill and her courage under fire. During her 196th mission, her C-47 plane crashed while carrying 15 wounded soldiers. There were no survivors. Lutz is known to be the first military woman to die in a combat zone during World War II.

Lutz is one of the most highly decorated women in American military history. She was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart. An 800-patient hospital ship was named in her honor, as was a C-47 cargo plane. And in 1990, the Saginaw veterans hospital, long known by her name, was officially rededicated to the Aleda E. Lutz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. It remains a fitting memorial to honor a nurse who gave her life while serving her country.

Not all veterans have had to give as much for their country as Aleda Lutz did, but all of them are willing to. It is what sets them apart. It is what makes them heroes.

This Memorial Day, we honor 1LT. Aleda E. Lutz and all of the Michigan

veterans who gave their lives in service to our country, and we thank our veterans who are still with us, as well as their families. Their courage, selflessness, and sacrifice bring honor to our State and our Nation.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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-956. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2021; ordered to lie on the table.

EC-957. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters; Amendment 39-21422" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0025)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-958. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-21461" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0700)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-959. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Air Tractor, Inc. Airplanes; Amendment 39-21457" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0710)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-960. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-21379" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1168)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-961. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company Helicopters; Amendment 39-21433" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2017-0682)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-962. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-21411" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0846)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-963. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes; Amendment 39-21471" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0831)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-964. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes; Amendment 39-21467" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0917)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-965. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes; Amendment 39-21515" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0310)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-966. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd and Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-21495" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0200)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-967. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-21516" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0313)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-968. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Air-

planes; Amendment 39-21504" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1167)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-969. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-21513" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0307)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-970. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Uninsured United Parachute Technologies, LLC Parachutes; Amendment 39-21523" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0336)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-971. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Regional Airplanes; Amendment 39-21481" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1112)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-972. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-21479" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0190)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-973. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Embraer S.A.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-21491" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0253)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-974. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39-21443" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1114)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-975. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39-21484" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1119)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-976. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

EC-996. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Leoti, Kansas" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1072)), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-997. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Muskegon, Michigan" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0871)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-998. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Farmington, New Mexico" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1014)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-999. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Wharton, Texas" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1082)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1000. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Elkhart, Kansas" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0887)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1001. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Palmdale, California" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0942)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1002. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0872)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1003. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Class D and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Gillette, Wyoming" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0800)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1004. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Muskegon, Michigan" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0871)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1005. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Fort Riley and Manhattan, Kansas" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0759)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1006. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment and Revocation of Class E Airspace; North Dakota, North Dakota" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0035)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1007. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Hughes, Alaska" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1193)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1008. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Kremmling, Colorado" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1097)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1009. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Meeker, Colorado" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1098)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1010. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Class E Airspace; Kayenta, Arizona" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1124)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1011. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Buena Vista, Colorado" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1096)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1012. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Fosston and Little Falls, Minnesota" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1186)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1013. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Calais, Maine" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0935)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1014. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation and Amendment of Class E Airspace; Orange City and Le Mars, Iowa" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0664)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1015. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-12, V-74, and V-516 in the Vicinity of Anthony, Kansas" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1016. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-3.B)" (FRL No. 10016-30-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1017. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Georgia: Direct Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 10021-97-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1018. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allegheny County Area Attainment Plan for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)" (FRL No. 10023-27-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1019. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; PSD and Nonattainment NSR Rule Clarifications" (FRL No. 10022-90-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1020. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Washington; Regional Haze Best Available Retrofit Technology Revision for TransAlta Centralia Generation Plant" (FRL No. 10022-93-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1021. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Washington; Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency" (FRL No.

10022-48-Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1022. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Texas; Reasonable Further Progress Plan for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 10019-45-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1023. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; 1997 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS Second Maintenance Plan for the Clearfield/Indiana Area" (FRL No. 10022-88-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1024. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Control of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions From Wood Furniture Manufacturing Operations" (FRL No. 10023-01-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1025. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Louisiana; Infrastructure State Implementation Plan Requirements for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 10023-14-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1026. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Removal of Asbestos Requirements from Jefferson County Regulations" (FRL No. 10023-56-Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1027. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Miami Copper Smelter Sulfur Dioxide Control Measures" (FRL No. 10022-52-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1028. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (19-1.F)" (FRL No. 10023-11-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1029. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Listing of Substitutes under the Significant New Alternatives Policy Program" (FRL No. 10020-41-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to

the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1030. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Louisiana; Control of Emissions From Existing Other Solid Waste Incineration Unit" (FRL No. 10022-53-Region 6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1031. A communication from the 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; Utah; R307-204 Emission Standards: Smoke Management" (FRL No. 10022-97-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1032. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Water Act Methods Update Rule for the Analysis of Effluent" (FRL No. 10021-59-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1033. 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) 1.237 Rev 0, Guidance for Changes During Construction for New Nuclear Power Plants Being Constructed Under a Combined License Referencing a Certified Design Under 10 CFR Part 52" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1034. A communication from the Endangered Species Biologist, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Listing the Yangtze Sturgeon as an Endangered Species" (RIN1018-BC83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1035. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1036. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2021 Enterprise Housing Goals" (RIN2590-AB04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1037. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo that was declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1038. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rescission of Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Rule on Guid-

ance" (RIN1212-AB52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1039. A communication from the Supervisory Workforce Analyst, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards" (RIN1205-AC03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1040. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: Rescission of Revisions to the Vaccine Injury Table; Final Rule" (RIN0906-AB24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1041. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1042. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2021-0056 - 2021-0061); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Leslie B. Kiernan, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

*Lina M. Khan, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2017.

By Mrs. MURRAY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Seema Nanda, of Virginia, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

*Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2026.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. SMITH, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1574. A bill to codify a statutory definition for long-term care pharmacies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1575. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage appropriate prescribing under Medicaid for victims of opioid overdose; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1576. A bill to provide for a comfortable and safe temperature level in dwelling units receiving certain Federal housing assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1577. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to ensure equity for America's children by providing access to summer meals; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1578. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to relieve workforce shortages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 1579. A bill to appropriately limit the use of riot control agents; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1580. A bill to amend section 235(b)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1581. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a pilot program to enhance the mapping of urban flooding and associated property damage and the availability of that mapped data to homeowners, businesses, and localities to help understand and mitigate the risk of such flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1582. A bill to provide for enhanced Federal enforcement of, and State and local assistance in the enforcement of, the immigration laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 1583. A bill to reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 1584. A bill to create a 2020 Census Federal Advisory Committee on Transparency and Standards; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1585. A bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards; considered and passed.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 1586. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, relating to sentencing of armed career criminals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1587. A bill to allow nonprofit child care providers to participate in the loan programs of the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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

S. 1588. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to prohibit importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, and purchase in interstate or foreign commerce, or in a manner substantially affecting interstate or foreign commerce, or possession, of any live animal of any prohibited primate species; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1589. A bill to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas, to withdraw certain land located in Curry County and Josephine County, Oregon, from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1590. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to enhance direct certification under the school lunch program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1591. A bill to counter efforts by foreign governments to pursue, harass, or otherwise persecute individuals for political and other unlawful motives overseas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 1592. A bill to limit the period of authorization of new budget authority provided in appropriation Acts, to require analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of existing programs for which continued new budget authority is proposed to be authorized by committees of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 1593. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the designation of general surgery shortage areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MANCHIN:

S. 1594. A bill to clarify the congressional intent behind the requirements relating to immediate suspension orders and corrective action plans under the Controlled Substances Act that were added by the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act of 2016; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 1595. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America's public safety officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. THUNE, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1596. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1597. A bill to ensure America's law enforcement officers have access to lifesaving equipment needed to defend themselves and civilians from attacks by terrorists and violent criminals; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1598. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of personal service income earned in pass-thru entities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1599. A bill to protect law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1600. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to make modifications to the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1601. A bill to establish the Future of Local News Committee to examine and report on the role of local news gathering in sustaining democracy in the United States and the factors contributing to the demise of local journalism, and to propose policies and mechanisms the could reinvigorate local news to meet the critical information needs of the people of the United States in the 21st century; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1602. A bill to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of increasing the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 207. A resolution designating the week beginning November 8, 2021, as “National Pregnancy Center Week” to recognize the vital role that community-supported pregnancy centers play in saving lives and serving women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 208. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 209. A resolution recognizing the work and contributions of doulas towards improving pregnancy, birth, and postpartum outcomes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KELLY, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 210. A resolution designating July 21, 2021, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 211. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 51

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 51, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 221

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 221, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a grant program to increase cooperation on post-traumatic stress disorder research between the United States and Israel.

S. 228

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 228, a bill to promote antitrust enforcement and protect competition through adjusting premerger filing fees, and increasing antitrust enforcement resources.

S. 241

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 241, a bill to provide for congressional approval of national emergency declarations, and for other purposes.

S. 246

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 246, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to support schools of nursing in program enhancement and infrastructure modernization, increasing the number of nursing faculty and students, and for other purposes.

S. 273

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 273, a bill to improve the management of driftnet fishing.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 368, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

S. 388

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to suspend certain United States assistance for the Government of Honduras until corruption, impunity, and human rights violations are no longer systemic, and the perpetrators of these crimes are being brought to justice.

S. 464

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 464, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate advance refunding bonds.

S. 660

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 660, a bill to require parity in the coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services provided to enrollees in private insurance plans, whether such services are provided in-person or through telehealth.

S. 699

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 699, a bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 747

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 747, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the adjustment of status of essential workers, and for other purposes.

S. 754

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 754, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 771

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 771, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 774

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 774, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 910

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 926

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 926, a bill to plan, develop, and make recommendations to increase access to sexual assault examinations for survivors by holding hospitals accountable and supporting the providers that serve them.

S. 951

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 951, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organizations to provide service dogs to veterans with severe post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 986

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 986, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a 5-year extension of the carbon oxide sequestration credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1210

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1210, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1302, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1308

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1308, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to issuers of American infrastructure bonds.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to promote United States values and fulfill agency missions through the use of innovative applied artificial intelligence technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 1441

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1441, a bill to appropriate an additional amount to improve the Navy shipyard infrastructure of the United States.

S. 1469

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1469, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to meet the needs of homeless children, youth, and families, and honor the assessments and priorities of local communities.

S. 1475

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1475, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the issuance of permits under title V of that Act for certain emissions from agricultural production.

S. 1491

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1491, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve obstetric care in rural areas.

S. 1511

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr.

CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1511, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1520

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1520, a bill to reform the disposition of charges and convening of courts-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and increase the prevention of sexual assaults and other crimes in the military.

S. 1522

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1522, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 1535

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1535, a bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

S. 1555

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1555, a bill to shorten the extension, and the amount, of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation in order to get Americans back to work.

S. 1559

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1559, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow certain qualified over-the-counter securities to be treated as readily traded on an established securities market for the purpose of diversification requirements for employee stock ownership plans.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 9, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1581. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to carry out a pilot

program to enhance the mapping of urban flooding and associated property damage and the availability of that mapped data to homeowners, businesses, and localities to help understand and mitigate the risk of such flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 1581

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 "Flood Mapping Modernization and Homeowner Empowerment Pilot Program Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. FLOOD MAPPING MODERNIZATION AND HOMEOWNER EMPOWERMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) COASTAL.—The term "coastal" means, with respect to a unit of general local government, that the unit borders a body of water that—

(A) is more than 2,000 square miles in size; and

(B) is not a river.

(3) PELAGIC.—The term "pelagic" means, with respect to a unit of general local government, that—

(A) the unit is a coastal unit; and

(B) the body of water that the unit borders is—

(i) an ocean; or

(ii) a large, open body of water, including a bay or a gulf, that empties into an ocean.

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term "pilot program" means the pilot program carried out by the Administrator under this section.

(5) URBAN FLOODING.—The term "urban flooding"—

(A) means the inundation, by water, of property in a built environment, particularly in a densely populated area, that—

(i) is caused by falling rain—

(I) collecting on an impervious surface; or

(II) increasing the level of a body of water that is located near that built environment; and

(ii) overwhelms the capacity of drainage systems in the built environment, such as storm sewers;

(B) includes—

(i) a situation in which stormwater enters a building through a window, door, or other opening;

(ii) the backup of water through a sewer pipe, shower, toilet, sink, or floor drain;

(iii) the seepage of water through a wall or a floor;

(iv) the accumulation of water on property or a public right-of-way; and

(v) the overflow from a body of water, such as a river, lake, or ocean; and

(C) does not include flooding in an undeveloped or agricultural area.

(6) URBANIZED AREA.—The term "urbanized area" means an area that has been defined and designated as an urbanized area by the Bureau of the Census during the most recently completed decennial census.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall carry out a pilot program to make grants to units of local government to—

(1) enhance the production of maps relating to urban flooding and associated property damage; and

(2) increase the availability of the maps described in paragraph (1) to homeowners, businesses, and units of local government to enable those entities to minimize the risk of urban flooding.

(c) OBJECTIVES.—Amounts from grants made under the pilot program may be used only to carry out activities that meet the following objectives:

(1) Developing a methodology for assessing the risk of urban flooding through the deployment of technology-based mapping tools that—

(A) are easily understandable by the public; and

(B) effectively convey information regarding the level of flood risk.

(2) Providing structure-specific projections of annual chance flood frequency.

(3) Providing structure-based flood risk assessments.

(4) Providing program design for the mitigation of the risk of urban flooding.

(5) Incorporating information regarding climate trends into urban flooding risk assessments.

(6) Making the information described in this subsection publicly available on the internet through a web-based portal so as to increase transparency regarding homeowner flood risks.

(d) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under the pilot program may be made only to—

(A) a unit of general local government that is located in an urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 individuals; or

(B) a stormwater management authority of a unit of general local government described in subparagraph (A).

(2) ONE-TIME GRANTS.—A grant under the pilot program may not be made to—

(A) any unit of general local governmental, or the stormwater management authority of a unit of general local government, that previously received a grant under the pilot program;

(B) any unit of general local government if the stormwater management agency for that unit previously received a grant under the pilot program; or

(C) any stormwater management agency of a unit of general local government if that unit previously received a grant under the pilot program.

(3) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a stormwater management authority that operates with respect to more than 1 unit of general local government, the application of that authority shall be considered for purposes of paragraph (2) of this subsection and subsections (f), (g), and (h)(1) to be made for the largest unit of general local government with respect to which that authority operates.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) may be construed to limit the ability of a stormwater management authority described in that subparagraph to carry out activities under a demonstration project in any other jurisdiction in, or with respect to any other unit of local government with, which that authority operates.

(e) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under the pilot program, a unit of general local government or a stormwater management agency shall submit to the Administrator an application in such form and containing such information as the Administrator shall require.

(f) SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS.—

(1) ANNUAL SELECTION.—Subject to paragraph (2), and to the submission of approv-

able applications, in each fiscal year for which amounts are made available for grants under the pilot program, the Administrator shall select, from among applications submitted under subsection (e) for that fiscal year, 3 units of general government or stormwater management authorities to receive grants under the pilot program.

(2) AGGREGATE LIMIT.—Subject only to the submission of approvable applications, the Administrator shall select, in the aggregate over the entire duration of the pilot program, 12 units of general government or stormwater management authorities to receive grants under the pilot program, as follows:

(A) TIER 1.—Three of the applicants selected shall be units of general local government, or stormwater management authorities for those units, each of which has a population of more than 800,000 individuals, as follows:

(i) PELAGIC COASTAL CITY.—One shall be—

(I) a unit of general local government that is a pelagic unit; or

(II) a stormwater authority for a unit described in subclause (I).

(ii) NON-PELAGIC COASTAL CITY.—One shall be—

(I) a unit of general local government that—

(aa) is a coastal unit; and

(bb) is not a pelagic unit; or

(II) a stormwater authority for a unit described in subclause (I).

(iii) NON-COASTAL CITY.—One shall be—

(I) a unit of general local government that is not a coastal unit; or

(II) a stormwater authority for a unit described in subclause (I).

(B) TIER 2.—Six of the applicants selected shall be units of general local government, or stormwater management authorities for those units, each of which has a population of more than 200,000 individuals and not more than 800,000 individuals, as follows:

(i) COASTAL CITIES.—Three shall be—

(I) units of general local government that are coastal units; or

(II) stormwater management authorities for units described in subclause (I).

(ii) NON-COASTAL CITIES.—Three shall be—

(I) units of general local government that are not coastal units; or

(II) stormwater management authorities for units described in subclause (I).

(C) TIER 3.—Three of the applicants selected shall be—

(i) units of general local government, each of which has a population of more than 50,000 individuals and not more than 200,000 individuals; or

(ii) stormwater management authorities for units described in clause (i).

(g) PRIORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall select applicants for grants under the pilot program based on the extent to which the applications of those applicants shall achieve the objectives described in subsection (c).

(2) TIERS 2 AND 3.—In selecting applicants to receive grants under the pilot program under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (f)(2), the Administrator shall give priority to applicants—

(A) that are highly vulnerable to sea level rise;

(B) within which are located a military installation or another facility relating to national security concerns; or

(C) that have—

(i) populations that are highly vulnerable to urban flooding; and

(ii) an uneven capacity for flood mitigation and response efforts resulting from socioeconomic factors.

(h) AMOUNT.—

(1) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the amount of a grant under the pilot program, the Administrator shall consider the population of the grant recipient, which may be considered in terms of the tier under subsection (f)(2) with respect to the recipient.

(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The amount of a grant under the pilot program may not exceed 75 percent of the total cost incurred in carrying out the activities described in subsection (c).

(i) DURATION.—The Administrator shall require each recipient of a grant under the pilot program to complete the activities described in subsection (c), which shall be, subject to subsection (h)(2), carried out using the grant amounts, not later than 18 months after the date on which the recipient initially receives the grant amounts under the pilot program.

(j) USE OF CENSUS DATA.—The Administrator shall make all determinations regarding population under the pilot program by using data from the most recently completed decennial census by the Bureau of the Census.

(k) GRANTEE REPORTS TO FEMA.—Each recipient of a grant under the pilot program shall, not later than 30 months after the date on which the recipient initially receives the grant amounts, submit to the Administrator a report that describes—

(1) the activities carried out with the grant amounts;

(2) how the activities carried out with the grant amounts have met the objectives described in subsection (c);

(3) any lessons learned in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (2); and

(4) any recommendations for future mapping modernization efforts by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(l) BIENNIAL REPORTS BY FEMA.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter until the date on which all activities carried out with amounts from grants under the pilot program are completed, the Administrator shall submit to Congress and make available to the public on an internet website a report that—

(1) describes—

(A) the progress of the activities carried out with amounts from those grants; and

(B) the effectiveness of technology-based mapping tools used in carrying out the activities described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) with respect to the final report that the Administrator is required to submit under this subsection, includes recommendations to Congress and the executive branch of the Federal Government for implementing strategies, practices, and technologies to mitigate the effects of urban flooding.

(m) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, because the pilot program is limited with respect to scope and resources, communities that participate in the pilot program should acknowledge that the most successful efforts to mitigate the effects of urban flooding—

(1) take a structural-based mitigation approach with respect to construction, which includes—

(A) recognizing any post-storm damage that may occur; and

(B) pursuing designs that proactively minimize future flood damage;

(2) make individuals in the community aware, through any cost-effective and available means of education, of the best approaches regarding the construction of properties that are able to survive floods, which reduces the cost of future repairs; and

(3) encourage home and property owners to consider the measures described in paragraphs (1) and (2), which are the most cost-

effective and prudent ways to reduce the impact of flooding, when constructing or renovating building components.

(n) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under the pilot program—

(1) \$1,200,000 for fiscal year 2022; and

(2) \$4,300,000 for fiscal year 2023, to remain available through fiscal year 2025.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1582. A bill to provide for enhanced Federal enforcement of, and State and local assistance in the enforcement of, the immigration laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today during Police Week to honor the work of our Nation's law enforcement officers.

Being a law enforcement officer is one of the toughest jobs that there is, but it is also foundational to a functioning society. We rely on these brave men and women to protect and serve our country every day.

Unfortunately, many officers are being driven out by a wave of anti-police rhetoric on the heels of bad actors who operated outside of their training. We need to have trust between law enforcement and citizens. Without it, our society frays and decays.

Over the course of this week, my colleagues are sharing many stories of law enforcement officers stepping up to help their fellow citizens in times of need and build trust with the communities that they serve.

We are lucky to have many brave and honorable officers in Alabama and around this country.

I think about Officer Jonathan Espino from the Decatur Police Department. Last year, Officer Espino responded to a medical call. A man was trying to bring his mom back to life, trying to perform CPR. Officer Espino took over for the man after he arrived and began CPR. Just before medical personnel arrived, the woman's heart started beating again, and she was gasping for air. He saved her life.

I think of Officer Wesley Harrison from the Abbeville Police Department. Officer Harrison received a call that a woman was in a burning building. Officer Harrison arrived on the scene minutes later and was able to carry the elderly woman out of the structure, with the help of another investigator.

These police officers went above and beyond the call of duty, and lives were saved because of their heroism. But we know such an important job comes with great risk. Just last week, Alabama honored the 11 law enforcement officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice the last 2 years. In the last 2 days alone across the United States of America, four law enforcement officers have been killed. We are forever grateful to each of these officers who have laid down their lives in service for their community.

How would you like to every day wake up, put a uniform on, a badge on

your chest, a gun on your side, leave your family, walk out the door, knowing it might be the last time you ever walk into that home or see your family? That is what happens to these law enforcement officers every day of their career, which is why I firmly believe we need more support for law enforcement, not less.

They need more training so they can be better at handling difficult situations. This is especially true as we see an uptick in mental health issues all across this country. They need targeted resources so they can recruit the best and brightest for these important roles in the community and across our country. Let's invest in the resources that they can ensure all law enforcement officers are a true force for good for all people across their State and across this country.

Part of keeping communities safe is making sure our law enforcement officers have the authority they need to enforce compliance with our current laws. This is especially necessary as we see a flood of immigrants coming into our country illegally.

Right now, unless State and local law enforcement agencies have an agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, if an officer encounters an illegal alien in the course of performing their normal duties in their hometowns, they cannot arrest or detain that individual for immigration purposes.

Right now, ICE arrests are low, even while illegal border crossings are historically high. Under President Biden's enforcement of our immigration laws, which has fallen dramatically, arrests by ICE for the last 4 months have fallen 66 percent. Under the Biden administration, ICE has released at least 3,700 inmates. Alarming, 1,800 of those were charged or convicted of crimes including homicide, rape, assault, child abuse, and more. Secretary Mayorkas recently limited the places where ICE and CBP can enforce the law. Many Federal law enforcement officers fear that the Biden administration will further restrict where they can do their jobs.

If the Federal Government will not enforce the immigration laws, our State and local law enforcement should be empowered to do so. That is why today I introduced the Empowering Law Enforcement Act, which grants inherent authority to State and local officials to enforce our Nation's immigration laws.

Additionally, my bill will give Federal authorities the flexibility to extend the amount of time they can detain criminal aliens. If a State or local law enforcement entity is detaining an alien, this bill would require Homeland Security to take that illegal alien into custody upon request from that entity.

The bill ensures that State and local authorities can get reimbursed for the cost related to the incarceration and transportation of the alien.

The Empowering Law Enforcement Act is about common sense. If the

Biden administration won't enforce the law, let's empower those who will. I urge my colleagues to support this practical solution to a very real and very serious problem.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1585. A bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards; considered and passed.

S. 1585

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 "Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act".

SEC. 2. ADDING SUICIDE PREVENTION CONTACT INFORMATION TO SCHOOL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(30)(A) In the case of an institution that creates and distributes identification cards for students at any time after the date of enactment of this paragraph, such institution shall include phone contact information on each such card for the following organizations:

“(i) The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

“(ii) Crisis Text Line.

“(iii) A campus mental health center or program, as determined by the institution.

“(B) In the case of an institution that does not create and distribute identification cards for students at any time after the date of enactment of this paragraph, such institution shall publish the suicide prevention contact information specified in subparagraph (A) on the website of such institution.

“(C) If an organization in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) ceases to exist, the Secretary may designate a different entity with a similar purpose to be included on the identification card.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect beginning on the day that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 207—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 8, 2021, AS “NATIONAL PREGNANCY CENTER WEEK” TO RECOGNIZE THE VITAL ROLE THAT COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED PREGNANCY CENTERS PLAY IN SAVING LIVES AND SERVING WOMEN AND MEN FACING WITH DIFFICULT PREGNANCY DECISIONS

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 207

Whereas, for more than 100 years, young women facing unplanned pregnancies have

found support from charitable organizations ranging from Catholic Charities and Jewish maternity homes to the Salvation Army;

Whereas many charitable organizations banded together on November 13, 1971, to form the first United States association of nonprofit organizations dedicated to rescuing as many lives as possible from abortion;

Whereas, as of 2019, there were approximately 2,700 pregnancy centers (also known as “pregnancy care and resource centers”) in the United States;

Whereas women in every part of the United States turn to pregnancy centers for help, hope, and healing;

Whereas pregnancy centers are local, nonprofit organizations that provide vital and compassionate support to women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions;

Whereas pregnancy centers reach almost 2,000,000 people each year through a combination of client services, including—

- (1) pregnancy tests;
- (2) ultrasound and medical services;
- (3) options counseling and education; and
- (4) parenting and childbirth classes;

Whereas the estimated value of services provided in 2019 to women and men of all ages and backgrounds was nearly \$270,000,000;

Whereas some pregnancy centers offer specific medical services, including—

- (1) consultation with a licensed medical professional;
- (2) a limited ultrasound for pregnancy confirmation; and
- (3) testing for sexually transmitted infections and diseases;

Whereas the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates—

- (1) provides life-affirming pregnancy centers with legal counsel, education, and training;
- (2) has assisted hundreds of pregnancy centers in becoming medical clinics; and
- (3) has represented nearly 1,300 pregnancy centers that currently operate as medical clinics;

Whereas more than 53,000 people in the United States volunteer at community-supported pregnancy centers each year;

Whereas more than 2,130 medical pregnancy centers provide a limited ultrasound at little or no cost to women;

Whereas, in 2019, more than 476,000 ultrasounds were performed at medical pregnancy centers;

Whereas pregnancy centers understand that pregnancy can be emotional for mothers and fathers, and the compassionate staff and trained volunteers of pregnancy centers—

- (1) provide each patient with educational materials; and
- (2) offer each patient emotional support and care to help each patient through difficult situations;

Whereas close to 86 percent of pregnancy centers in the United States offer specialized parenting education—

- (1) through direct services on premises; or
- (2) in nearby churches, schools, or other locations;

Whereas nearly every pregnancy care and resource center provides clients with material support for pregnancy and infant care, which may include—

- (1) maternity clothing;
- (2) baby clothes and furniture;
- (3) housing assistance; or
- (4) nutritional counseling and resources;

Whereas pregnancy centers—

- (1) do not discriminate based on age, race, nationality, creed, religious affiliation, disability, or arbitrary circumstances; and
- (2) take special care to provide help to underserved minority populations;

Whereas pregnancy centers have committed to engaging fathers so that they can

acquire the skills necessary to become involved and responsible fathers;

Whereas Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers have saved more than 823,000 babies since 2008;

Whereas Heartbeat International reports that the Abortion Pill Rescue Network has saved more than 2,000 lives;

Whereas, in the last 12 years, 8 of 10 women considering abortion when they entered a Care Net-affiliated pregnancy care and resource center ended up choosing life;

Whereas, in the last 12 years, Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers—

- (1) provided 1,300,000 free ultrasound scans;
- (2) provided parenting support and education to 1,100,000 individuals;
- (3) provided material resources to more than 1,700,000 individuals; and
- (4) administered 3,200,000 pregnancy tests;

Whereas the 24-hour Option Line of Heartbeat International—

- (1) helps carry out a mission of reaching and rescuing as many lives as possible around the world through an effective network of life-affirming pregnancy centers; and
- (2) answers questions by phone, text, email, or chat before connecting an individual with the individual’s local pregnancy center, where the individual will receive 1-on-1, compassionate, caring support;

Whereas Heartbeat International has made contact with over 4,000,000 women and men through the Option Line;

Whereas the Care Net Pregnancy Decision Line is the only national hotline that provides immediate pregnancy decision coaching by highly trained coaches;

Whereas Heartbeat International reports the existence of approximately 450 maternity homes in the United States;

Whereas Care Net, Heartbeat International, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, and other groups issued a statement entitled “Our Commitment of Care and Competence”, which—

- (1) addresses issues including—
 - (A) scientific and medical accuracy;
 - (B) truth in advertising;
 - (C) compassion;
 - (D) nondiscrimination;
 - (E) patient confidentiality;
 - (F) staff training; and
 - (G) a consistent life ethic; and
- (2) expands the determination of the pregnancy help movement to comply with applicable legal requirements regarding—
 - (A) employment;
 - (B) fundraising;
 - (C) financial management;
 - (D) taxation;
 - (E) medical licensure; and
 - (F) operation standards; and

Whereas less than 10 percent of the income of pregnancy centers in the United States is derived from governmental sources, which ensures that pregnancy centers—

- (1) minimize burdens on each taxpayer; and
- (2) engage local communities to provide sustainable support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates the week beginning November 8, 2021, as “National Pregnancy Center Week”;
- (2) supports the important work of pregnancy centers across the United States;
- (3) appreciates and recognizes the thousands of volunteers and staff of pregnancy centers in the United States who give millions of hours of service each year to women and men who are faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; and
- (4) recognizes the importance of—
 - (A) protecting life; and
 - (B) assisting women and men in need as they bring children into the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 208—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL NURSES WEEK, TO BE OBSERVED FROM MAY 6 THROUGH MAY 12, 2021

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 208

Whereas, beginning in 1991, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as “National Recognition Day for Nurses”, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;

Whereas National Nurses Week is a time of year to reflect on the important contributions that nurses make to provide safe, high-quality health care;

Whereas nurses serve on the front lines, risking their lives treating the injured and sick during wartime, natural disasters, and public health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas nurses are known to be patient advocates, acting to protect the lives of individuals under their care;

Whereas nurses represent the largest single component of the health care profession, with an estimated population of more than 4,000,000 registered nurses in the United States;

Whereas nurses are leading in the delivery of quality care in a transformed health care system that improves patient outcomes and safety;

Whereas the Future of Nursing report of the Institute of Medicine has called for the nursing profession to meet the call for leadership in a team-based delivery model;

Whereas, when nurse staffing levels increase, the risk of patient complications and lengthy hospital stays decreases, resulting in cost savings;

Whereas nurses are experienced researchers, and the work of nurses encompasses a wide scope of scientific inquiry, including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research;

Whereas nurses provide care that is sensitive to the cultures and customs of individuals across the United States;

Whereas nurses are well-positioned to provide leadership to eliminate health care disparities that exist in the United States;

Whereas nurses are the cornerstone of the public health infrastructure, promoting healthy lifestyles and educating communities on disease prevention and health promotion;

Whereas nurses help inform and educate, and work closely with, legislators to improve—

- (1) the education, retention, recruitment, and practice of all nurses; and
- (2) the health and safety of the patients for whom the nurses care;

Whereas there is a need—

- (1) to strengthen nursing workforce development programs at all levels, including the number of doctorally prepared faculty members; and

(2) to provide education to the nurse research scientists who can develop new nursing care models to improve the health status of the diverse population of the United States;

Whereas nurses touch the lives of the people of the United States through every stage of life; and

Whereas nursing has been voted the most honest and ethical profession in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, as founded by the American Nurses Association;

(2) recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the health care system in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

SENATE RESOLUTION 209—RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DOULAS TOWARDS IMPROVING PREGNANCY, BIRTH, AND POSTPARTUM OUTCOMES

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 209

Whereas doulas can play an important role in—

(1) maternal care; and
(2) addressing maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States;

Whereas doula support includes continuous non-clinical 1-on-1 emotional, physical, and informational support around the time of birth, including during pregnancy and postpartum;

Whereas doulas empower mothers with information about pregnancy and childbirth;

Whereas studies have shown that doula-assisted mothers are 4 times less likely to have a low birth weight baby, and 2 times less likely to experience complications during pregnancy;

Whereas research indicates that, with the support of doulas, women are—

(1) more likely to have vaginal births; and
(2) less likely to require epidural anesthesia;

Whereas, in 2013, the Expert Panel on Improving Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services identified providing coverage for continuous doula support during labor as a potential strategy to enhance maternal and infant care management;

Whereas the presence of a doula during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum helps foster shared decision-making for birthing women by facilitating communication between women and their providers;

Whereas a doula provides continuous support during labor and delivery and can alert hospital staff to signs and symptoms of complications that require immediate medical attention, thus lowering the risk of escalating complications for the mother and baby;

Whereas access to doula support services, especially in underserved communities, may contribute to—

(1) improved birth outcomes, both physically and emotionally; and

(2) lower health care costs by reducing the risk of—

(A) low birth weight babies;
(B) complications that might otherwise go unnoticed;
(C) low-risk cesarean deliveries; and
(D) epidural anesthesia;

Whereas training members of underserved communities to become doulas and support mothers in their own communities can—

(1) help provide employment opportunities for improving maternal health; and

(2) build trust and reduce adverse consequences of racial bias for pregnant and postpartum women of color; and

Whereas community-based maternal health care models, including doula support services, in collaboration with obstetrical care, show great promise in improving, and reducing disparities in, maternal health outcomes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the important role of doulas in providing respectful, responsive care to all women, including women in underserved communities who lack access to maternal health services;

(2) acknowledges that doula support services provide continuous physical and emotional support to help mothers achieve healthy pregnancies and safe deliveries and recoveries;

(3) urges greater recognition for the important role that doulas play in—

(A) supporting improved pregnancy, birth, and postpartum outcomes, including maternal mental health;

(B) reducing health care costs and working towards the elimination of health disparities; and

(C) overcoming barriers for assisting low-income women of color and women in rural areas with access to health and social supports;

(4) designates the week beginning May 9, 2021, as “Doula Week” to raise awareness for, and advocate for the benefits of, doulas and the support services doulas provide; and

(5) recognizes the importance of access to doula support services, especially in underserved communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 210—DESIGNATING JULY 21, 2021, AS “GLIOBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KELLY, Mr. COONS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 210

Whereas approximately 13,000 new cases of glioblastoma will be diagnosed in the United States in 2021;

Whereas glioblastoma is—

(1) the most common malignant, cancerous brain tumor, accounting for approximately half of all primary malignant brain tumors; and

(2) the most aggressive, complex, difficult to treat, and deadly type of brain tumor;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 10,000 individuals in the United States will succumb to glioblastoma every year;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for glioblastoma patients is only 7.2 percent and the median length of survival for glioblastoma patients is only 8 months;

Whereas glioblastoma is described as a disease that affects the “essence of self”, as the treatment and removal of glioblastoma presents significant challenges due to the uniquely complex and fragile nature of the brain, the primary organ in the human body

that controls not only cognitive ability but also the actions of every organ and limb;

Whereas, relative to other types of cancers, brain cancer has—

(1) the highest per-patient initial cost of care, with an annualized mean net cost of care approaching \$150,000; and

(2) the highest annualized mean net costs for last-year-of-life care, with a cost of between \$135,000 and \$210,000 per patient, depending on the age and gender of a patient;

Whereas, although research advances may fuel the development of new treatments for glioblastoma, challenging obstacles to accelerating progress toward new treatments for glioblastoma remain and there are no screening or early detection methods;

Whereas, although glioblastoma was first described in medical and scientific literature in the 1920s, and despite its devastating prognosis, only 4 drugs and 1 medical device have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat glioblastoma since the 1920s and the mortality rates associated with glioblastoma have changed little during the past 30 years;

Whereas, as a promising first step since the first Glioblastoma Awareness Day, the National Cancer Institute established the Glioblastoma Therapeutics Network (referred to in this preamble as “GTN”) in 2020, as part of a national infrastructure to enhance and support the discovery and development of glioblastoma therapies, with an initial \$6,000,000 available for multi-institutional GTN teams to drive therapeutic agents through pre-clinical studies and early-phase clinical trials necessary to rapidly evaluate potential treatments to advance toward cures and improved quality of life; and

Whereas there is a need for greater public awareness of glioblastoma, including awareness of both—

(1) the urgent unmet medical needs of glioblastoma patients; and

(2) the opportunities for research and treatment advances for glioblastoma: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 21, 2021, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages increased public awareness of glioblastoma;

(3) honors the individuals who have lost their lives to glioblastoma, a devastating disease, or are currently living with it;

(4) supports efforts to develop better treatments for glioblastoma that will improve the long-term prognosis and quality of life of individuals diagnosed with the disease;

(5) expresses its support for the individuals who are battling brain tumors, as well as the families, friends, and caregivers of those individuals;

(6) urges a collaborative approach to brain tumor research, which is a promising means of advancing the understanding and treatment of glioblastoma; and

(7) encourages continued investments in glioblastoma research and treatments, including through the Glioblastoma Therapeutics Network and other existing brain tumor research resources.

SENATE RESOLUTION 211—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT, DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN,

Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 211

Whereas the week of May 2 through May 8, 2021, has been designated as “Public Service Recognition Week” to honor employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments and members of the uniformed services;

Whereas millions of public servants have worked and continue to work to help the United States overcome the challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing essential services to continue and playing a critical role in protecting public health and safety;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the United States through work at all levels of government and as members of the uniformed services;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service and as members of the uniformed services, in every State, county, and city across the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas the ability of the Federal Government and State and local governments to be responsive, innovative, and effective depends on the outstanding performance of dedicated public servants;

Whereas the United States continues to reaffirm the critical importance of public service employees in responding to public health and economic challenges;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly trained individuals who work in public service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) fight disease, including COVID-19, and promote better health;

(2) promote economic stability and growth;

(3) defend the freedom of the people of the United States and advance the interests of the United States around the world;

(4) provide vital strategic support functions to the Armed Forces and serve in the reserve components of the Armed Forces;

(5) fight crime and fires;

(6) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(7) deliver benefits under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);

(8) protect the environment and parks in the United States;

(9) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(10) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(11) help the people of the United States respond to and recover from natural disasters, pandemics, and terrorist attacks;

(12) teach and work in schools and libraries;

(13) develop new technologies and explore the Earth, the Moon, and space to improve our knowledge on how the world changes;

(14) improve and secure transportation systems; and

(15) assist veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government—

(1) make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States; and

(2) are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and other threats to the security of the United States, and maintain homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and promote the ideals of the United States;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and dangers to public health;

Whereas the individuals serving in the uniformed services, as well as the skilled trade and craft employees of the Federal Government who provide support to their efforts—

(1) are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances; and

(2) contribute greatly to the security of the United States and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflicts in the defense of the United States and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas; and

(2) serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants; and

Whereas the week of May 2 through May 8, 2021, marks the 37th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of May 2 through May 8, 2021, as “Public Service Recognition Week”;;

(2) commends public servants for their outstanding contributions to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis;

(3) salutes government employees and members of the uniformed services for their unyielding dedication to, and enthusiasm for, public service;

(4) honors government employees and members of the uniformed services who have given their lives and health in service to their communities, States, Tribes, and the United States;

(5) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession;

(6) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at every level of government; and

(7) supports efforts to promote an efficient and effective public service that serves the people of the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have 15 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

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 Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 9:30 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 Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 2:30 p.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 Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 3 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 Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

The Subcommittee on Health Care of the Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL SPENDING
OVERSIGHT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, CITIZENSHIP,
AND BORDER SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE

MAY 12, 2021

Hon. KAMALA D. HARRIS.

DEAR MADAM PRESIDENT: I have the honor to submit a full and complete statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate, showing in detail the items of expense under proper appropriations, the aggregate thereof, and exhibiting the exact condition of all public moneys received, paid out, and remaining in my possession from October 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, in compliance with Section 105 of Public Law 88-454, approved August 20, 1964, as amended.

Sincerely,

SONCERIA A. BERRY,
Secretary of the Senate.

HONORING LAS DAMAS DE BLANCO, A WOMEN-LED NONVIOLENT MOVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA AND CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CUBA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 18, S. Res. 81.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 81) honoring Las Damas de Blanco, a women-led nonviolent movement in support of freedom and human rights in Cuba, and calling for the release of all political prisoners in Cuba.

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.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 81) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 1, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE NINTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AND REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO A MORE PROSPEROUS, SECURE, AND DEMOCRATIC WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 28, S. Res. 120.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 120) recognizing the Ninth Summit of the Americas and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to a more prosperous, secure, and democratic Western Hemisphere.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations without amendment, and with an amendment to the preamble as follows:

Whereas the United States has pursued multiple collaborative initiatives to advance the region's enduring and shared interest in a more secure, prosperous, and democratic Western Hemisphere;

Whereas the United States will host the Ninth Summit of the Americas for the first time since it hosted the inaugural Summit in Miami, Florida in 1994;

Whereas, since 1994, the Summit of the Americas is a valuable forum for democratically elected heads of state and governments of the Western Hemisphere to discuss common policy issues, affirm shared values, and commit to concerted actions at the national and regional level to address the novel and existing challenges facing the Americas;

Whereas the First and Second Summits of the Americas advanced commitments to lower trade barriers, improve transparency and market access, and facilitate economic integration, and, following those Summits, the United States has signed free trade agreements with 12 of the 35 countries in the region;

Whereas, since 2018, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Suriname, and Uruguay have signed Memorandums of Understanding with the United States under the America Crece Program to leverage private investment in energy and infrastructure projects and advance economic prosperity, security, and good governance;

Whereas, during the 2018 Summit of the Americas, the United States announced additional humanitarian assistance for Venezuelans who have fled their country as a result of the political, economic, and security crises created by the regime of Nicolás Maduro, including support for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) response to assist Venezuelan refugees in Colombia and Brazil;

Whereas Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) and their involvement in money laundering and the trafficking of people, narcotics, and weapons in the region pose complex transnational threats to United States public health and national security, as well as the stability of the Americas, by undermining citizen security, basic human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and economic development;

Whereas the United States has sought to improve regional security through friendly and sustained relationships that build interoperability, readiness, and capability with regional security partners, including through programs

such as Plan Colombia, the Merida Initiative, the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), and the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI);

Whereas the pandemic caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to as "COVID-19") has had devastating health and socioeconomic consequences for the states and peoples of the Americas that have—

(1) overwhelmed health systems;

(2) led to the worsening of economic conditions and contraction of gross domestic product per capita;

(3) led to an increase in unemployment, especially for individuals working in small- and medium-size businesses and large informal sectors across the region, and a rise in the number of people living in poverty; and

(4) created conditions that have strengthened the illicit activities of criminal organizations;

Whereas the United States Government remains deeply concerned about the negative, often predatory effects of China's growing political, economic, military, and technological influence throughout the region, including significant illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities in the Southern Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Pacific Ocean and opaque infrastructure investments that impose unsustainable financial burdens on recipient countries, enable corruption, and undermine good governance;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about the Government of the Russian Federation's employment of a wide array of diplomatic, military, intelligence, cyber, misinformation, and commercial tools to undermine democratic systems in the region, including through its deepening political, economic, and security support for the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about efforts by the Government of Iran to expand its political, economic, and security presence in the region, including through its deepening ties with the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

Whereas the regimes of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, Miguel Díaz-Canel in Cuba, and Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, have systematically eroded democratic institutions, commit widespread human rights violations, draw lessons from one another to sharpen state-sponsored repression and internal control mechanisms, and receive the support of malign state and non-state actors, which pose a challenge to United States national security and national interests;

Whereas entrenched corruption, linkages between transnational criminal organizations and political actors, and the harassment and murder of journalists, human rights defenders, environmental activists, and civil society leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean weaken citizens' confidence in democracy and negatively affect United States national interests; and

Whereas weak rule of law, elevated levels of criminal violence, and systemic corruption in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras fuel irregular migration that affects regional stability: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the occasion of the United States hosting the Ninth Summit of the Americas;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to promote economic prosperity, security, and democratic governance throughout the Americas; and

(3) calls on the President to lead a strong and coordinated diplomatic effort during the Summit process to ensure the Ninth Summit of the Americas—

(A) strengthens democratic governance by building on the 2018 Lima Commitment to—

(i) reduce bureaucracy;

(ii) strengthen the independence of judiciaries;

(iii) increase transparency through the use of new technologies;

(iv) encourage private sector participation in the formulation of public anti-corruption policies;

(v) protect whistleblowers, journalists, and law enforcement officials;

(vi) work towards preventing regional financial systems from being used to transfer and conceal illicit funds; and

(vii) identify resources to strengthen hemispheric anticorruption mechanisms;

(B) strengthens post-COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery efforts by outlining specific commitments to deepen trade and investment integration throughout the Americas and pursuing effective nearshoring and reshoring initiatives;

(C) builds upon United States efforts to enhance the institutional capacity and technical capabilities of partner countries to strengthen the rule of law, civilian security, respect of human rights, and government transparency;

(D) builds upon United States efforts to enhance regional cooperation to disrupt, degrade, and dismantle malign state and non-state influences, including transnational organized criminal networks, and terrorist organizations;

(E) reinforces the capacity of member states to—

(i) implement actions and initiatives in support of peaceful and democratic efforts of the people of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, who desire to hold free and fair elections and restore democratic order and the rule of law in their respective countries; and

(ii) support the people of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras as they strive to address weak democratic governance and the elevated levels of corruption, violence, and criminality that drive irregular migration; and

(F) explores a comprehensive approach to forced displacement and migration challenges in the Western Hemisphere, takes stock of humanitarian crises and flashpoints in the region, and mobilizes member state commitments to advocate for and support multilateral humanitarian and development responses.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 120) was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 120

Whereas the United States has pursued multiple collaborative initiatives to advance the region's enduring and shared interest in a more secure, prosperous, and democratic Western Hemisphere;

Whereas the United States will host the Ninth Summit of the Americas for the first time since it hosted the inaugural Summit in Miami, Florida in 1994;

Whereas, since 1994, the Summit of the Americas is a valuable forum for democratically elected heads of state and governments of the Western Hemisphere to discuss common policy issues, affirm shared values,

and commit to concerted actions at the national and regional level to address the novel and existing challenges facing the Americas;

Whereas the First and Second Summits of the Americas advanced commitments to lower trade barriers, improve transparency and market access, and facilitate economic integration, and, following those Summits, the United States has signed free trade agreements with 12 of the 35 countries in the region;

Whereas, since 2018, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Suriname, and Uruguay have signed Memorandums of Understanding with the United States under the America Crece Program to leverage private investment in energy and infrastructure projects and advance economic prosperity, security, and good governance;

Whereas, during the 2018 Summit of the Americas, the United States announced additional humanitarian assistance for Venezuelans who have fled their country as a result of the political, economic, and security crises created by the regime of Nicolás Maduro, including support for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) response to assist Venezuelan refugees in Colombia and Brazil;

Whereas Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) and their involvement in money laundering and the trafficking of people, narcotics, and weapons in the region pose complex transnational threats to United States public health and national security, as well as the stability of the Americas, by undermining citizen security, basic human rights, the rule of law, good governance, and economic development;

Whereas the United States has sought to improve regional security through friendly and sustained relationships that build interoperability, readiness, and capability with regional security partners, including through programs such as Plan Colombia, the Merida Initiative, the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), and the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI);

Whereas the pandemic caused by coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to as "COVID-19") has had devastating health and socioeconomic consequences for the states and peoples of the Americas that have—

(1) overwhelmed health systems;

(2) led to the worsening of economic conditions and contraction of gross domestic product per capita;

(3) led to an increase in unemployment, especially for individuals working in small- and medium-size businesses and large informal sectors across the region, and a rise in the number of people living in poverty; and

(4) created conditions that have strengthened the illicit activities of criminal organizations;

Whereas the United States Government remains deeply concerned about the negative, often predatory effects of China's growing political, economic, military, and technological influence throughout the region, including significant illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities in the Southern Atlantic Ocean and Eastern Pacific Ocean and opaque infrastructure investments that impose unsustainable financial burdens on recipient countries, enable corruption, and undermine good governance;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about the Government of the Russian Federation's employment of a wide array of diplomatic, military, intelligence, cyber, misinformation, and commercial tools to undermine democratic systems in the region, including through its deep-

ening political, economic, and security support for the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

Whereas the United States Government is deeply concerned about efforts by the Government of Iran to expand its political, economic, and security presence in the region, including through its deepening ties with the Maduro regime in Venezuela;

Whereas the regimes of Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, Miguel Díaz-Canel in Cuba, and Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, have systematically eroded democratic institutions, commit widespread human rights violations, draw lessons from one another to sharpen state-sponsored repression and internal control mechanisms, and receive the support of malign state and non-state actors, which pose a challenge to United States national security and national interests;

Whereas entrenched corruption, linkages between transnational criminal organizations and political actors, and the harassment and murder of journalists, human rights defenders, environmental activists, and civil society leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean weaken citizens' confidence in democracy and negatively affect United States national interests; and

Whereas weak rule of law, elevated levels of criminal violence, and systemic corruption in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras fuel irregular migration that affects regional stability: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the occasion of the United States hosting the Ninth Summit of the Americas;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to promote economic prosperity, security, and democratic governance throughout the Americas; and

(3) calls on the President to lead a strong and coordinated diplomatic effort during the Summit process to ensure the Ninth Summit of the Americas—

(A) strengthens democratic governance by building on the 2018 Lima Commitment to—

(i) reduce bureaucracy;

(ii) strengthen the independence of judiciaries;

(iii) increase transparency through the use of new technologies;

(iv) encourage private sector participation in the formulation of public anti-corruption policies;

(v) protect whistleblowers, journalists, and law enforcement officials;

(vi) work towards preventing regional financial systems from being used to transfer and conceal illicit funds; and

(vii) identify resources to strengthen hemispheric anticorruption mechanisms;

(B) strengthens post-COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery efforts by outlining specific commitments to deepen trade and investment integration throughout the Americas and pursuing effective nearshoring and reshoring initiatives;

(C) builds upon United States efforts to enhance the institutional capacity and technical capabilities of partner countries to strengthen the rule of law, civilian security, respect of human rights, and government transparency;

(D) builds upon United States efforts to enhance regional cooperation to disrupt, degrade, and dismantle malign state and non-state influences, including transnational organized criminal networks, and terrorist organizations;

(E) reinforces the capacity of member states to—

(i) implement actions and initiatives in support of peaceful and democratic efforts of the people of Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, who desire to hold free and fair elections and restore democratic order and the rule of law in their respective countries; and

(ii) support the people of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras as they strive to address weak democratic governance and the elevated levels of corruption, violence, and criminality that drive irregular migration; and

(F) explores a comprehensive approach to forced displacement and migration challenges in the Western Hemisphere, takes stock of humanitarian crises and flashpoints in the region, and mobilizes member state commitments to advocate for and support multilateral humanitarian and development responses.

COMMENDING THE UNITED STATES AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY FOR CREATING PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT THROUGH COMMUNITY-LED DEVELOPMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 32, S. Res. 114.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 114) commending the United States African Development Foundation on the occasion of its 40th anniversary for creating pathways to prosperity for underserved communities on the African continent through community-led development.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 114) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 15, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE WORK AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DOULAS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 209, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 209) recognizing the work and contributions of doulas towards improving pregnancy, birth, and postpartum outcomes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. If there is no further debate, the question is, Shall the resolution pass?

The resolution (S. Res. 209) was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

GLIOBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 210, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 210) designating July 21, 2021, as "Glioblastoma Awareness Day".

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

The resolution (S. Res. 210) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT, DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK, PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 211, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 211) expressing the sense of the Senate that, during Public Service Recognition Week, public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States.

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 the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 211) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m., Thursday, May 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the McReynolds nomination, postcloture; that all time on the McReynolds nomination expire at 12 noon; and following the confirmation vote, the Senate recess until 1:45 p.m.; further, that the cloture motion on the Graves nomination be withdrawn, and at 1:45 p.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Graves nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. BENNET. 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.

NOMINATION OF AMBER FAYE McREYNOLDS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wanted to come to the floor tonight to spend just a few minutes to speak about Amber McReynolds, President Biden's nominee to serve on the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service.

Everyone in America relies on the Postal Service, but hardly anyone knows about the Board of Governors and how much it matters to all of us. The Board sets the policies for the Postal Service. It directs its budget and reviews its practices. It also selects the Postmaster General.

But the Board's most important job is to represent the public interest, not special interests, and to help manage

the Postal Service in a way that is competent, professional, and completely nonpartisan. That matters for a lot of reasons, but one of the most important is the critical and growing role that the post office plays in our democracy.

Over the past year, States all across the country followed our example in Colorado by giving people the freedom to vote by mail. As we have learned in my State, the case for voting by mail is overwhelming. It is more convenient. It is more accessible. It costs a lot less to administer and, during a pandemic, it is a lot safer than voting in person. But it only works if people have confidence that the post office can deliver their ballots in a way that is reliable, secure, and completely free of politics.

That is why I can't think of anyone better to serve on the Board of Governors than Amber McReynolds, who is one of the most respected election officials not just in Colorado but all across the country.

Ms. McReynolds spent 13 years serving in Denver's Elections Division, including for 7 years as the city's director of elections. Under her leadership, Denver became a national model for making it easier for people to vote while increasing election security.

She oversaw Denver's transition to a fully vote-by-mail system, where every active voter can receive and return their ballot by mail or by taking it to a drop box in their community. Last November, we saw images on television of people lining up in this country for hours and hours on election day to cast their ballots.

In Colorado, I left my ballot in a secure drop box. There is no line. There is no wait. The whole process took 30 seconds, if that. It is like that all across Colorado. It is like that all across my State because we have made it incredibly easy and secure for Coloradans to cast their ballots.

Ms. McReynolds had a lot to do with that by introducing one popular reform after another. She helped to make Denver the first city in America to adopt a ballot tracking system, which notifies voters when their ballot is mailed, when it is delivered and counted so they can have transparency about the process every step of the way.

I never have to wonder whether my ballot is in the mail or not or whether I sent it back or not because I get an email from the clerk telling me. You even get an email that tells you when your ballot has been counted. She had a lot to do with that. And after Denver put that system in place, cities across the country followed our example.

Ms. McReynolds also led efforts to launch a new voting system that used touchscreen tablets and other tech-

nologies from Dominion, a fantastic Colorado company, that was much easier for voters to use and was just one-tenth the cost of typical voting machines.

Under her leadership, Denver was also one of the earliest counties in Colorado to pioneer something called a risk-limiting audit, where election officials match a random sample of ballots against the official results to catch any discrepancies. It was a cost-effective way to reinforce the public's trust in local elections, and it set the stage for Colorado to become the first State in America to introduce risk-limiting audits statewide.

The same thing happened with vote-by-mail. Ms. McReynolds' success in Denver helped pave the way for Colorado's transition to a fully vote-by-mail system in 2013–2013. That was 8 years ago. That is two Presidential elections ago that we went to vote-by-mail.

And just like in Denver, when we did it in the State, none of those changes were partisan. We actually transitioned to vote-by-mail under a Republican secretary of state. In fact, there was a view at the time that moving to vote-by-mail would help Republicans because it made it a lot easier for Coloradans in rural areas to vote.

In reality, it has made it easier for everybody to vote—Democrats, Republicans, and unaffiliated voters, urban voters, suburban voters, busy voters, working people, students, everybody. And it is why we adopted vote-by-mail statewide, and turnout went up in every demographic group, seniors included. Costs went down, and people across the State cheered the new system.

Today, I guarantee you, if a politician in Colorado tried to take away vote-by-mail, people would run them out of town. In my State, we are proud of the election model that we built in a collaborative, nonpartisan way, and Ms. McReynolds deserves a lot of credit for that.

She is the right kind of leader who isn't satisfied with the status quo. She is constantly asking how to make things better, how to make things more efficient, and how to make complex systems simpler and more accessible and useful to people. That is exactly the kind of experience we need at the Postal Service, especially at a time when more Americans are voting by mail than ever before.

The Postal Service needs someone with her expertise, her leadership, and her impatience, frankly, with the status quo, and that is why I urge my colleagues from both parties to come together and confirm this outstanding nominee from my home State of Colorado.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:06 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

CHRIS MAGNUS, OF ARIZONA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE KEVIN K. MCALEENAN, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

GUSTAVO A. GELPI, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT, VICE JUAN R. DEL VALLE TORRUUELLA, DECEASED.

ANGEL KELLEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, VICE DOUGLAS P. WOODLOCK, RETIRED.

LAUREN J. KING, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, VICE ROBERT S. LASNIK, RETIRED.

EUNICE C. LEE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, VICE ROBERT A. KATZMANN, RETIRED.

VERONICA S. ROSSMAN, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT, VICE CARLOS F. LUCERO, RETIRED.

KAREN MCGLEASHAN WILLIAMS, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE JEROME B. SIMANDLE, RETIRED.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by yeay-nay vote Vote and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

CHIKUITA BROOKS-LASURE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 12, 2021:

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

RONALD STROMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2021.

RONALD STROMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2023.