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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, February 3, 2022)

The Senate met at 10 a.m. on the expiration of the recess and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Majestic God, who owns the world and everything in it, we honor Your Holy Name. Lord, You laid the foundations of the oceans and surrounded us with beauty. You permit us to daily borrow our heartbeats from You. Continue to bless and guide our lawmakers as they look to You for wisdom. May Your precepts provide a lamp for their feet and a light for their path.

Lord, guide them as they travel like pilgrims in a sometimes unfriendly world. Fulfill Your promise to supply their needs out of the abundance of Your celestial riches.

We pray in Your triumphant 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, February 8, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK 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.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas R. Bush, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Biden administration spent the end of last week boasting that our economy

added back more jobs in January than some economists had predicted, but American families aren't buying their spin.

The working men and women of this country know painfully well that the Biden administration's economy is failing them. One typical recent survey showed a majority of Americans disapprove of the President's job performance, and Democrats' poor handling of the economy is a major factor.

So let's be clear. The country was always—always—guaranteed to add back jobs following the 2020 COVID recession. The Biden administration did not create the vaccines, it did not create this milder variant, and it is not owed particular credit for the fact that our economy is continuing to climb out of the crater caused by the 2020 lockdowns.

Our trajectory of adding back jobs has stayed remarkably consistent from late 2020 up through today. Job growth under President Biden has just kept bumping along the trajectory that he inherited—notwithstanding that Democrats blew trillions of dollars on supposedly job-creating policies in the meantime.

There has been no noticeable acceleration in job growth relative to the baseline that was forecast before Democrats took power, but inflation, on the other hand, has absolutely soared relative to those forecasts. Consumer prices exploded by 7 percent in 2021—the worst inflation in 40 years. More than 80 percent of Americans say the cost of everyday goods have shot up, and two-thirds disapprove of the job President Biden is doing to help their wallets.

Even though American workers have been earning pay raises, inflation is leaving them with less purchasing power than they had in the first place. Once you factor in inflation, the average American has gotten a 2-percent

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



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real pay cut—cut—under Democratic policies. According to one calculation, only in one single sector across the entire economy did wage growth outpace inflation last year. That was leisure and hospitality, as those incredibly hard-hit sectors rebounded from their especially nightmarish 2020. Everyone else, on average, got a pay cut.

The average retail worker got an inflation pay cut; same with miners and loggers—inflation pay cuts. Construction workers, manufacturing workers, and transportation workers got inflation pay cuts, and on and on. Americans know that Democrats' failed policies are the reason.

ISIS

Mr. President, now, on another matter, last week, the U.S. military took another top terrorist leader off the battlefield. This particular leader had been ISIS's top militant since 2019, when American special operators introduced his predecessor to a similar fate.

I am proud of our special operations personnel who took on this dangerous mission. President Biden deserves credit for making the tough call to send U.S. servicemembers into harm's way.

Until this terrorist chose to kill himself and take innocent citizens with him, their mission had been to capture him alive for interrogation. That is an encouraging sign. If the past 20 years of counterterrorism have taught us anything, it is that just taking out top leaders does little to uproot their networks. This terrorist could have been a source of valuable information for destroying ISIS.

But this aspect of last week's mission also raises a question for our Commander in Chief. If President Biden recognizes the value of detaining top terrorists, then why are his staff still caught up in the longstanding liberal obsession with shutting down our detention center at Guantanamo Bay?

The White House said last year that closing Gitmo was "certainly our goal and our intention," but last week, U.S. forces undertook this mission that was designed to take this terrorist murderer alive for detention and questioning. So how exactly was the Biden administration planning to square their political quest to close Guantanamo with their stated intention to capture this terrorist alive? Where were they planning to house this killer—a Holiday Inn? Did they intend to turn this guy over to a nonstate, third-party partner like the Syrian defense forces? That would have created new risks of another major ISIS prison break. And would his jailers have obeyed the Geneva Conventions? What if the Syrian regime—itsself a state sponsor of terror—retakes that part of Syria? Or was the administration planning on bringing him before U.S. courts, under article III of our Constitution? Did the FBI come along on the raid to read this foreign terrorist his Miranda rights? Was their plan to eventually give this sworn killer the same rights as U.S. citizens and risking

the possibility of a jailbreak attack on our own American soil? Or perhaps the correct answer—Guantanamo Bay—was their plan all along. Maybe the Democrats' virtue signaling about closing this important facility has finally given way to reality.

Guantanamo is a highly secure, humane, and entirely legal place to detain terrorists. It would have been the safest place to interrogate this terrorist, well within the bounds of the laws of war.

Any Democrats who want to shutter it should look closely at the reality of the Syrian defense forces' makeshift prisons, like the major jailbreak by hardcore ISIS figures that just happened in Hasakah. They should remember the massive ISIS prison break when the Taliban overran Bagram in Afghanistan.

So if President Biden is pumping the brakes on his own plans to close Gitmo, he should say so, and I will be the first to applaud him. If he isn't, he owes the country some answers about his intentions with last week's raid and our national security going forward.

September 11 taught us definitively that we cannot treat terrorism as merely a law enforcement challenge. I hope and pray it does not come to pass that this administration is forced to relearn that lesson the hard way.

This war against terrorists will not end simply because we hope it ends. It will require sustained pressure to keep our enemies off balance.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. President, on one final matter, yesterday, the House of Representatives introduced legislation to keep the Federal Government open and funded through mid-March. Avoiding a government shutdown in the near term is an obvious, commonsense step. But our military commanders and their civilian bosses badly need our country to escape the hamster wheel of chronic continuing resolutions. The urgent task of continuing to modernize and strengthen our military requires predictable budgeting and advanced planning. So I am glad the bipartisan, bicameral conversations about a long-term funding agreement are continuing.

Let me briefly reiterate some basic facts that are known to everybody here in Congress. I have been saying since last year that three basic boxes will need to be checked for a government funding deal to pass the Senate and make it to the President's desk.

No. 1, the agreement will need to honor the longstanding, bipartisan norm that spending growth for our national defense receives parity—parity—with spending growth for nondefense. We live in a world that is too dangerous for Democrats to go hog-wild on domestic programs and welfare. Instead, we need to refocus our attention on resourcing our great-power competitions with Russia and China in equal measure.

No. 2, any agreement will need to preserve longstanding, bipartisan pol-

icy riders. Again, this is just the bipartisan norm. The Hyde amendment prevents taxpayers from having to fund abortions against their will. Another rider prevents the IRS from weaponizing political bias and targeting citizens. In a 50-50 Senate, we obviously need to honor the bipartisan status quo on legacy riders.

No. 3, likewise, any agreement will need to keep new partisan poison pills out of the process.

That has been the big picture for months now—parity for defense, keeping longstanding bipartisan policy riders in, and keeping new poison pills out. With these basic things, a bipartisan deal should be achievable. Without them, it will be impossible.

I thank Ranking Member SHELBY for his tireless work. I hope our Democratic colleagues in both Chambers will fully embrace this noncontroversial framework, which has been clear to everybody literally for months, so that Congress can soon deliver the full-year funding that our servicemembers need to keep us safe.

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. SCHUMER. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, our colleagues in the House introduced legislation that will provide a temporary extension of government funding until March 11. The continuing resolution is expected to be taken up as soon as today, and once it is passed by the House, I intend to have the Senate take it up quickly and in time before the February 18 deadline.

While negotiations on the full-year funding agreement continue, we will in the meantime avoid a pointless and costly government shutdown. This CR provides a little more time to reach a deal for a spending package. It is the responsible and prudent path forward that eliminates the risk of a shutdown.

My colleagues have made good progress, and I am optimistic that Democrats and Republicans can soon arrive at a top-line deal for an omnibus. I am more confident than ever before that we can reach agreement for an omnibus by March 11, which is far more preferable to the alternative, a CR for the rest of the year.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now on nominations, today, the Senate will continue focusing our responsibility to confirm more of President Biden's nominees.

By the end of today, we expect to finish the confirmation of four more nominees, including Amy Gutmann to

serve in the pivotal role as U.S. Ambassador to Germany.

For the information of all Senators, there is a strong likelihood that a significant number of additional votes will be held later today. If so, we want to make sure things keep moving briskly on the floor. Just as we did last week, I ask my colleagues to cast their votes quickly, to remain in their seats or near the floor as much as possible, and to be flexible in order to prevent extended delays. We did a good job of it last week, so let's continue the pace this evening as well when we move forward on more votes.

Off the floor, it is an important day for my home State of New York when it comes to nominations. A few moments ago, it was my honor to come before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and introduce Assemblyman Nick Perry to serve as Ambassador to Jamaica. I was also proud to introduce Randi Charno Levine to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Portugal. It would be impossible—impossible—to find a better fit for Ambassador to Jamaica than my friend Nick Perry, whom I urged the Biden administration to select for the post.

Assemblyman Perry represents so much of what is good and promising about America: He is an immigrant; he is an Army veteran; he is a graduate of Brooklyn College and one of New York's leading voices fighting for working families. He is a very, very familiar face in Brooklyn because he likes to do politics the old-fashioned way: shake hands, show up as much as possible, and just listen to people's stories.

When confirmed, Assemblyman Perry would make history as the first ever native-born Jamaican to serve as U.S. Ambassador. It is a truly important milestone and one that is long overdue, and it makes Brooklyn particularly proud.

When I go through Brooklyn, I sometimes ask my constituents, particularly at the West Indian Day Parade, I ask them: What is the largest island in the Caribbean? I tell him it is a trick question. Some people say Cuba. Some people say Haiti. Some people say Barbados.

I say, no, Brooklyn is the largest island in the Caribbean because we have more Caribbean immigrants than just about anywhere else. And that is why Brooklyn, particularly, is so proud that Nick is going to become our Ambassador to Jamaica. Not only is he Jamaican-born, but he is a Brooklynite through and through.

From Patrick Ewing to KRS-One, from Vice President KAMALA HARRIS to Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, to the late General Powell, Jamaican Americans hold a key place in our Nation's rich legacy. Nick Perry will continue to add to this legacy, as he has for decades. So I am so proud to support him and to recommend him as nominee for Ambassador to Jamaica.

This morning, it was also my honor to introduce Randi Levine to become

only the second woman to ever serve as Ambassador to Portugal. I have known Randi and her husband Jeff for over 30 years. They have been longtime advocates for many different communities across New York, especially our Jewish population.

As chair of the Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy here in Washington, Randi has also been one of our top leaders for promoting cultural exchanges between students, diplomats, and business leaders. In other words, she has already advanced—in a different context—the work that any good Ambassador must accomplish: encouraging and fostering understanding between our country and people around the world. I have every bit of confidence that Randi will represent the United States with distinction as an ambassador to Portugal, and she has my most enthusiastic support.

Finally, I also want to recognize and commend the nomination of Professor Deborah Lipstadt to serve as the State Department's Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, a position that carries the rank of Ambassador.

Dr. Lipstadt's leadership is desperately needed. The malicious poison of anti-Semitism must be confronted whenever it rears its ugly head. We have seen a spike of anti-Semitism here at home and abroad, making this position exceedingly important.

As one of the Nation's top scholars on the Holocaust and on modern-day anti-Semitism, Dr. Lipstadt ought to be confirmed as soon as possible, and I am glad she is receiving her confirmation hearing today.

FORCED ARBITRATION

Mr. President, now last, on forced arbitration, last night, Congress took an important and overwhelmingly bipartisan step forward in the fight to eliminate forced arbitration for victims of sexual harassment and assault.

By a large, large margin—335 to 97—our House colleagues approved legislation that, for the first time ever, would ensure people who face sexual harassment or assault at work have the freedom to hold employers accountable in court. It would eliminate the long-used practice of including forced arbitration clauses in employee contracts, which, for so long, have effectively served as a condition for employment.

I commend my House colleagues for approving forced arbitration legislation with overwhelming bipartisan support. If you look at the vote, it is pretty clear that a majority of both parties voted for this legislation.

It is my intention to move on this bill as quickly as we can in the Senate, and we hope to take action here on the floor as soon as this week. I expect it will be met with nothing less than broad support from both parties, enabling us to move quickly.

The legislation has been years in the works, and I want to recognize my friend Senator GILLIBRAND, who has spearheaded the cause of ending forced

arbitration on this issue for a long time. Thanks to her leadership, we are close to seeing this change become law.

I also want to recognize Senator GRAHAM. Because of his backing and his work with Senator GILLIBRAND, this proposal has gotten the momentum it needs to move forward.

Despite disagreements on both sides, legislation like this is a prime example of both parties finding a way to work together on legislation that will make a tangible difference in people's lives. We want to work with our Republican colleagues on similar proposals whenever possible because at the end of the day, ending forced arbitration for sexual harassment and assault is about making our workplaces safer, holding abusive employers accountable, and making sure that every American can exercise their right to justice in a court of law.

For decades, abusers have used arbitration as a shield for their horrific behavior. Employees have been put at massive disadvantage when trying to hold wrongdoers accountable. This law will finally change all that.

I look forward to finishing the work of passing this bill through the Senate and getting it closer to the President's desk.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am sure that you, more than most Members of the Senate, remember our debate a few weeks ago on the Voting Rights Act. I remember your statement on the floor. It was powerful and really spoke to the truth of why we were meeting and debating this issue.

We realize that, sadly, since the Civil War, when African Americans were finally given the right to vote, this has been a battle every year since. And yesterday, the Supreme Court decision tells us that we still have a battle to fight when it comes to voting rights in America.

By a 5-to-4 vote yesterday, the Supreme Court's conservative majority allowed Alabama lawmakers to move forward with a congressional districting map that diminishes the power of Black voters in a State where Black Americans account for more than 25 percent of the population.

You see, this case had been considered by a three-judge district court panel in Alabama, and they ruled in a unanimous decision that the map likely violated the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and they ruled that we should block that map because it would violate the right to vote of African Americans.

I might say, for the record, this three-judge panel, two of the three judges were appointed by former President Trump, and yet they came to that conclusion. So the Supreme Court had a decision of whether to go along with this three-judge panel and stop the implementation of this map until they

could have a full hearing on the subject or allow them to go forward. And, sadly, by a 5-to-4 vote, the Supreme Court's conservative majority stayed a lower court's decision, where they ruled unanimously that the district map was discriminatory.

The Supreme Court did not issue a well-reasoned decision; they issued basically no reason. They did so on what is known as the shadow docket. We are seeing it more and more by this Court—no explanation, no full briefing, no signed opinion for the majority. What we have was a scant reaction by the Court.

But I do want to note that Justice Kagan wrote that that decision by the Supreme Court in favor of allowing this Alabama map to go forward “does a disservice to the District Court, which meticulously applied this Court's longstanding voting-rights precedent.” She went on to note that “most of all, it does a disservice to the Black people of Alabama who under that precedent have had their electoral power diminished in violation of the law this Court once knew to buttress all of American democracy.”

Yesterday's decision is the latest example of the Supreme Court hacking away the protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most important civil rights laws in our history—a law singularly responsible for decades of progress in minority representation in public office.

As a result of these decisions, legal protections for voters of color throughout the country are being systematically dismantled by the Republican Party through State legislatures and, sadly, by our Federal courts.

So now what do we do? Well, Congress must act. We must restore the Voting Rights Act to its full power and potential, and we can do that by enacting the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

This legislation would strengthen and modernize the Voting Rights Act's protections, including by requiring Supreme Court Justices to actually explain their reasoning behind their decisions when they overturn a lower court's decision on a voting rights case. Is that too much to ask, that the Supreme Court explain to the American people why they are overruling a lower court's decision which says Americans are being discriminated against when it comes to their right to vote? I don't think the Supreme Court is that busy that it can't tell the American people its logic behind these decisions.

Every day, we are seeing the consequences of this Senate's failure just a few weeks ago to protect the right to vote. Mr. President, you and I agree; we cannot wait any longer.

JANUARY 6

Mr. President, let me address a related topic: 2022 is an election year. We know that well. And over the next 8 months, both parties will have a chance to make our case to the Amer-

ican people for the November election, to engage in spirited, public debate about the issues that matter: the pandemic, the economy, and the challenges facing our country.

But what happened last week in Salt Lake City, UT, is incredible. The Republican Party made its opening move in this year's election. Instead of offering a vision for the future of America, the Republican Party leaders meeting in Utah chose to attack democracy itself.

On Friday, the Republican National Committee declared that the January 6, 2021, insurrection was a form of “legitimate political discourse.” This outrageous declaration, printed under the official letterhead of the Republican National Committee, is the saddest commentary on what Donald Trump and his acolytes have done to a great political party, the party of Abraham Lincoln.

The violence that we personally witnessed in this Chamber on January 6, 2021, was deadly, seditious, and un-American—far from legitimate. Is that what we call the worst assault on the Capitol since the War of 1812? Was it legitimate political discourse when the violent mob beat police officers with metal poles and assaulted them with bear spray? Was it political discourse that contributed to the death of five police officers who confronted that mob? Was it just merely political discourse when a defeated, embittered former President incited that mob to attack this Capitol Building and do its best to overturn the results of a free election, which he lost? No. It was an incitement to violence and an attack on our democracy.

Let's be clear: The Republican Party's whitewashing of the insurrection isn't just a pathetic capitulation to Donald Trump and his Big Lie; it is a dangerous revelation of the mindset of the leadership of America's Republican Party. By legitimizing the insurrection, Republican Party leaders are exploring the use of violence and saying it is perfectly acceptable, it is legitimate when it comes to the political goals.

This is how democracies die.

Last year, the intelligence community warned that “narratives of fraud in the recent general election . . . will almost certainly spur some [domestic violent extremists] to try to engage in violence.” That came from our intelligence community. This is not a hypothetical.

Over the past year, we have seen how the Big Lie, promulgated by the former, defeated President of the United States, has inspired his supporters to commit and threaten violent acts.

On Friday—the same day that the Republican Party declared that the insurrectionist mob was legitimate political discourse—a Texas man appeared for his first day in court. That man is facing Federal charges for threatening to kill public officials in the home

State of the Presiding Officer, the State of Georgia.

What is exactly alleged to have happened? Well, the day before the January 6 insurrection, this man posted a message on the website Craigslist calling for the murder of three election officials in Georgia. He wrote: “It's our duty as American Patriots to put an end to the lives of these traitors and to take back our country by force. We can no longer wait on the corrupt law enforcement and the corrupt courts. If we want our country back we have to exterminate these people.”

The case against this man is the first case that has been brought forward by the Justice Department's Election Threats Task Force, which the Department established last June in response to the burgeoning threats of violence against election officials. But it is going to be far from the last case, unfortunately. Right now, the Department of Justice is investigating dozens of similar cases.

And less than 1 week after charging this Texas defendant, the Department also charged a man in Nevada who told an election worker that she was going to “die” because she played a part in “stealing” the 2020 election from Donald Trump. Thankfully, that election worker was not physically harmed, but she was shaken and disturbed by that declaration.

She is not alone. Last April, the Brennan Center published a report finding that nearly one in five election officials in America had received threats because of their roles in the 2020 election. One in three of these election officials says they worry for their safety because of the rising tide of political violence. Political violence. And the Republican National Committee describes it as “legitimate political discourse.”

Is this the cost of participating in a democracy in Mr. Trump's vision of America? Since the 2020 election, the former President and his supporters have latched on to the Big Lie to discredit American democracy and the decision of American voters and to go after those who work in it, like election workers.

But this is not the first time a malicious lie has been used to foment distrust, disdain, and even hatred for America's public servants. It was 72 years ago this week that Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy delivered his infamous “Enemies from Within” speech in Wheeling, WV. In that speech, Senator McCarthy pulled a sheet of paper out of his pocket, held it up to the crowd, and claimed he had a list of more than 50 names of Communist agents who had infiltrated our government. These scurrilous accusations by Senator McCarthy made headlines and provoked nationwide hysteria. Rumors abounded about card-carrying Communists working within our government.

And over the next 4 years, Senator McCarthy led a personal witch hunt

against public servants, journalists, members of the military, and average citizens. He destroyed lives in the process. But he never revealed his list of 57 names or any other credible evidence for his claims. Nonetheless, Senator Joe McCarthy discredited and defamed anyone standing in his way. He would accuse his opponents of being Communists or Communist sympathizers if they publicly disagreed with him.

With rare and notable exceptions—and one of them Senator Margaret Chase Smith, Republican Senator of Maine, and a few others—no one had the courage to question Joe McCarthy or challenge his wild allegations. Politicians were too afraid that he would turn on them next, so they remained quiet.

And in the absence of opposition, he assumed even greater power—until 1954, when some courageous members of Senator McCarthy's own political party, the Republican Party, joined together with the Democrats in the Senate. They voted to condemn Senator McCarthy and the lies that had fueled his witch hunt. They stood in a bipartisan majority to do it. With that vote, Senator Joseph McCarthy's reign of terror was brought to an end. The press began to ignore him, and the public had had their fill.

What will it take for our Republican colleagues today to say that they are done with the Big Lie of Trumpism? What will it take for them to reject it and renounce the normalization of political violence? What will it take for Republicans to admit that January 6 was a deadly insurrection, not a "legitimate political discourse"?

Americans of conscience of both political parties and Independents as well need to unite in support of the truth. That doesn't mean we are going to agree on every issue. On the contrary, real debate is the lifeblood of our democracy. But we have to work from a shared set of facts and reality—like the fact that President Biden actually won the 2020 election and there was no evidence of widespread voter fraud.

I want to commend my Republican colleagues who have been willing to speak the truth in the last few days. I know it can't be easy.

Over the weekend, Senator MITT ROMNEY, Senator BILL CASSIDY, and Senator LISA MURKOWSKI spoke out against the Republican National Committee's decision to censure Congresswoman LIZ CHENEY and Congressman ADAM KINZINGER of Illinois for committing the unforgivable sin of investigating the violent assault against American democracy. Unfortunately, they are a small but courageous minority. The vast majority of my Republican colleagues remain silent while their party leaders declare January 6 legitimate.

And on Friday, former Vice President Pence publicly stated: "President Trump is wrong . . . Under the Constitution, I had no right to change the outcome of our election."

That simple, declarative statement of truth—that the Vice President cannot singlehandedly overrule the will of the American people—is welcomed, but the fact that it drew outrage from former President Trump and his supporters is a sad reflection on the reality of today's Republican Party.

If the events leading up to January 6 taught us anything, it is that aspiring authoritarians like Donald Trump will toss aside longstanding laws and values to cling to power. That is why for the past several months, a bipartisan group of Senators have been discussing a proposal to modernize the Electoral Count Act, an obscure law that was at the heart of former President Trump's efforts to overturn the election. I have been working on this effort on our side with Senators KING and KLOBUCHAR, and there is a bipartisan effort, on the same matter, taking place as well.

By updating the Electoral Count Act, we can make clear that the Vice President does not have the power to reject a State's lawfully appointed electors and overturn the results of an election. That is important, and I believe it is a promising sign that Democrats and Republicans are going to join together in discussion of finally rewriting this ancient law.

But I also want to be honest about the scope of threats facing our American democracy. At a moment when too many Republican Party leaders are legitimizing the January 6 insurrection and Republican State legislators are erecting new barriers to the ballot box, particularly for African Americans, we must have the courage to restore the Voting Rights Act. And we need to come together across party lines to defend our democracy, condemn violence, and to live by the rule of law, not the rule of the mob.

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

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

INFLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I don't need to tell anyone—except perhaps the Democratic Party here in Congress—that our country has a major inflation problem. The first year of the Biden administration has been characterized by a huge increase in inflation. Inflation is currently at a 40-year high. Let me just repeat that. Inflation is currently at a 40-year high. The last time inflation was this bad, "E.T." was just premiering in movie theaters and "Return of the Jedi" hadn't even come out yet.

Inflation is so bad that despite wage increases in 2021, Americans saw a de facto pay cut. A December survey by the New York Times found that just 17 percent of Americans said their wages had kept up with inflation.

The White House Chief of Staff may think inflation is "a high-class problem," but for the mom at the grocery store wondering if she can afford to buy ground beef this week or for the young worker just starting out who is wondering if she can afford to fill up her car, inflation is a very real problem.

Americans are struggling. They are facing huge price increases at the grocery store; huge price increases at the gas pump; big increases in the cost of household goods, like furniture and bedding and laundry equipment; massive increases in the cost of fuel oil and gas service; higher electric bills; and on and on.

Inflation is weighing down businesses, too, from larger businesses to family farms and ranches. A recent survey from the National Federation of Independent Business found that 22 percent of small businesses consider inflation to be the biggest challenge facing their business, a 20-point increase from the beginning of 2021—a 20-point increase.

It is no wonder that 69 percent of Americans disapprove of the President's handling of inflation and 56 percent disapprove of his handling of the economy.

Inflation is a major burden for American families and businesses—a fact that seems utterly lost on members of the Democratic Party. While American families struggle, Democrats' focus is on anything but inflation.

What is worse, many Democrats are still hoping to pass elements of their reckless tax-and-spending spree, the so-called Build Back Better plan, despite the fact that it was a bloated Democrat spending spree that helped get us into this inflation mess in the first place. Yes, while the pandemic created inflationary pressures, a big reason we are in our current inflation mess is because of Democrats' decision to push through an unnecessary and partisan \$2 trillion spending bill last March.

When Democrats took office last January, inflation was well within an acceptable range, what is known as the target inflation rate. It might have stayed there had Democrats not decided that they needed to pass a massive government spending spree under the guise of COVID relief and, I might add, mere weeks after Congress had already passed a major COVID bill. That is right. December 2020 saw Congress pass its fifth bipartisan COVID relief bill, and that one was a nearly \$1 trillion piece of legislation that met essentially all current pressing COVID needs. But the ink was barely dry on the page before Democrats decided that they needed to take advantage of the COVID situation to pass yet another bill—this time, a hyperpartisan \$1.9 trillion piece of legislation packed with unnecessary government spending and payoffs to Democrat interest groups.

Again, there were five bipartisan COVID bills, the last of which passed in December of 2020. It was a \$1 trillion

bill that took care of all the outstanding COVID needs. Yet, within weeks, Democrats here in Congress were proposing another \$2 trillion, most of which had little to do with COVID or the pandemic and a lot more to do with their partisan agenda.

But the point is, the definition of “inflation” is “too many dollars chasing too few goods and services.” That is exactly the situation the Democrats helped create with their so-called American Rescue Plan. They sent too many Federal dollars into the economy, and the economy overheated as a result. Now we are sitting here with the worst inflation in 40 years, and instead of trying to address our inflation crisis, Democrats still—still—want to double down on the strategy that helped get us into this mess in the first place. “Reckless and irresponsible spending” is putting it mildly.

In January, Senator TIM SCOTT and I introduced the Inflation Prevention Act, a bill to stop Congress from considering any legislation that contains new spending and is estimated to increase inflation if the year-over-year inflation rate exceeds 4½ percent. One would hope that legislation like this wouldn't be necessary at a time when inflation far exceeds the target inflation rate, but, as we have seen with Democrats' reckless tax-and-spending spree, that isn't the case.

So Senator TIM SCOTT and I, along with several of our Republican colleagues, have introduced this bill, which would help prevent reckless spending legislation, like the Democrats' so-called Build Back Better Act, when inflation is high.

Again, let me just point out that on top of a \$2 trillion spending bill a year ago in March—less than a year ago in March—the Democrats' prescription now is another \$5 trillion in spending, financed in part with tax increases, which also fuels inflation, and about \$3 trillion in debt on top of the \$30 trillion in debt we already have.

So we have rampant pandemic inflation, attributable largely to the massive spending bill passed on a partisan basis last March. Now, instead of tackling inflation and putting policies in place that would help drive inflation down, the solution Democrats are proposing is a \$5 trillion spending bill.

Americans are struggling. Everywhere they turn, they are facing higher prices, stretching their budgets to the limit. If Democrats really want to help American families, they should abandon the reckless tax-and-spending spree once and for all and focus on mitigating damage they have already done with their inflationary spending.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator MORAN and I be able to complete our remarks prior to the scheduled votes.

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

NOMINATION OF RETA JO LEWIS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting American manufacturing and support the nomination of Reta Jo Lewis to be President of the Export-Import Bank. As President of Ex-Im and chair of the Bank's Board of Directors, Ms. Lewis will lead our Nation's official export credit Agency as it supports U.S. workers and manufacturers, especially in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and throughout our country. Ex-Im's job is to support American businesses in the face of competition—so often, unfair competition from countries like China.

Ms. Lewis is the leader we need in the fight to help U.S. manufacturers compete globally. She has 25 years of distinguished leadership experience in international affairs, law, and public policy. She is a historic nominee as the first Black woman to lead Ex-Im.

She serves as a senior fellow and director of congressional affairs at the German Marshall Fund, where she leads bipartisan efforts to strengthen transatlantic cooperation. Before joining the German Marshall Fund, Ms. Lewis served in the Obama administration as the State Department's first-ever Special Representative for Global Intergovernmental Affairs.

She will put American workers and exporters first. That has been the hallmark of this administration—putting workers at the center of our government; putting workers at the center of our economic policy.

Ms. Lewis understands that Ex-Im is vital to these manufacturing jobs and our Nation's economic competitiveness.

There are some 100 export credit agencies and credit programs around the world that support foreign manufacturers. China's export finance activity is larger—China's is larger—than all the export credit provided by the G7 countries combined. That alone is reason to move forward on Ex-Im. We know that the Chinese Government used export credit as a weapon to win manufacturing business in critical sectors and to undermine American companies and American workers. We must be in a better position to compete.

We have had so much good job news in Ohio over the last few weeks. It is not a coincidence that for the first time in my lifetime, we have a President who leads by talking about workers, who leads by talking about unions. As a result of his leadership, we are seeing more job creation in Ohio. We have seen more jobs created in 2021 than in any number of years in the past. We are seeing now tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs—Intel, Hyperion, GE Aviation—coming to my State. It is all made possible because we are putting workers at the center of our economy.

Look at the results we are getting. Last year—this is worth saying like five times—last year, for the first time in 20 years, our economy actually grew faster than China's. Our GDP grew

faster than China's GDP. Again, that is because we have a President of the United States who puts workers at the center of our economic policy, who understands that carrying a union card means better wages, better benefits, and more control over your work schedule.

But we know that China and our other competitors aren't giving up. They are constantly finding new ways to cheat, new ways to undermine American jobs. That is why we need every tool possible to compete, including a fully functioning Export-Import Bank with an experienced, tenacious leader at the helm. Jobs in Ohio and jobs around the country depend on Ms. Lewis's success.

I urge my colleagues—as we voted overwhelmingly on cloture—I urge my colleagues to support the nomination of Reta Jo Lewis for the Ex-Im Bank.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John P. Howard III, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for the term of fifteen years.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

VOTE ON HOWARD NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Howard nomination?

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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 62, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 38 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Baldwin	Heinrich	Portman
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Romney
Blunt	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Burr	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Lankford	Shaheen
Capito	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lee	Smith
Carper	Lummis	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murray	Warren
Graham	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Hawley	Peters	

NAYS—34

Blackburn	Grassley	Rubio
Boozman	Hagerty	Sasse
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Inhofe	Shelby
Cotton	Johnson	Sullivan
Cramer	Kennedy	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Risch	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Luján
Feinstein	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA). 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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals for a term of fifteen years.

VOTE ON ALIKHAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the AliKhan nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 39 Ex.]

YEAS—55

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Luján
Feinstein	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

RECESS

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:07 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR NO. 650

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to speak in support of Martha Williams to be the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

I represent a State that goes by many names. Most of you know it as Montana, but it is often called Big Sky Country, the Last Best Place, and even the Treasure State. Montana has earned these names through an abundance of beauty and natural resources, and as a result we have fostered a robust outdoor economy that relies on responsible forest management. Folks come to Montana from all over the world to enjoy all that our State has to offer. Thousands of folks make their living by working the land and showing folks the best way to enjoy it.

But the key to preserving our multi-billion-dollar outdoor economy is proper stewardship and oversight of our natural resources. That means talking

to folks on the ground. It means bringing competing interests to the table to find the most sustainable ways to manage our public lands. Not only do our forests and rivers create thousands of good-paying jobs, but they also create countless memories for families in our country. So it is critically important that we have balanced oversight in place to guarantee that Montana's outdoor economy remains vibrant for generations to come.

The Director of Fish and Wildlife Service plays a central role in this oversight, and that is why I am proud to support Martha Williams' nomination today. As Director, she will be tasked with the management and recovery of our Nation's fish and wildlife and overseeing a large chunk of our public lands—89 million acres, to be exact, from Montana's own Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge all the way to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

As a Montanan and a former Director of the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Ms. Williams has demonstrated time and time again her ability to bring folks together to find lasting solutions, to collaborate to find common ground. She always leads with science and has developed State management plans for issues ranging from grizzly bears to aquatic invasive mussels, and she has done it with input from all the relevant stakeholders.

She also has a profound respect and understanding of the bedrock laws that guide responsible land and wildlife management. She will be bringing with her over a decade of legal experience with the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks as well as a well-regarded legal scholar at the University of Montana.

She has spent her entire career standing up for our public lands and proven herself to be a thoughtful, non-partisan steward who works collaboratively with folks on the ground to make positive change. Her top-notch ability to find common ground between sportsmen and conservationists alike and her skills as an exceptional problem-solver will make her an outstanding Director at the Fish and Wildlife Service.

She has strong support from sports men and women, biologists, and academics alike and has already received strong bipartisan support from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. She was passed out of committee on a 16-to-4 vote.

Make no mistake about it, we will miss her leadership in the Treasure State, but I am looking forward to seeing her effective management skills at the Federal level. This position is very important for the stewardship of our land and our waters, and I would urge my colleagues to support her confirmation today.

And in that vein, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 650, Martha Williams, of Montana, to be Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; that the nomination be

confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I would like to talk a little bit about not just Ms. Williams—who as my friend from Montana has mentioned—I actually think she is qualified—but the issues that are in front of the Fish and Wildlife Service, as we speak, that relate to my State, the great State of Alaska.

Unfortunately, it has been one Executive order, Executive action, delay targeting Alaska—some from the Fish and Wildlife Service that has had an enormously negative impact on my State.

I agree with the Senator from Montana. Fish and Wildlife Service is important. He mentioned that it manages 89 million acres nationwide. Well, 77 million acres of that 89 are in Alaska. Eight-five percent of Fish and Wildlife Service land that is managed is in one State, the great State of Alaska, a size bigger than the State of New Mexico, just for Fish and Wildlife Service land control.

So this Agency, this nominee will have an enormous impact on my constituents and, indeed, right now is having an enormous impact on my constituents, and I can't get them to do anything constructive for the people I represent.

Let me give you two, and perhaps my colleague from Montana can help me out with this. These are two directly—directly—in the jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service that we have been asking for support on and haven't gotten it. One is the Russian River land exchange. This is a vital exchange that needs to happen for a highway project on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula.

Here is the thing about this land exchange. It has been in the works since 1975—44 years, to be exact. We believe it is the longest running federally led environmental impact statement in the history of America, which is actually what happens a lot in the great State of Alaska. Groups come up; they don't want any resource development; they don't want any access to land and they sue and they stop and they try to delay things. This one has been delayed, in one form or another, for 44 years.

Now, the previous administration, to its credit, heard the voices of Alaska, responded to the input from different stakeholders, and actually put forward a reasonable land exchange that was approved by the Federal Government. The regional office of the Fish and Wildlife Service sent the approved package to headquarters in Washington, DC, in November, where it sits—where it sits.

So one thing I would like to do before this nominee moves forward is get a commitment to approve that. It is very simple—44 years. I don't think we are asking too much, but it is delayed.

Let me give you another one. Many of you have heard about the King Cove road. You are going to hear about it again because it is an issue that every Alaskan, even those who don't live out on the Aleutian Island chain, are passionate about. Only in Alaska could this happen. It is an 11-mile, single-lane gravel road that will save lives for people in the community of King Cove—primarily Alaska Native—and they need approval of that through another land exchange. We have been working on that for over 40 years—40 years. People in my communities in that part of the State have died because there is no road to access an airport. There are a lot of storms in that part of the world, the Aleutian Islands. When they need access to get out on a plane, they often don't have it because we can't build a single lane, 11-mile gravel road.

We have a land exchange approved by the previous administration. This administration has said they are looking to approve it too. That is great news, but the Secretary of the Interior has said she is not going to fully endorse it until she goes out to King Cove and sees it herself. OK. We have been waiting for that visit for a year—for a year.

There is a theme here. With the new administration, if there is something that has been helpful to my State, primarily by the previous administration, the Trump administration, on so many issues, bipartisan issues for Alaska, which has helped us in historic ways—on those helpful things, the new administration comes in, and they say: We are going to delay it. We are going to delay it. We have to relook at it. We don't know. If the Trump administration did it for Alaska, it must have been bad. That is their thing.

But on things that harm my State, this administration on day 1 has expedited so many things. Day 1, the President is in office for 1 hour, and he issues an order dealing with ANWR, which this body approved in 2017. If it helps Alaska, they delay it. If it hurts Alaska, they are all over it.

What we have in the first year of the Biden administration—first year—are 21 Executive orders and Executive actions negatively impacting my State across the board on every topic you can imagine: access to lands, tourism, fishing—21 Executive orders or actions.

I gave a speech on this before the holidays, and it was 20—now it is 21—solely focused on Alaska. There is no other State in the country that is getting this kind of attention from this administration. I am sure the great State of Montana isn't.

It is not just about resource development. These actions are hurting the ability of my constituents to put food on the table, lights on in their homes, jobs, cultures.

And one area that doesn't nearly get enough attention, these actions, so many of them, are actually negatively impacting the Alaska Native community of the great State of Alaska. The

Native people of my State are targeted. Let me give you one example. The previous administration, working with this body in a bipartisan way, finally passed a bill that provided justice to Alaska Native Vietnam veterans who served their country during Vietnam. The Alaska Native community is one of the most patriotic communities in the country. They serve at higher rates in the military than any other ethnic group in the country.

When many of them went to fight in Vietnam, they came home, and a law that had been on the books since 1906—the ability to get a Native allotment—had expired. They came home and said: Wait, I can't get my native allotment? So we finally fixed that almost a half century later. Of course, a lot of radical enviros hated it because it is giving land in Alaska to people.

The No. 1 issue I raised with Secretary Holland during her confirmation process was to make sure the Executive order to get these lands to Vietnam veterans—Alaska Native Vietnam veterans—stays on track. The Trump administration did all they could to make it happen. All they had to do was hit "send." She delayed it for 2 years—delayed it for 2 years. She wasn't even going to tell the delegation. I guarantee you, in the next 2 years, as this is being delayed, a lot of these Vietnam vets—Alaska Native vets—will die before they even get their lands. So we are starting to hear it.

I want to make one final point. This is very important. This administration talks a lot about racial justice, environmental equity. They talk about it all the time, but it comes with a caveat. They say they want to help disadvantaged communities, minority communities. I think that is a good goal, but it comes with a caveat—racial justice, environmental equity, unless it is for the indigenous people of Alaska, and then they get targeted.

A lot of these Executive orders are targeting them. I have a whole list where some of the most disadvantaged Americans in the country are being targeted—in my view, because of their race—by this administration.

I have submitted these before, but I am going to submit them again for the RECORD, several letters from Alaska Native groups talking about this unwarranted lack of consultation and targeting of their interests in my State.

I ask unanimous consent to have one of these letters printed in the RECORD.

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

VOICE OF THE ARCTIC INUPIAT,
December 10, 2021.

Re Executive Order 13985

DEAR SECRETARY HAALAND: My name is John Hopson Jr., and I am President of Voice of the Arctic Inupiat (VOICE). VOICE is a nonprofit corporation whose members include representatives from Alaska's North Slope tribal councils, municipal governments, Alaska Native Corporations, our local school district, regional health organization, and the tribal college from the North Slope

of Alaska. I am writing today to provide comments on Executive Order 13985 calling on federal agencies to advance equity by identifying and addressing barriers to equal opportunity that underserved communities face due to government policies and programs.

The North Slope region is one of the most remote areas in the United States and all eight communities in our region are considered “underserved.” We see many barriers and challenges when addressing equity in government policies and action. The focus areas identified in EO 13985 around contracting, recreating on public lands and tribal discretionary grants are part of a larger problem when addressing the issue for native communities that we see, in addition to recent decisions by this administration around resource development and the economy our region relies on.

As an organization built on inclusiveness, we emphasize the importance of addressing equity in several ways: most importantly, with continued dialogue because we still see and feel the effects of a federal government that treated our people as a burden and an impedance. Several of our communities are still dealing with the cleanup of toxic materials leftover from military occupation and the development of Distance Early Warning—“DEW line”—sites during the Cold War. One of our communities, Kaktovik, was forced to relocate three times in recent history and their homes and gravesites were bulldozed to flatten out a runway for Air Force activity without restitution or even an apology. Trust in our federal government is still being built, and the basis of that relationship is meaningful consultation, collaboration and only then can greater equity be seen for underserved communities like ours.

In terms of equity, we understand that the Biden Administration has made promises domestically and internationally to curb this country’s emissions and we, as Iñupiat people whose homelands are on the front lines of climate change, can understand the need to move in that direction when it comes to address government policies. What we cannot support, however, is that those efforts are made on the backs of indigenous peoples without even a conversation, that is not how more equity is achieved. The federal government must allow us the time and resources for a thoughtful, deliberate, and sustainable transition of our economy but instead we have seen secretarial and executive actions that threaten our way of economic sustainability and therefore our way of life.

Our most pressing concern is the imminent threat to the North Slope Borough economy that started on day one of this administration, with little warning nor communication through reversing Records of Decision, halting new projects, and a reductionist climate agenda that singles out and vilifies the oil and gas industry as an alternative to creating a realistic, multi-dimensional climate strategy. The State of Alaska has some of this highest and most rigorous environmental protection policies in the country with respect to oil and gas development. Our regional government, the North Slope Borough (NSB) is a home-rule government responsible for more territory than any other local government in the nation, an area roughly the same size as the state of Indiana. The NSB receives 96% of their revenue from property taxes that are levied on oil and gas industry infrastructure on the North Slope, which enables them to provide services that were historically inaccessible in the Arctic. The Borough School District provides vocational and academic education for people of all ages; NSB health clinics provide modern medicinal services to residents in even the smallest and remote of villages.

The Municipal Services Department operates water, sewer, and electric utilities, plows roads and runways, and maintains landfills. The Planning Department provides a third level of oversight to the oil industry within our region on top of State and federal oversight and regulations. Other NSB departments provide housing, police and fire protection, search and rescue, and other critical services to our communities. They do this independently, without assistance from state nor federal government. The benefits of modern American civilization, common in the rest of the nation, have been built on the foundation of the North Slope oil industry.

In terms of equity for our region and as economies transition, the U.S. government must work to create as much stability as possible and make every effort to not leave our residents to deal with the volatility and instability that will likely result from policy changes made in the name of decarbonization. Fossil fuel usage will no doubt decrease over time as renewable resources become more widely available and affordable. However, renewable resource technology has not developed to a place where it can be widely applicable in our region; charging an electric car is not easy in villages that experience blackouts or still rely on diesel generators for power. Instead of trying to score short term political capital by drastically changing oil and gas extraction and ignoring local perspectives, a long-term realistic outlook and working with the people in the places that currently rely on these resources is not only the right thing to do, but an obligation of the government under its trust responsibility with its indigenous peoples. Without that cooperation and relationship, equity will be impossible to achieve as indigenous and local voices will be ignored.

CONTRACTS FOR BUSINESSES WITH CHARACTERISTICS THAT ALIGN WITH THE DEFINITION OF UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY

Impacts on equity seen through the contracts and businesses awarded by federal agencies are visible in many ways. Our region has had little investment or resources put in place to develop businesses that can help build capacity to provide the ability to search for, apply and win government contracts. If a local business has an economic development arm, most are not comparable to outside larger firms who have an advantage and can adjust their business models easily to bid and be awarded government contracts. The businesses that do get contracts typically do not align with local traditions and practices or rarely have the potential to bring tangible economic return to the community beyond short-term labor positions. When and if activity does occur, some larger businesses fail engage with local tribes, and sometimes even the awarding agency fails to communicate with residents on what project or business opportunities are upcoming in their own community. The Department of the Interior (“Department”) can use power of procurement to contract with and support businesses that align and respect native communities, particularly small and disadvantaged businesses that align with local traditions.

We recommend that the Department find more creative ways to distribute information via social media and local media in addition to helping facilitate matching programs for small businesses to become teaming partners. The Department can also do better by communicating opportunities that are available to tribal businesses by facilitating additional networking through conferences, forums or meet and greets. Another way would be for the Department to implement additional policies requiring large businesses to

work with smaller businesses on contracting opportunities, like the small businesses acting as a sub-contractor to a prime contractor, allowing for partnership and mentorship between the companies of different sizes. Regional non-profits can help facilitate this partnership and have capacity that smaller tribes and communities may not.

Another way to improve the process and relationships around federal contracting would be to help provide clearer communication channels for businesses to access the Department’s point of contacts. As most interactions with the federal government, it is difficult finding answers to questions in a timely manner, creating additional issues for smaller and tribal businesses who are trying to navigate the application process.

We also see barriers surrounding the application processes themselves. No two agencies have the same procurement or application requirements. This builds additional stumbling blocks into the system and requires local businesses, often an incredibly small team of people, to do significant additional work. Streamlining federal grants and contracts to have similar requirements would greatly improve equity and the ability of small indigenous companies or entities to be successful through these processes.

RECREATION ACCESS TO DOI-MANAGED LANDS FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

The Iñupiat people and the residents who call the Arctic home have a unique relationship with the lands and water. Historically our people regularly roamed hundreds of miles in search of game and hunted up and down our coastlines to survive. But many of our communities continue to have a strained relationship with the federal government and agencies with the Department because of historical slights and being denied access to lands that were historically used. On top of that, additional burdensome Departmental and agency regulations and policies have created additional barriers when trying to access and recreate on across our homelands that are now public lands which surround many of our communities. Two communities in our region, Anaktuvuk Pass which lies inside the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Kaktovik which lies within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are impacted by Department agencies that have not implemented their rights under the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (“ANILCA”). There are several provisions under ANILCA that have either not been implemented or have been partially implemented that restricts these communities access to their subsistence resources through restrictions. Section 1110(b) was intended to protect the traditional overland travel for these communities to allow for summer access however the appropriate documentation of traditional access has not been completed for Kaktovik over 40 years after the passage of ANILCA. The regulation of motorized vehicles on public land makes it harder for native communities to access their own lands, let alone public lands in the federal land system. The agencies have not worked with either community in implementation of Section 1307 with respect to tourism in either the park or the refuge. This is the opposite of the question, in that the Department agencies are issuing permits over the homelands of our people yet not providing either Anaktuvuk Pass or Kaktovik the ability to control tourism to their economic benefit by not following Section 1307.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change appears in many different forms across Alaska. It is well known that the Arctic is “ground zero” for climate change; on Alaska’s North Slope, increased

ice-free seasons have resulted in greater coastal erosion and difficulty accessing some of our subsistence resources; melting permafrost has exacerbated this erosion in addition to creating infrastructure damage that is expensive to repair, ruining our traditional *siguaqs* (ice cellars where meat is stored) through flooding, and is making travel across tundra more difficult. Elsewhere in Alaska, other regions are also struggling with an increase in wildfires, the warming of rivers that leads to stresses in the fish populations that they rely on to subsist, flooding, and the introduction and expansion of invasive plants and insects. Any response mechanisms that the government introduces must be flexible and robust enough to cover the varying changes that we are seeing across our region and the State as a whole.

VOICE's overarching recommendation is that the Department consider—in lieu of new “top down” policies that, while well intentioned, don't always serve communities as they are intended—setting up a grant program that allows affected communities the flexibility and empowerment to respond to the impacts that they are facing in a culturally responsible way that fits their local environment and community. Overall, we have not seen very many examples of government responses and assistance to our climate related changes that have been particularly useful. Any action related to a changing climate falls to the NSB, to handle the responses in our communities, including building sea walls to protect against erosion and fixing roads and buildings damaged by permafrost thaw. Through a multi-year effort, the NSB has been working through the process of receiving funding and support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build revetment in the community of Utqiagvik, our largest community, to prevent erosion from consuming many houses, businesses, and local infrastructure. Utqiagvik is not the only community in our region that is experiencing significant erosion; there are similar needs in Point Hope and Wainwright. Programs and policies that would assist in assessment of climate related changes and address solutions and funding around these impacts are necessary.

In terms of climate change observation and other related programs, we have seen most success in local observer networks, when local people are trained to monitor and measure the changes that they are seeing in their own communities, this creates a sense of empowerment rather than helplessness. Ideally, permanent, local jobs within our communities threatened by climate change would be created by an initiative from the federal government. We believe that support of these local networks should be prioritized over the many studies in our communities that are conducted by multiple federal agencies. Current local network systems need to be expanded to include all communities because they rely heavily on indigenous and traditional knowledge of our environment in a way that no western scientist can compare. VOICE recommends that there are clear definitions developed around climate change terminology, for example, ‘climate change resilience’ is ambiguous and is geographically variable. The truth is that in the Arctic, and in Alaska in general, we are well beyond the point of mitigation and have firmly moved into the realm of adaptation. From retrofitting existing infrastructure to moving entire communities, adaptation is incredibly expensive. Federal agencies should take a stronger initiative in partnering with our local communities to better understand the impacts of climate change and the viability of available renewable technologies that can be utilized in arctic conditions. All of our communities currently run off of hydro-

carbons and we hear from those unfamiliar with our ecosystem that we should begin the switch to run our communities off of renewable resources, but we have yet to see a legitimate solution to our energy needs that is viable in the unique and challenging Arctic conditions.

APPLYING FOR AND ACCESSING TRIBAL DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

One way the process around discretionary grants for tribes that can be improved would be to set up additional offices and positions in regional offices like Tribal grant liaisons to assist tribes and help build a sustainable beneficial relationship. A regional grant liaison dedicated to tribes would also be able to help the department create more targeted communication grant campaigns and they could act as a point of contact for tribes navigating the grants process. Small tribes like those in our region often have a difficult time building relationships with the federal government and understanding the federal regulations around the grants they are applying for. As I mentioned the burdensome reporting process can create challenges with tribes that have low capacity or high turnover, leaving them ineligible for future grants. Federal agencies should take a stronger initiative in partnering with our local communities to better understand them before developing and awarding grants.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on addressing equity in government policies. We hope that this conversation will be ongoing and that our comments will be useful as the United States Government decides how best to address this issue.

Quyanaq,

JOHN HOPSON, JR.,
President.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Here is one. It is from the president of the Voice of the Arctic Inupiat, John Hopson, Jr.

In terms of equity [racial equity] we understand that the Biden Administration has made promises domestically and internationally to curb this country's emissions and we, as Inupiat people whose homelands are on the front lines of climate change, can understand the need to move in that direction when it comes to address government policies. What we cannot support, however, is that those efforts are [often] made on the backs of indigenous peoples in Alaska without even a conversation, that is not how more equity is achieved. The federal government must allow us time and resources for a thoughtful, deliberate, and sustainable transition of our economy but instead we have seen secretarial and executive actions [from this administration] that threaten our way of [life and] economic sustainability and therefore our [entire] way of life [in America's Arctic].

Another group: Apparently, consultation with all indigenous groups in the country, except for those in Alaska, is this administration's policy.

So, bottom line, I need commitments from the Fish and Wildlife Service on these issues: the Russian River land exchange, the King Cove land exchange. More broadly, I need the administration to end its war on Alaska and our working families.

I am happy to discuss with the Senator from Montana on these issues and maybe get his help, but for right now, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, could I just get a minute?

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

Mr. TESTER. Because I know there is a vote coming.

First of all, I would ask my friend from Alaska—I appreciate the fact you are standing up for your constituents to do what is right. I have no problem with that whatsoever. I have no problem with the concerns you brought up on the Russian River and the King Cove Road, although I don't know the issues nearly as well as you do. But my point is this: If you are able to put Ms. WILLIAMS in as Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, she has a track record of listening to people. You happen to have a “U.S. Senator” in front of your name; you will be at the top of the list. She is not somebody who shuts the door and says: Just because you are Republican, I don't want to listen to you. She is somebody who always brings in people, collaborates, and comes to a decision that will work. I wouldn't be up here advocating for her if I didn't believe that.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Well, to my colleague, I look forward to working with you on that and those amendments and look forward to moving her nomination forward in that light.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Amy Gutmann, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Germany.

VOTE ON GUTMANN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gutmann nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 40 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Booker	Carper
Bennet	Brown	Casey
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Collins
Blunt	Cardin	Coons

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 41 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Baldwin	Hassan	Risch
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Burr	Kelly	Sasse
Cantwell	King	Schatz
Capito	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Manchin	Sinema
Casey	Markey	Smith
Collins	McConnell	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Sullivan
Cornyn	Merkley	Tester
Cortez Masto	Moran	Thune
Crapo	Murphy	Tillis
Duckworth	Murray	Van Hollen
Durbin	Ossoff	Warner
Fischer	Padilla	Warnock
Gillibrand	Peters	Warren
Graham	Portman	Wyden
Grassley	Reed	Young

more funding for defense than the \$22 billion increase that President Biden sought and less money for nondefense programs than he requested. This should have been an easy deal for them to accept. Indeed, the defense funding number that Democrats are willing to agree to is the number that Republicans on the Armed Services Committee proposed this summer and that was incorporated into the National Defense Authorization Act. But even with that defense number in hand, our Republican colleagues continue to draw out negotiations, pushing us closer to a full-year continuing resolution that would fund defense at a level that is less than President Biden initially requested and about \$37 billion lower than the level set out in the NDAA.

I think that is important. If the Republicans continue to reject a sensible agreement on an Omnibus appropriations bill, they will end up with a defense number that is less than what President Biden sent up, and what he sent up was harshly and vigorously criticized by the Republicans as being not only ineffectual but also somehow undermining our defense.

So it is very clear that we have to move quickly to make a full-year CR an impossibility and that we have to move and vote for an Omnibus appropriations bill. A CR for the full year will shortchange our military. It will disrupt the efficient operations of the Federal Government in the midst of international tension, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and a fragile economic recovery.

Let me focus on the Navy and Marine Corps for a moment. Like the other services, they would be hard hit. A full-year CR would lead to a shortfall of \$4.4 billion from the level the President requested.

Even worse, the Navy estimates the impact could total more than \$14 billion of misaligned funds because a CR prohibits any new starts and production rate increases. The military personnel accounts alone would be \$1.6 billion below what the Navy needs, and that is the pay and benefits for our men and women in uniform. The Navy's Active-Duty end strength would be reduced by 23,000 sailors of its planned accessions. Almost half of the permanent change-of-station moves would be cut, and the Navy Reserves would also face a substantial reduction in its end strength.

A full-year CR could leave the training and readiness accounts for the Navy and Marine Corps about \$2.5 billion short of what they need. This shortfall would reduce the services' flight operations by 10 to 20 percent for all units for 6 months. Reductions in ship operations will put training certifications for one carrier strike group and two expeditionary strike groups at risk, thereby impacting fiscal year 2023 deployments.

This shortfall would impact the scheduling of ship maintenance availabilities for five Virginia-class submarines and two aircraft carriers—

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Lujan
Feinstein	Rounds

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa A. Carty, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

VOTE ON CARTY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Carty nomination?

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. 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 California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 27, as follows:

Blackburn	Hagerty	Lummis
Boozman	Hawley	Marshall
Braun	Hoeven	Paul
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Johnson	Shelby
Cruz	Kennedy	Toomey
Daines	Lankford	Tuberville
Ernst	Lee	Wicker

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso	Lujan	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Rounds	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY).

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m. today, the Senate vote on the confirmation of the Wong nomination.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume consideration of the Bush nomination.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. REED. Mr. President, last week, I came to the floor to warn that we are moving closer to a yearlong continuing resolution, or a CR, that would have devastating implications for every Federal Agency—particularly the Department of Defense.

We are 5 months into the fiscal year. Soon, the House will send over another stop-gap measure so we can avoid a shutdown for a few more weeks. When the short-term funding bill expires, the fiscal year will be halfway over. We need to get this work done.

As outlined last week, Democrats put a deal on the table months ago that gave Republicans what they wanted—

something that will ripple through the industrial base in future fiscal years.

For the Marines, maintenance availabilities for 12 of their landing craft would be deferred, including 6 landing craft air cushions and 6 landing craft utility. These deferrals would potentially impact their ability to support operational needs around the globe. If we don't keep our ships and amphibious vehicles maintained, they will not be ready nor reliable when they are needed in operations, thereby risking the safety of our servicemembers and impeding their ability to perform the mission.

These are just some of the operational impacts the Navy and Marine Corps would face under a yearlong CR.

A CR will also prevent the Navy from effectively modernizing and reinvesting in new programs. The Department of the Navy would not be able to execute 10 new procurement programs and 10 new research and development projects.

Additionally, 20 programs would not be able to increase their production rate as planned in the budget request. Perhaps most importantly, the CR would provide insufficient funding for the continued construction of SSBN-826, the first boat of the *Columbia*-class ballistic missile submarine program, which is replacing the aging *Ohio*-class submarines.

The *Columbia*-class program is vitally important to maintaining our strategic nuclear deterrence. I have seen the boat currently under construction in Rhode Island, the state-of-the-art hull cylinders and missile tubes. It is a formidable vessel, and it needs to stay on track.

A yearlong CR would also affect the advance procurement funding for the second, third, fourth, and fifth of the submarines of this class. Effectively, we would be disrupting the unavoidable replacing of aging *Ohio*-class submarines with the new *Columbia* class. All this would mean down the road eventually is just more expensive submarines.

We are already on a tight schedule to deliver SSBN-826 to meet the requirements of Strategic Command. Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Gilday has said that the *Columbia* class is the Navy's "number one modernization priority" and that it "is a program with zero margin for delays."

The impacts aren't limited to our undersea fleet. Under a yearlong CR, the Navy also wouldn't be able to purchase three additional surface ships—two of the TAGOS ocean surveillance ships and one ship to shore connector—and the Navy won't be able to start procuring materials in advance for the new frigate and the TAO fleet oiler.

The Marines will not be able to buy 7 more F35 Joint Strike Fighters, 20 more of the amphibious combat vehicle, nor additional quantities of the joint air-to-ground missile and Hellfire missiles. Instead of procuring six MQ-9A Reaper UAVS, the Marines will get zero.

There are many impacts to new research and development projects that cannot be started under a CR, and the Navy is very concerned about the shortfall in funding for the Conventional Prompt Strike Program. This missile, which is being jointly developed and produced with the Army, will provide Navy ships and *Virginia*-class submarines with a hypersonic weapon capability that is critical to our Nation's ability to deter conflict with China and with Russia. In order to make up this shortfall under a CR and keep this program on pace, the Navy would have to divert funding from other important R&D programs. It is one step forward and two steps back and in some cases may cause delays that are unrecoverable.

The Navy and Marine Corps also won't be able to start 17 military construction projects—new facilities that our sailors and marines need to do their jobs safely and effectively. This includes, among others, \$321 million for two projects in North Carolina, \$288 million for three projects in Virginia, \$14 million for a project in Minnesota, \$49 million for a project in Michigan, \$558 million for eight projects in Guam, and \$50 million for a project in Japan. This will clearly affect our ability to have a forward-operating presence in the Indo-Pacific region and to confront what the Secretary of Defense has called the pacing threat—China.

These are just some examples of the varied impacts and challenges the Navy and Marine Corps would face if there was a yearlong CR. I would encourage my colleagues to read the full testimony of the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Gilday, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Berger, which they submitted to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

These statements can be found online on the House Committee on Appropriations website at <https://appropriations.house.gov/events/hearings/impact-of-continuing-resolutions-on-the-department-of-defense-and-services>.

In short, a yearlong CR will make us less competitive with our adversaries and less able to respond to the rapidly changing global landscape, and these are some things—these efforts are not something the Defense Department can do on its own. We need to fund our diplomats and our law enforcement and all Agencies of the Federal Government.

Indeed, we cannot afford to short-change nondefense priorities. A CR will not adequately fund our Defense Department nor our domestic Agencies. Stating the obvious, we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Are we truly willing to fund the NIH and the CDC and other public health Agencies at last year's levels? Are we willing to tell school systems to make do with the same funding levels for critical programs like title I? Are we going to cut funding for housing rental assistance? Are we willing to short-

change law enforcement, including the Capitol Police?

We need to get our work done. That begins with reaching an agreement that provides the funding Americans need on both sides of the ledger. A full-year CR is not an acceptable solution. I am hopeful that agreement is near. But no one should believe those who claim to support our national defense while threatening a yearlong CR, and no one should claim that our domestic needs are somehow unworthy of support as well.

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.

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

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

The Senator from Nebraska.

2022 WINTER OLYMPICS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, it goes without saying that each of the American athletes competing in the Olympics this year is the best in their event. Many of them have dedicated their entire lives to their sports in the hope that they might have this opportunity to represent the United States at the Olympic Games. They have earned their spots on Team USA, and I wish them the best as they compete against other athletes from around the world.

But make no mistake, Beijing 2022 is no ordinary Olympics. Just a 4-hour flight from where the Games are being held, China has imprisoned more than a million Uighur Muslims in concentration camps. These Chinese citizens are prisoners—political prisoners—in their own country. Their crime? Maintaining a vibrant Muslim culture that doesn't fit the mold that Beijing wants to impose on China's more than 1.4 billion people. The very same government that is hosting the Olympics this week is putting these innocent people in labor camps and subjecting them to forced sterilization, forced labor, and physical and psychological torture.

One of the few things that President Trump and President Biden agree on is that what China is doing to its Uighur population amounts to genocide.

Last November, one of the most famous athletes in China, Peng Shuai, posted on social media that a high-ranking politician in the Chinese Communist Party had sexually assaulted her. This wasn't just any politician; he was a member of the Politburo Standing Committee and the face of China's successful effort to land the 2022 Olympics. He even met with the president of the International Olympic Committee at least once.

Speaking out about someone like this is dangerous in a country like China. Peng Shuai knew that, but I don't think she expected what came next. Less than 20 minutes after she

posted her accusation, her existence had been scrubbed from the internet. Any mention of her name was restricted. For a while, the Communist Party banned discussion of hundreds of other key words, even words as general as “tennis.” She disappeared from the public eye for months, and the only appearances that she has been allowed to make since have been scripted and supervised by the CCP.

If this is how China treats its own people, I think it is fair to ask: What kind of risks are our athletes facing as they participate in the Olympic Games?

To protest China’s miserable human rights record, the United States instituted a diplomatic boycott, and American officials will not be present for these Games; neither will officials representing many of our allies, like Canada or the United Kingdom. That is the right decision. We shouldn’t pretend that everything is fine in China just because the IOC chose them to host the Olympics.

As far as the committee is concerned, they have made it very clear that China’s money is worth more to them than the rights of the world’s athletes. They had years to plan for these Olympics, but they still chose not to adopt any rules to protect the human rights of Olympians while they are in China. Instead, competitors are required to follow local laws limiting free expression, privacy, and other basic freedoms.

Before they ever set foot in China, athletes and journalists were required to download an intrusive smartphone app, supposedly to track COVID-19 infections. Experts say that China and other malicious actors could exploit flaws in the app’s design to go beyond that and spy on athletes in many other ways, both during the Olympics and long after they are over.

The CCP’s app also contains a list of more than 400 illegal words that they could use to censor athletes’ conversations.

The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee has gone as far as to tell American athletes to “assume that every device and every communication, transaction, and online activity will be monitored.” Many other nations have issued similar warnings.

This all could have been avoided. We didn’t have to host a unifying event like the Olympics in a country that thinks the book “1984” is an instruction manual. The IOC chose to have China host the Olympics anyway. They chose to ignore these and many other shameless human rights abuses Beijing engages in every single day. They could have required China to respect the basic liberties athletes enjoy in the United States and other Western countries, but they didn’t. The next time a host country is chosen, it is important that the IOC pick any of the dozens of democracies around the world.

The more than 200 athletes on Team USA earned their places at the Olympics with years of hard work and sac-

rific. I do wish them the best, and I pray that they stay safe while they are away from home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, in an effort to make the internet healthy, happy, and peaceful, the Chinese Government recently clamped down on what it deems as online bad behavior.

Beijing knows all about bad behavior. In fact, if behaving badly were an Olympic sport, China would take the gold, silver, and bronze.

Speaking of the Olympics, last week the Olympic cauldron was lit in the Chinese capital by a Uighur torchbearer. It was a spectacular opening ceremony, with thousands of participants filling the Bird’s Nest. Its choreography was innovative, its artistry unprecedented as China sought to portray itself to the world not as it is but as they want to be seen.

There was an LED floor below, brilliant fireworks overhead. Children danced, sang, and raised glowing doves. The theme was socially conscious and environmentally aware.

The Chinese flag was passed through the hands of people representing the diversity within China, and it was raised where it billowed proudly, even though there wasn’t a breeze.

And not a single American Government official was present—not a single government official. You see, we sent our regrets to the Chinese Communist Party, refused to join in the Xi Jinping games. We let a few of the reasons why we didn’t appear be submitted candidly to the world.

A million Uighurs, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz are locked away in gulags—raped, tortured with electric batons, sterilized, forced into abortions—all in an effort to eradicate these religious and ethnic minorities not just from Xinjiang but from the face of the Earth.

Taiwan’s sovereignty is continually threatened with the Chinese flying aircraft, streaking across Taiwan’s skies. Hong Kong’s democracy is strangled.

There and across the CCP’s domain, dissidents, whistleblowers, and protesters are apprehended, imprisoned, persecuted, and reeducated—free speech and expression stifled and censored, religious freedom denied.

A virus was recklessly unleashed on the world, upturning our lives, killing our most vulnerable, closing our businesses, damaging our economy, and dividing our people.

A nation is hosting a storied athletic competition, but that nation erases its own athletes for telling embarrassing truths about its government.

The history, distant and recent, of the communist Chinese Government is one of inhumanity, ruthless violation of the most basic human rights, and aggression toward America and its allies.

The Olympic Games in Beijing, spit and polished, even carbon-neutral, may present the face of a humane and caring world power, but we are not fooled.

We see through the charade—a slave state hosting the Olympics; its participants wearing uniforms made by Uighurs tortured and toiling in labor camps.

We see the authoritarian regime behind what the dissident artist Ai Weiwei calls China’s fake smile. And we are leading by example. The CCP has the world stage, but we are not in the audience.

Our athletes are in Beijing, though. They are on the ice, in the snow, on the slopes, and in the arena, and they should be. They have worked their entire lives for this moment. They are seizing it, while we root them on. And I want America’s Olympians to bring back every single gold medal.

But I also want our athletes to know what the Chinese Government might have in store for them. So here are a few hopefully helpful words for our American Olympians.

Keep an eye on your bank account. That is right. When you buy a meal or a souvenir in Beijing, you will be forced to pay for it with the CCP’s digital yuan. The Chinese Government claims the system creates more efficient payments across its economy, but it is also a way of keeping tabs on your transactions and watching what you buy. Be aware. Think twice about what you buy in Beijing. You see, the International Olympic Committee made no effort to stop the sale of apparel made with forced labor.

Not only will China’s Olympic team be wearing uniforms likely produced by slave labor, but official Olympic garments could be coming from the same oppressed source.

And don’t be fooled by uncensoring. The CCP erases any unflattering but accurate portrayals of itself on the internet. With the world watching, it is now promising to lower the great firewall, allowing athletes and the press open access to the internet through SIM cards. China’s own citizens are afforded no such privilege. Hopefully, you brought a burner phone and left your personal devices at home.

Keep an eye out for your fellow athletes. Now, this is important. Tennis star Peng Shuai disappeared in November after accusing a Chinese official of sexual assault. Her peers and the Women’s Tennis Association called for action—an extraordinary showing of solidarity. But after Peng was seen in a video, the world moved on, much to China’s delight.

We may never know how many Chinese athletes live under fear from their oppressive government.

Journalists, by the way, you should be on guard too. You see, there is no freedom of the press in China. Reporters are regularly harassed, censored, and surveilled. In fact, in 2021, China jailed 50 journalists—more than any other nation.

During the 2008 Summer Games in Beijing, there were at least 30 cases of CCP officials interfering with reporting and assaulting journalists. And that

was when China was truly concerned about making a positive impression across the world.

Lastly, and most importantly, to all America's athletes, don't forget this: Your country is behind you. By boycotting the Olympics, our government is shining a light on the CCP's abuse of its citizens and its disregard for the rest of the world, but by competing in the Olympics, our athletes are showing what a free people from an open society are capable of. Now, remember, the Olympics have long been a forum for American victory at the expense of authoritarians' pride. They were an early front in the war against fascism.

Jesse Owens won four gold medals in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, while Hitler looked on, humiliated, his delusion of Aryan superiority burst. When Owens stood on the podium after winning the long jump, he was surrounded by Sieg Heils, but he stood taller and he stood higher than all of them, saluting Old Glory.

But it was Cornelius "Corny" Johnson who was the first Black American to earn gold in Berlin, winning the high jump. The silver went to Dave Albritton, another American, who was also Black. Delos Thurbur, yet another American, won the bronze. Hitler refused to meet with them or to congratulate any of them.

When they took the podium, all three offered their own protest to the dictator—the Bellamy salute; the palm-out salute of the American flag named for Francis Bellamy, the author of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Olympics were a battleground in the Cold War as well.

In 1980, the unheralded and ragtag American hockey team upset the four-time gold medal-winning Soviets. Two days later, they defeated Finland and won the gold.

Russia had just invaded Afghanistan. America's economy was in recession. The victory not only shocked the world, it lifted our Nation and sunk the Soviet's spirits. The Russian hockey players didn't even bother to have their silver medals engraved; they were so angry about losing to America.

Now, in 2022, another act in a global power competition will take place at the Olympics. We have seen it unfold in recent days. America and the free West against the communist Chinese Government. It is part of the contest that will define this century—show the CCP that the future belongs to the free; that authoritarian governments always fail the people trapped under them.

Win. Make Xi Jinping and the Chinese authorities hear the "Star-Spangled Banner" and see the Stars and Stripes again and again and again.

We are cheering you on and will be waiting for you when you come home decorated in gold. Good luck to Team USA, and God bless America.

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

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, we have a true crisis at our southern border. Those in Washington who refuse to use the word "crisis" to describe the humanitarian and security challenges must accept the disastrous consequences of an open-border policy.

Just look at the numbers from the Department of Homeland Security. More than 2 million illegal immigrants were caught attempting to cross the border last year, and if the Biden administration doesn't get serious about securing the border, we are on pace to repeat or exceed this troubling figure in 2022. In December, 178,840 illegal immigrants were apprehended attempting to cross along this stretch of the border, making it the highest total for that month in Department of Homeland Security history.

I have been here before describing this chaos, but the reality is, it continues to escalate while the administration refuses to take action to stop illegal immigration.

Unsurprisingly, we are seeing the tensions between the Biden administration and Border Patrol officials boil over. These men and women have answered the call to protect and serve. They put their lives at risk to enforce the law and arrest people illegally crossing the border, only to have the administration approve the release of the very criminals the officers locked up. This betrayal by the administration is creating low morale, with some Border Patrol officers choosing to leave the job rather than support this lawlessness and insanity.

Instead of preventing illegal drugs from entering our country, border agents are spending time processing paperwork for illegal immigrants.

Do you know who else is seeing this paperwork? TSA agents. The Department of Homeland Security is allowing these lawbreakers to board airplanes using their Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrest warrants as identification at TSA checkpoints. This is totally absurd. It is a reckless policy that threatens the safety of air travelers and all citizens. The administration must end this practice.

The message coming from the White House is: Our southern borders are open. All are welcome.

This has been a green light for immigrants since day one. It started with migrant numbers increasing along the southern border as they awaited Biden's immigration action, and now we see the result. We have experienced record border crossings, overflowing detention centers, and the release of single adult migrants into the United States, among many other many problems. That is how it is going.

It is not just citizens from Central America and Mexico who are taking advantage of this foolish generosity; people from Syria, Turkey, Russia, Pakistan, Cuba, Haiti, and India are illegally entering the United States along the southern border.

I have been here before on the Senate floor sounding the alarm about the threat this dangerous and indefensible approach to immigration and border security is having on our country. It is threatening our sovereignty and undermining the rule of law.

Instead of implementing common-sense steps to secure the border, the administration has prioritized "border czar" Vice President HARRIS's mission to discover the "root causes" of this crisis while the number of illegal immigrants entering our country is reaching historic levels.

The reality is, this truly is a crisis of the Biden administration's own making. The President reversed policies that were curbing illegal immigration, like the construction of a border wall and the "Remain in Mexico" policy.

We must provide Border Patrol agents with the tools and resources to successfully accomplish their job. That involves enforcing the laws and holding illegal immigrants accountable for their unlawful actions, not helping them board airplanes to travel around the country.

This is a matter of national security. My GOP colleagues and I are ready to get back to the effective strategies we had for controlling the border under President Trump, and it is time President Biden gets on board.

With that, 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.

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

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

Ms. BALDWIN. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Chantale Yokmin Wong, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

VOTE ON WONG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wong nomination?

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 42 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Baldwin	Grassley	Portman
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Risch
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Romney
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Burr	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Capito	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lummis	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McConnell	Thune
Cornyn	Menendez	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Crapo	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Graham	Peters	Young

NAYS—31

Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Toomey
Daines	Lee	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	
Hagerty	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Barrasso	Luján	Rounds
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The nomination was confirmed.

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

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 705.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Max Vekich, of Washington,

to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 705, Max Vekich, of Washington, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2026.

Charles E. Schumer, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Maria Cantwell, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Debbie Stabenow, Benjamin L. Cardin, John W. Hickenlooper, Tim Kaine, Gary C. Peters, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, Jack Reed, Thomas R. Carper, Cory A. Booker.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, February 8, be waived.

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

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on Financing being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Committee on Finance from further consideration of the nomination of Sam Bagenstos to be General Counsel to the Department of Health and Human Services.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the motion to discharge be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, notwithstanding rule XXII.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURING

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, we have had so much good news in Ohio and across the country over the last few weeks—rising wages, record job growth, a million jobs in 2 months.

Intel is bringing 10,000 new good-paying manufacturing and trades jobs to Central Ohio. That facility will be built by union workers—electricians, carpenters, laborers, pipefitters, and other workers of the skilled trades.

Hyperion, a fuel manufacturer, is opening the largest factory built in Columbus in a decade, creating 700 jobs.

GE Aviation with Boeing signed a new deal exporting planes built with

next-generation jet engines developed in Southwest Ohio, supporting thousands of Ohio jobs.

As I was flying into Columbus with Senator PORTMAN a couple of weeks ago to join Intel to announce those jobs, I was thinking: Today we are finally burying the term “rust belt.”

For too long, corporate elites on the coast have used that outdated, offensive term—a term that demeans our workers and devalues our work. Now Ohio—the center of the country, the heart of the industrial Midwest—leads the way in the next generation of manufacturing.

The State that founded the auto industry and gave us the Wright Brothers is today making the most advanced chips that go into cars and phones and appliances.

All of this is made possible because we are putting American workers at the center of our economy. It is not a coincidence we are seeing this record job growth, when we finally have a President who understands what carrying a union card means, who centers workers, who cares about wages, who comes from the industrial heartland—a union card that means better wages, a union card that means better benefits, a union card that often means a more flexible work schedule that workers have a decision and input into forming.

And look at the results we are getting. Last year, for the first time in 20 years, our economy grew faster than China. Think about that. For the first time in two decades, the American economy grew faster than China's economy.

We know that China and other competitors aren't giving up. They are, every week, trying to find new ways to cheat, new ways to undermine American jobs.

We need every possible tool to compete. It is why last year in the Senate we passed the Innovation and Competition Act. We passed what we are now calling the Make it in America Act. It is a serious effort to invest in manufacturing research and development and bring and build supply chains back in the United States.

It is going to mean jobs. It is going to bring down prices. For too long, we have had a trade policy and a tax policy lobbied in this body by corporate interests that wanted to move overseas for cheap labor. We have had a trade and tax policy that essentially hollowed out manufacturing in Ohio and across the Midwest. Ohioans know what permanent normal trade relations with China 20 years ago when Congress passed it—to be asked of corporate America and pushed by people like Newt Gingrich—people know what that did to our economy. Almost everyone knows the devastation the North American Free Trade Agreement caused to industrial towns in Ohio and across the country.

PNTR and admitting China to the WTO hasn't gotten the same media attention, but Ohio steel companies and

other industries know how big a problem it has been. It is how we ended up with empty factories, lost dreams, supply chains that are too long, too fragile, and that stretch all over the world instead of made in America.

That is why I wrote the Leveling the Playing Field Act that was passed into law in 2015. It is why Senator PORTMAN and I are working to make sure that our bipartisan Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 is in the competition bill, the Made in America Act the House passed last week.

Leveling the Playing Field has been critical for Ohio companies, allowing them to file and win trade cases against foreign companies that cheat the rules. We know our competition hasn't stopped coming up with new ways to skirt these rules and distort the global market to benefit their own companies.

The Chinese Government still subsidizes steel. The Chinese Government engages in economic espionage to steal American trade secrets to prop up their own state-controlled companies.

Look at the most recent conviction of a Chinese spy trying to steal GE Aviation's pioneering jet engine designs to swipe them and take them back to China. We need our trade laws to keep up.

Both the Senate and the House bills include the CHIPS Act to invest in new semiconductor production in the United States, like the new Intel factory coming to Licking County, east and north of Columbus. Even though the United States started the semiconductor industry, today those vital chips are mostly made overseas.

Fewer than 10 percent of chips are made in this country. Right now, 75 percent of chip manufacturing is in Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, and China. It has meant severe shortages and long waits for those chips that are critical inputs to so many of the products Americans rely on.

We need to bring the supply chain back home, starting with Intel in Ohio, by passing the CHIPS Act. We must invest in domestic manufacturing innovation. It is what Missouri Republican Senator BLUNT and I worked together to do with our provisions in the Senate bill to create more manufacturing hubs across the country.

The first one, as many in this body remember because they voted for it, was in Youngstown some years ago, something called America Makes. All of us in the Senate and the House need to get to work immediately to get these bills over the finish line.

If you want to get a sense of how important this is, how strong these bills are, just look at what China is doing. The Chinese Communist Party is lobbying furiously against this bill. That is right. The CCP and its cronies, the communist party in China, are lobbying against the bill that invests in American innovation, supports American manufacturing, takes on unfair and illegal trade practices. They are scared, pure and simple.

They know that pro-competition bills—the Make it in America Act—will have real consequences for their cheating and their trying to undermine American workers.

A Reuters headline from November: “Beijing urges U.S. businesses to lobby against China-related bills in Congress.”

I will say it again: “Beijing urges U.S. businesses to lobby against China-related bills in Congress.”

Unfortunately—I won't name them on the floor, maybe I should—but there are U.S. businesses that are lobbying against this because they do enough business in China, exploiting Chinese workers, evading any environmental laws or worker safety laws that may be in place.

The Chinese Government threatens these American companies, recruiting them to lobby against the interests of American workers. This time we are not rolling over. We are going to stand up for American innovation, stand up for American manufacturing, stand up especially for American workers.

As I said, we have a President now who puts workers at the center of our economic policy. We have a President who puts workers at the center of our economy. We have a President who is not afraid to talk about unions, knowing carrying a union card means a better life for workers.

We are going to get a strong bipartisan bill that increases our economic competitors. We know how to speed up our supply chain and lower prices and end our reliance on China: make more things in this country.

That is the solution to many of our economic problems: make it in Ohio. I urge my colleagues in both parties and both Chambers to go to work. Let's get this done for American workers.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

UKRAINE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, many Americans are watching the news, reading the newspaper, watching cable news, and they are seeing the Russian buildup of troops on the border of Ukraine.

So I thought what I would do is take just a few moments to speak about what is at stake in Ukraine. Why should Americans care, and what should we do in response?

Tensions along the border are high. Shuttle diplomacy is occurring and is the order of the day. But more than 100,000 Russian troops are in position should an invasion of Ukraine be ordered by Russian Federation President Putin.

Reports indicate that Russia has created a graphic propaganda video, something called a false flag operation, to serve as a pretext for invading and cyber attacks like those that might precede a planned invasion are already underway.

Not surprisingly, the Kremlin is engaging in a disinformation campaign,

making every attempt to blame the United States—or any other country for that matter—for its own aggressive actions.

This kind of gaslighting might work in a totalitarian state, but in the rest of the world, where we have access to more complete and accurate information, we know better. There is no question that Russia and Russia alone is responsible for the military buildup on Ukraine's border and is also threatening peace in Europe.

As Frederick Kagan, a scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, has written:

This isn't primarily a Ukraine crisis. It's a Russia crisis. More precisely, [it is] a Putin-created crisis aimed at destroying [the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, otherwise known as] NATO.

It's Putin's attempt to drive the [United States] and its West European allies to put ourselves in a time machine, [to] abdicate our alliance obligations, expose countries previously occupied, brutalized, and exploited by the Soviet Union to Putin's continued aggression, demonstrate our unreliability as partners, and show our unseriousness about defending our own vital national security interests. In return for a promise of nothing at all.

The United States has played no part in creating this crisis, but I do believe we have some responsibilities—not just a treaty obligation to our NATO allies—because Ukraine is not yet a member of NATO, so that obligation under article 5 does not apply to Ukraine, as I will discuss in a moment.

But I do believe that we have a responsibility to support the Ukrainian people as they fight to defend their own sovereignty, despite the fact that they are not members of NATO.

With so many challenges on the home front, though, and around the world, it is easy for folks in Texas or Massachusetts or anywhere else around the country to wonder, why should we care what is happening in Ukraine? Americans are experiencing the highest inflation in 40 years; there is growing concern about violent crime; we have a humanitarian crisis on our southern border; and let's not forget the ongoing fight against the pandemic. We know families are struggling to face the challenges right in front of them, let alone those on the other side of the globe.

Americans want to know, how does a conflict on the other side of the globe actually impact the United States and, importantly, why should we help? I think those are fair questions. The human and financial costs of armed conflicts are very high. And we have learned the painful lesson during many times in our Nation's history, twice in the last century in Europe alone, where there were World Wars centered.

But we also know how much the free world depends on the United States and its leadership and strength to provide stability and prevent wars and promote peace, if we can, while safeguarding freedom and democracy around the world.

The United States is a global power, but we are no longer the only one. That day has passed. Our leadership role and responsibilities in a rules-based international order were earned by the sacrifices of generations of Americans who defended our freedoms and our way of life and those of our allies.

Believing, as Ronald Reagan said, that peace comes through strength, America's role in the world has been achieved by our military might, by our strategic alliances, our commitment to free markets and trade around the world that have produced the economy that has allowed us to defend ourselves as well as an unwavering dedication to our values. And whether we like it or not, our unique role in the world brings with it certain responsibilities.

We can't give anyone—adversary or ally—a reason to doubt our commitment to freedom, peace, stability, and security. Unfortunately, our reputation for reliability has suffered some damage recently. The botched withdrawal from Afghanistan, for example, caused our NATO allies to doubt the future of American leadership and our commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty.

Our friends and adversaries alike are wondering if the Afghanistan debacle is a one-time misstep or the beginning of dwindling U.S. commitment and power. Of course, Mr. Putin and Mr. Xi will not miss an opportunity to disparage America's credibility as a reliable ally.

Our urgent task, by our actions as well as our words, should be to convince friend and foe that we will remain a credible friend and ally.

But either way, Putin is an opportunist, and today the eyes of the world are on the United States to see how we will respond to this threatened Russian aggression. Will we stand strong in support of Ukraine or will we sit passively on the sidelines?

Make no mistake, Russia is doing far more than just threatening Ukraine. President Putin told the world in a speech in 2005 that the collapse of the Soviet empire—the Soviet Union—was what he called “the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century.” That is his mindset.

Putting that empire back together was clearly on his mind when Russia invaded the nation of Georgia in 2008, formerly part of the Soviet Union, and when Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, also part of the Soviet order.

And, of course, we can be confident this is foremost in his mind as he threatens to invade Ukraine, another country that used to be part of the Soviet Union.

So Putin is trying to get away with as much as he can, and it would be naive to think that he will stop at Ukraine.

If the United States fails to support Ukraine at this pivotal moment, other authoritarian governments, like those in China and Iran, will take note.

Today's New York Times had a story that said, “Both Sides of the Taiwan

Strait Are Closely Watching Ukraine's Crisis,” in other words, the People's Republic of China—mainland China—as well as Taiwan, the independent democratic state right across that thin band of water known as the South China Sea.

Here is what one of the representatives of Taiwan said in this article. He said: “If the Western powers fail to respond to Russia, they do embolden the Chinese thinking regarding action on Taiwan.”

So this is not just about Ukraine. This is not just about Europe. This is about America's credibility and that of our friends and allies around the world and our willingness to stand up for our values and defend our freedoms.

If our adversaries see that the United States responds merely with passivity or words, they too will inevitably see opportunities for them to exploit. That would risk further geopolitical instability and the cause of peace. It would inevitably diminish America's leadership position in the world, the global order of which we are what Elbridge Colby has termed the “cornerstone balancer,” a powerful country anchoring the coalition of freedom-loving nations.

So, yes, Ukraine is on the frontlines of the current crisis, but the security of Europe is also in question. The reach of Russia's aspirations for reestablished empire are, as well, and, as I said, there are global repercussions to however we choose to respond.

I am not suggesting that President Biden send American troops to Ukraine. I want to be clear on that point. I know of no one calling for American troops to be deployed to Ukraine.

There are, however, concrete steps we can take to help Ukraine defend itself without putting American lives on the line, and, fortunately, there is precedent for that.

In the early 1940s, Nazi Germany was making dramatic advances across Europe, and Great Britain was being pummeled by the blitz, a bombing campaign by the German air forces. While Britain was hanging on by a thread, Prime Minister Churchill asked President Franklin Delano Roosevelt for help from the United States.

This ultimately resulted in a very creative and successful solution known as the Lend-Lease Act. In the words of President Roosevelt, this legislation transformed the United States into the “arsenal of democracy” by supplying Great Britain with the materiel it needed to fend off German attacks.

He compared it to lending your neighbor a garden hose if his house was on fire. It wouldn't just protect the neighbor's home; it would protect your home as well.

Congress and the American people agreed with President Roosevelt's logic, and this legislation was signed into law in March 1941.

Soon after, American warships, aircraft, weaponry, oil, food, and other

critical resources made their way across the Atlantic to Allied forces fighting against Germany.

I think this is part of the response we need to provide today to provide the Ukrainians with the ability to defend themselves under a modern version of the 1941 Lend-Lease Act.

With the inspiration of President Roosevelt in the 1941 act, I have worked with a number of my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats alike—to draft a 2022 version of that legislation, called, not surprisingly, the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act, which will ensure that Ukrainian forces and the Ukrainian people will have what they need to deter and defend against Russian invasions.

As it stands today, the President of the United States has a menu of options to support our international friends in times of conflict. In some cases, such as the loan of equipment, the United States will eventually retain end use. In others, such as grants and emergency aid, we do not recover the funding or the assets sent to our friends.

This bill would provide an additional option to that menu, allowing the United States to provide assistance that may otherwise be unfeasible unless we could retain end use.

This legislation would authorize President Biden to enter into lend-lease agreements directly with Ukraine and provide military equipment necessary to protect the Ukrainian people.

In an ideal world, access to this materiel will help the Ukrainians defend themselves and deter Russia from mounting an invasion in the first place. Knowing that Ukraine has access to the “arsenal of democracy” could help prevent Putin from risking a deadly war. But if Putin makes a bad decision to move forward, Ukrainian forces will have the lethal weapons that they need to defend their sovereignty.

They will also have the support of the United States and our NATO allies.

In the Senate, there is clear support for this sovereignty of Ukraine, and I am glad to have worked with my colleagues on this legislation that includes this lend-lease component.

I want to thank Chairman MENENDEZ and Ranking Member RISCH on the Foreign Relations Committee and a larger bipartisan group of our colleagues who have been working on a comprehensive approach to counter this threatened aggression by Russia. We have discussed my lend-lease bill, as well as additional security assistance and lethal aid for Ukraine. And, as we have read, Senator MENENDEZ and Senator RISCH are negotiating a limited but immediate sanctions response to this aggression, including cyber attacks, as well as the threat of additional sanctions in the event of an invasion.

As the chairman and the ranking member have said, negotiations are making some progress, and I hope we

can wrap things up quickly and bring the bill to the Senate floor without much more delay.

The fact is, we are racing against the clock. Putin could invade Ukraine at a moment's notice, and he is not going to wait on the U.S. Senate to act. That is why time is of the essence.

Ideally, the lend-lease agreement, military assistance, sanctions, and other provisions included in this package will cause Putin to think twice about invading. But that can only happen if we act before Putin acts.

So the clock is ticking, and we need to move. I am encouraged by the bipartisan support we have seen for Ukraine and for this effort, and I hope we can take action soon to reaffirm America's position as the lead defender of global peace and security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

JCPOA

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, the world was safer when the JCPOA, the Iran nuclear agreement negotiated by President Obama, was in place. The world became a much less safe place when President Trump tore up that agreement against the advice of his Secretary of State and his Secretary of Defense.

We have an opportunity right now to reconstruct that agreement—or the most important elements of it—so that Iran once again is as far as possible from being able to obtain a nuclear weapon. That would make the region safer. That would make the United States safer.

But time is of the essence. U.S. negotiators, European negotiators, the Russians, the Chinese, and the Iranians are right now entering what could be the last round of discussions, and it is absolutely imperative that the U.S. Senate provide this administration with the support it needs to effectuate an agreement.

I want to talk to my colleagues for a few minutes about how important it is for the United States and our European allies—for the world, indeed—to reconstruct a diplomatic agreement with Iran.

And I want to also talk for a moment about how disastrous the last 5 years have been—a period of time during which the United States has largely been out of compliance with that agreement.

The JCPOA was signed by the United States and European allies and was entered into, on behalf of a coalition that included Russia and China, with the Iranian Government. It was signed in July of 2015, and within about 6 months, the IAEA was able to verify that Iran had completed its obligations under the nuclear agreement.

This included commitments that would increase the amount of time that Iran needed to acquire enough material for a nuclear weapon from 2 to 3 months—that was the amount of time that it would have taken them prior to

the nuclear agreement—to at least a year or more.

The agreement reduced Iran's stockpiles of enriched uranium by requiring it to ship 25,000 pounds of it out of the country. Iran committed to dismantling and removing two-thirds of its centrifuges. It modified its heavy water reactor at Arak and filled it with concrete so that it could never be used again, preventing Iran from producing weapons-grade plutonium. And, finally, Iran agreed to provide unprecedented access to its nuclear facilities and to its nuclear supply chain—not only the sites that we knew about, but it also agreed to adopt what are called the additional protocols which allow the IAEA to be able to request and get access to sites in which they might have some suspicion that there was new prohibited nuclear research activity happening.

Under this deal, Iran reduced its stockpile of uranium by 98 percent. It kept its level of uranium enrichment at 3.67 percent, significantly below the levels that you would need to make a bomb.

The JCPOA, as I said, got the Iranians to reduce their number of centrifuges from 20,000 to 6,000.

And so this was the world that President Trump inherited—the United States, Europe, Russia, and China united on Iran policy; Iran shutting down major elements of their nuclear research program, such that they were now more than a year out from getting a nuclear weapon if they made the decision to achieve a nuclear weapon. That is called the breakout time, the time from which a country decides it wants a nuclear weapon to the point at which it has a nuclear weapon. For Iran, that went from 2 to 3 months prior to the agreement to over a year after the agreement.

But it also lined up the United States, Europe, China, and Russia—this unlikely alliance of traditional adversaries, at least with respect to Russia and China—so that we could then move on to Iran's other malevolent behaviors.

Critics of the deal said it only pertains to the nuclear program, but that is not the only bad behavior that Iran is engaged in.

Well, President Trump inherited a united front of unlikely allies that then could be utilized to pressure Iran to make changes to its ballistic missile program, to reduce its support for terrorist organizations and proxy armies around the region. That is why Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Mattis and many other Trump advisers encouraged him to stay in the deal.

But he didn't. President Trump tore up the deal and announced to the country and the world that he was going to pursue a different strategy.

Critics of JCPOA said that President Obama shouldn't have entered into an agreement. Critics said that he should have held out and kept applying more and more sanctions, even if the Euro-

peans walked away, as a means of getting Iran to come to the table on a broader agreement that would include its ballistic missile program and its support for terrorists.

President Obama believed it was important to get the nuclear question off the table. But to the extent there was any silver lining of President Trump's decision, it is that it allowed us for 4 years to test the theory of the opponents, the theory of the critics, because President Trump implemented the strategy that the critics of the JCPOA wanted President Obama to employ.

Donald Trump imposed greater sanctions. He did it without the Europeans, and he demanded that he would only talk to the Iranians if they came to the table on everything. In fact, he set it down on a piece of paper.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo gave Iran a list of 12 demands and said that we will come to the table and talk to you and we will consider releasing these sanctions if you talk to us about all of your dangerous behaviors in the region—your nuclear program, your ballistic missile program, your support for terrorists. So President Trump gave us the gift of testing the theory of the opponents. You know how the story goes. It was a spectacular failure.

It was a spectacular failure in multiple respects. First, let's just talk about what happened to Iran's nuclear program. In May 2019 Iran announces that it will no longer observe the JCPOA stockpile limit. And, as of November of last year, the stockpile of enriched uranium—enriched uranium gas—was roughly 11 times what it was during the agreement.

In July 2019, Iran began enriching uranium up to 4.5 percent, above 3.6 percent, as specified in the agreement. In January of 2021, it began enriching uranium to 20 percent; in April of 2021, up to 60 percent.

In September 2019, Iran announced it would no longer be bound by any research and development limitations on advanced centrifuges. They started that research again.

In November 2019, Iran announced that it would start enriching uranium at Fordow up to 4.5 percent. Under the JCPOA, enrichment at Fordow was prohibited for 15 years. By January of last year, Iran was enriching uranium to 20 percent at Fordow.

And in November of 2020, Iran's Parliament passed a bill requiring the country to build that new heavy water reactor at Arak that allows them a path to plutonium. Once built, that reactor will be capable of producing enough plutonium annually for two nuclear weapons.

And since February of this year, Iran has been restricting that IAEA access to its facilities. It no longer complies with the additional protocols. So if you ask for access to a site in which you think there is new nuclear research activity being undertaken, Iran no longer feels obligated to grant that access.

Iran went to a breakout time of 2 to 3 months to a breakout time under the agreement of more than a year, to, today, a breakout time of 2 months—arguably less than the breakout time prior to the deal.

But it is important to also note that during these last 4 years, none of Iran's other malevolent activities in the region have abated. In fact, arguably, they have gotten worse. Iran continues to support proxy armies in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon. In fact, their connection with Hezbollah in Lebanon and with the Houthis in Yemen is probably stronger today than it was during the JCPOA.

After President Trump backed out of the JCPOA, Iran restarted attacks on U.S. troops. Now, Iran has been engaged in permanent destabilizing activities in Iraq since the outset of that war, but during the period of time that we were in the JCPOA, they were not shooting directly at U.S. troops. Their proxy armies had stood down. Once we were outside of the JCPOA, those attacks started again. In fact, one rocket that was sent by a proxy army at a U.S. staff base in Iraq could have killed 100 U.S. troop members. It just narrowly missed.

The Iranians have undertaken attacks against the Saudis that they never would have contemplated while the JCPOA was in effect, taking action against Saudi oil facilities, including a high-profile attack against Saudi Aramco.

And their proxy armies, similarly, are firing at our friends in the Gulf. Just in the last few months, we have seen an increased level of drone attacks and missile attacks against Saudi Arabia and the UAE from inside Yemen.

One of my Republican colleagues here in this body claimed that Trump's Iran policy had "restored deterrence." That is a laughable proposition because it did exactly the opposite. Once we got out of that agreement, Iran started their nuclear research program to the point that it is stronger than it was prior to the JCPOA in some ways. They didn't stop any of their other destabilizing activity. It got worse, and they didn't come back to the table.

The whole point of the critics of the Obama policy was that if we had just kept on applying sanctions, Iran would come to the table on everything. Trump tried it. It didn't work. Iran didn't come to the table on anything.

Their actions in the region, their actions against the United States, their nuclear research program just got more serious and worse.

Listen, diplomacy is not weakness. News flash: Occasionally there are diplomatic agreements that are in the best interests of the United States, and the JCPOA was inarguably one of them. The data tells a clear story.

Iran wasn't a good actor during the JCPOA. They were still engaged in all sorts of deleterious activity. But Donald Trump inherited the ability to use

that coalition that was built to build the JCPOA to take on that other activity. He inherited a nuclear research program which was controlled, and he threw it all away.

What is interesting is that many of our allies who were very skeptical of the JCPOA when it was signed are now very supportive of the United States reentering it. It tells you that they see the same story that I am telling you.

Our Gulf allies, who were among the most vocal opponents of the JCPOA in 2014 and 2015, sent out a joint statement urging "a mutual return to full compliance of the JCPOA." This was a deal that the Gulf nations opposed, and they now support the United States entering back into it.

And a cavalcade of Israeli officials—former intelligence and defense officials who can now feel freer to speak about their personal views—have been equally clear about the need to get back into this agreement.

Tamir Pardo was the former director of Mossad. For 5 years he directed the Mossad. He said:

What happened in 2018 was a tragedy. It was an unforgivable strategy, the fact that Israel pushed the United States to withdraw from the agreement 10 years early. It was a strategic mistake.

Amos Yadlin, the former chief of the IDF military intelligence unit, a job he held for 4 years, said: "If we want to be honest, what postponed Iranian progress towards achieving nuclear weapons was the nuclear agreement—and not military action. . . . [Iran is] closer now than they have ever been before. And that is because of the very wrong policy . . ." of withdrawing from the agreement.

Gadi Eisenkot, former IDF chief of staff said that "the fact that the U.S. withdrew in 2018 from the . . . deal released Iran from all restrictions and inspections in the deal, even if there were holes [in the agreement], and brought Iran to the most advanced position today with regard to its nuclear program."

And so, so many of our friends in the region see the need to get back into this agreement. The status quo is not acceptable.

Now, it is not going to be easy because there are elements of Iran's progress in nuclear research that are difficult, if not impossible, to undo given how much new research, how many advanced centrifuges they have built since President Trump left the agreement.

And, quite frankly, there are some sanctions that we have applied to Iran since the nuclear agreement that we aren't going to release, because we told the Iranians and the world that we were going to apply sanctions to Iran relevant to their ballistic missile program and their support for terrorist organizations, and we did that—some of them under President Trump. Those aren't going to go away.

But it is important for the Biden administration to see that many of the

sanctions that Trump put in place during that period of time may have sounded good, but they had no impact on Iranian behavior.

I would put on that list the sanctioning of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard and the sanctioning of the Supreme Leader. These aren't good people, but those sanctions didn't change Iran's behavior for the better. In fact, during that period of time, their behavior got worse. Their nuclear research program became more advanced. And so, if releasing those designations or sanctions are required in order to make the world safer and get Iran back into the nuclear box, then I hope the administration will give serious consideration.

I hope the administration understands the vital importance of getting back into this agreement and being willing to do the tough things in order to achieve a new nuclear agreement with the Iranians.

The Iranians are going to have to make concessions as well. The Iranians are going to have to make some serious changes to their current scope of nuclear research. But it is the only way to unlock sanctions relief for a country that badly needs it. There is no way for the current President of Iran to make good on all the promises he made without the sanctions relief.

But time is of the essence. Time is of the essence. President Biden promised to restart diplomacy with Iran to make the world a safer place by getting back into a nuclear agreement. This is the moment to do it, and I would urge the administration to take all of the smart steps necessary in order to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, making the region and the world a safer place.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Connecticut.

ORDER OF BUSINESS—MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I yield back all time on the motion to discharge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Duly noted.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Calendar No. 362, Homer L. Wilkes, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment; that the cloture motion be withdrawn; that the Senate vote on the nomination without any intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Homer L. Wilkes, of Mississippi, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment.

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

PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wilkes nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MURPHY. 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 **PRESIDING OFFICER.** Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID FERRIERO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is appropriate to take a moment here in the Senate to recognize David Ferriero, the 10th Archivist of the United States. Mr. Ferriero has held the top position at the National Archives since 2009, overseeing the maintenance and preservation of critical documents like the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, along with 10 million maps, 13 million pages of text, and tens of millions of photographs. On January 13, 2022, Mr. Ferriero announced his intention to retire in April.

Prior to his nomination and confirmation to be Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero spent decades as a librarian and library administrator for some of the largest research institutions and public library networks. After service in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam war, Mr. Ferriero worked as a librarian at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for over three decades. In 1996, he moved to North Carolina, where he served as the vice provost for library affairs at Duke University, where he helped to develop the Triangle Research Library Network to facilitate greater access to research materials and collaboration across universities. Later, Mr. Ferriero was appointed the Andrew W. Mellon director and chief executive of the research libraries of the New York Public Library system.

David Ferriero was nominated by President Obama and confirmed to be Archivist of the United States by the Senate in November 2009. Throughout his tenure as the leader of the National Archives, Mr. Ferriero made it his goal to bring the Archives and its vast range of historical records into the 21st century. He focused on digitizing the Archives' materials and improving availability of these materials online so that more Americans could access and benefit from these primary source records. Under his leadership, the Na-

tional Archives also embraced social media and worked hard to bring more Americans into the creation, organization, and maintenance of our Nation's history and records.

The documents and records maintained by the National Archives reflect the foundation and continuing story of our democracy and our Nation. They outline and define the evolution of the United States, documented throughout the pages of history, and preserved at the Archives as original source material. At this critical juncture in our endless march toward a more perfect union, our history becomes even more instructive.

Mr. Ferriero's commitment to making our Nation's archives more open and more available to all of us is to be commended and will be a hallmark of his tenure as the Archivist of the United States. I wish Mr. Ferriero and his wife, Gail, all the best in the next chapter of their lives.

I ask unanimous consent that a profile of Mr. Ferriero, appearing in *The Washington Post* on January 13, 2022, be printed in the *RECORD*.

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

[From the *Washington Post*, Jan. 13, 2022]

DAVID S. FERRIERO, ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES, IS RETIRING
(By Michael E. Ruane)

David S. Ferriero, who has been the archivist of the United States for more than a decade under three presidents, is planning to retire in April.

Ferriero, 76, has been head of the National Archives and Records Administration since he was appointed by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the Senate in 2009.

"It has been the honor of a lifetime," Ferriero wrote in a note to his staff Wednesday. "My time here has been filled with opportunities, challenges, and awesome responsibilities. . . . I am humbled and awestruck and so deeply grateful—grateful to all of you."

In addition to housing national treasures such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the National Archives holds 13 billion pages of text, 10 million maps, charts and drawings, as well as tens of millions of photographs, films and other records.

The archives is also responsible for the nation's 13 brick-and-mortar presidential libraries.

Before coming to the agency, Ferriero was director of the New York Public Libraries and served in top positions at the libraries of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Duke University. A native of Beverly, Mass., he served as a Navy hospital corpsman during the Vietnam War.

A self-described introvert, he is reserved and has a dry sense of humor. On his watch in 2014, the National Archives held its first sleepover.

He has pushed the digitization of the archives, and he embraced social media. In November, he noted in a blog post, "We know that not everyone can come to our facilities [for research] and providing these records online democratizes access."

He has also promoted the role of "citizen archivists" who volunteer to transcribe and review historic documents online.

"I have met or known half of all Archivists of the United States . . . and none has done

better" than Ferriero, historian Michael Beschloss tweeted.

One of the items framed in Ferriero's office is a copy of a letter he wrote to President John F. Kennedy when he was in high school. The letter had been found at the Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston.

The future archivist asked about the Peace Corps and requested a photo of JFK.

Later, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library found two letters Ferriero had written to President Eisenhower as a youngster, and the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library found one he had written to President Johnson. Ferriero had them framed in his office, too.

In 2020, the National Archives faced criticism when it posted in its headquarters building an exhibit with a picture that had been altered to blur out words suggesting criticism of President Donald Trump.

The large color photograph, designed to celebrate the centennial of women's suffrage, showed a massive protest crowd on Pennsylvania Avenue during the Women's March on Jan. 21, 2017, the day after Trump's inauguration. The original photo had been altered to obscure some words on signs held by marchers.

A placard that proclaimed "God Hates Trump" had "Trump" blotted out so that it read "God Hates." A sign that read "Trump & GOP—Hands Off Women" had the word "Trump" blurred out.

Less than 24 hours after *Washington Post* reporter Joe Heim pointed out the alterations, the National Archives apologized.

"We made a mistake," it said in a statement. "As the National Archives of the United States, we are and have always been completely committed to preserving our archival holdings, without alteration."

"We were wrong to alter the image," it said. "We apologize, and will immediately start a thorough review of our exhibit policies and procedures so that this does not happen again."

The altered picture was removed and replaced with an unaltered one.

"Our credibility, so important to our mission, understandably has been questioned," Ferriero wrote on his blog. "I take full responsibility for this decision and the broader concerns it has raised . . . [and] pledge to restore public confidence in this great institution."

The National Archives is headquartered in a massive 84-year-old granite and limestone landmark on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington's Federal Triangle. A "temple to American history," Ferriero called it.

The agency also has a large, more modern complex in College Park, Md.

Deputy Archivist Debra Steidel Wall will serve as acting archivist until the president nominates and the Senate confirms a successor.

"It is not easy to leave you with our important work continuing, especially initiatives to foster equity and enhance the employee and customer experiences," Ferriero told his staff. "However, our profession is one of stewardship, where despite our enduring responsibilities, we are here for what amounts to a brief period of time."

RECOGNIZING LANDMARK MAPLE WOODCRAFT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the holiday season having just passed is a wonderful reminder that the products of many small, local businesses often make the best gifts. I would like to take some time today to highlight Maple Landmark Woodcraft, a

Vermont business that I have turned to year after year for gifts for our children, grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

Today, Maple Landmark is one of the most prominent handmade wooden toy manufacturers in the United States. However, like many businesses, it started small, in Mike Rainville's family woodshop in rural Vermont in the 1980s. Mike's business began with building and selling mostly cribbage boards and tic-tac-toe games, but quickly grew to encompass a wide range of toys, games, puzzles, and home decorations. Among Maple Landmark's most famous products are the wooden letter train sets that have graced the bedrooms of millions of children across the country. They are also in the Leahy homes.

Over the past 40 years, due to its beautiful craftsmanship and joyful products, Maple Landmark has been able to expand its sales operation to toy stores and distributors throughout the United States and abroad. All the while, it has maintained all manufacturing and sourcing operations in Vermont, at their facility in Middlebury. Mike and his team's devotion to their craft has allowed for the development of a strong homegrown business in Vermont that has helped to show the world all that our State has to offer.

In March 2020, as much of the world shut down and many families and children began learning, working, and spending more time at home, the popularity of Maple Landmark's toys and games exploded. Facing an unprecedented increase in orders from across the United States, Maple Landmark has been firing on all cylinders. This past holiday season was its busiest yet.

Unfortunately, Landmark Maple has not been immune to the labor shortages that continue to strain businesses nationwide. While labor shortages are nothing new for many businesses across rural communities in Vermont, those brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic have been particularly challenging. The inability to find a sustainable workforce coupled with the greater effort necessary to recruit and train new workers has made it more difficult for Landmark Maple to take advantage of rising demand that would otherwise be a boon for the business.

The story of Landmark Maple is far from unique, and it reaffirms that we need to do all we can to control the pandemic, vaccinate the population, and fully restore the economy. Everyone who can get vaccinated must get vaccinated. Everyone who is eligible for a booster shot, must get their booster shot. If we make these responsible choices and continue to prioritize the collective health and safety of our families and communities, more Americans will be willing and able to enter, reenter, and remain in the workforce. In doing so, we will be able to ensure that businesses like Maple Landmark Woodcraft can continue to operate and

contribute to their communities for years to come.

Maple Landmark was profiled in a November 10, 2021, article published in the Washington Post. I ask unanimous consent that the article titled, "Ho, ho, no: For maker of wooden toys, the struggle ahead of Christmas is not finding supplies, but finding workers" be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 10, 2021]

HO, HO, NO: FOR MAKER OF WOODEN TOYS, THE STRUGGLE AHEAD OF CHRISTMAS IS NOT FINDING SUPPLIES, BUT FINDING WORKERS
(By Jeanne Whalen)

With eight weeks to go until Christmas, tensions were running high at one of Vermont's oldest toymakers. As hammers fell on hardwood and machine tools cut train engines, managers gathered around a table to confront a daunting list of unfilled orders.

"We need 32 sets of chess pieces. I don't have 32 sets," assembly supervisor Anne Cummings told half a dozen colleagues, sparking a quick discussion of when the items might appear.

"Umm, hobby horses? We'll want at least three to get finished by tomorrow at the latest," process engineer Adam Rainville told the workshop foreman.

Unlike much of the toy industry, Maple Landmark isn't suffering from a lack of imported materials as global supply lines buckle. The maker of wooden toys gets nearly all its lumber from nearby mills and has little trouble buying lacquer, paint and sandpaper from its Vermont suppliers.

As it fields an unprecedented crush of orders, the main factor holding it back is a shortage of workers.

"We're just really, really busy and hiring workforce is a challenge," said Mike Rainville, who founded the business 40 years ago. "We could use more in assembly. We can use more in the shop. I mean, really, any production position we can probably use help in."

Rainville has been trying for weeks to hire three or four workers to add to his crew of 46, but competition is fierce. The cheese factory up the road has eight open positions. The cidery next door and the teddy bear factory on Route 7 have large "Help Wanted" signs outside. Maple Landmark has raised its average wage rate by more than 7 percent over the last year, Rainville said—the average production worker earns over \$15 an hour—but some local companies with deeper pockets are offering signing bonuses, a perk Rainville said he can't afford to match.

With an unemployment rate of only 2.9 percent, Vermont is an extreme example of a problem plaguing employers across the country. In some regions, a shortage of workers is more challenging to Christmas preparations than the global scarcity of semiconductors or the cargo deluge overwhelming ports.

A nationwide shopping spree is exacerbating the strain on companies like Maple Landmark. Flush with cash from nearly two years of forgoing restaurant meals and travel, Americans are bingeing on products—electronics, clothes, gifts and anything else they can click into an online shopping cart.

In September, household spending on goods was 14 percent higher than it was as the pandemic was beginning in February 2020, according to David Wilcox, an economist with the Peterson Institute for International Economics. If normal pre-pandemic trends had continued, demand for goods would be only 5 percent higher now, he said.

Maple Landmark felt the surge as soon as it began. In early 2020, Rainville was grumbling to his staff about the surplus of Chinese checkers sets gathering dust in inventory. But by April and May, as Americans were trapped indoors under lockdown, "we sold hundreds of them," he said.

A rush of online orders last year nearly made up for the collapse in Maple Landmark's sales to shuttered retailers. Now, with many shops having reopened, "we're getting hit from all sides," Rainville said. "Every week we are falling further behind our incoming orders."

Recently, the company stopped taking Christmas orders from new retailers so it could focus on its existing retail clients.

Maple Landmark has searched for workers the conventional way—with posts on the employment website Indeed.com—and the quirky Vermont way, with a sign near its kindling pile behind the shop.

The company leaves wood scraps there for anyone to take. This summer, Rainville tacked a piece of paper to the shed: "Help Wanted. Employees get dibs on scrap wood! Apply inside."

That brought in a few candidates, leading to one hire. But other interviews led nowhere, perhaps because workers have so many choices, Rainville said.

"People come in thinking that, gosh, making toys, that sounds like fun," he said. "Once they take a tour through the shop or something, they say, 'Okay, this is work.' And then, maybe if we had interest, we'd call them in for a second interview and they don't respond."

It's also hard to find people good at working with their hands, Rainville said, a phenomenon he attributes to the decline in farming life, which taught people to fix and build things.

Vermont demographics—an aging population and a shrinking workforce—were already working against employers before the pandemic. With the new consumption surge, competition for workers has become extreme.

A few months ago, Rainville found himself vying with the local school bus company for one employee.

"We almost came close to getting her on full-time in the summer, and then the bus company called her up and said, 'We need you in the fall and we're going to pay you anything to have you.'"

Signs of the problem are everywhere. In nearby Burlington, several long shelves at a CVS Pharmacy were bare, including large sections missing school supplies and ibuprofen. An employee said the pharmacy couldn't find enough workers to stock the shelves, while a sign on the door said the store was trimming its opening hours due to staffing shortages.

Shopping at the CVS was Devlin Cahill-Garcia, a 20-year-old community college student who earns \$13 an hour working at a shop on the other side of town. "I do have a job at the moment, but I'm trying to find a better one, which is easier than ever now," he said.

When covid hit, some of Cahill-Garcia's friends at the University of Vermont quit their part-time jobs in Burlington. Many haven't returned, possibly because their parents can support them, he said. "After being unemployed so long, I don't think a lot of people want to go back to work," he said.

Down the road, Lake Champlain Chocolates has asked its administrative staff, including marketing director Allyson Myers, to take shifts in the factory to keep up with holiday demand that is 20 percent higher than in 2019.

"This has been a kind of organization-wide call of, 'Okay, administrative team, we need you to step up and help us because we are

short," said Myers, who has pitched in bagging Hanukkah gelt and peppermint patties. The family-owned company also held its first job fair this month to try to fill about 20 openings and has raised its manufacturing starting wage by about 10 percent since last year, said Myers, who called the labor shortage a bigger problem than supply-chain issues.

Matt Parker, head of sales at Danforth Pewter, a workshop and retail business that sells ornaments and home decor, agreed with that assessment. The company has had no trouble getting pewter from its Rhode Island supplier but has struggled to fill about eight openings in production, customer service and retail, Parker said.

The company has raised wages this year—by 5 to 10 percent, he estimated—and is offering bonuses to new and existing employees. Parker said he doesn't know why it has been so hard to hire, but guessed that the pandemic "obviously threw a lot of people off entering the workforce" and made them worry about getting infected.

At Maple Landmark, soaring demand and a lack of workers this summer stripped the company of its inventory, leaving it with little to fill the holiday rush. As a result, the woodworkers are making things to order as purchases roll in.

One of the company's biggest sellers is the "name train"—a chain of brightly colored letters on wheels that spell a child's name, between an engine and a caboose. Letters are everywhere in the workshop—an automated machine cutting a tray of O's, a worker putting wheels on a carton of red H's.

At the morning meeting, Cummings raised an urgent problem: They had run out of the letter E.

"Yellow E," clarified Rainville's mother, Pat Rainville, who works in production. The customer has specifically requested that color for that letter, so more would have to be made.

At her station downstairs, Pat Rainville motioned toward a wall of shelves that should have been stuffed with boxes holding every letter in a variety of hues. But many of the shelves were empty.

Things got so bad over one recent weekend that even the letter Q was in short supply, Mike Rainville said. "We know we're low when even Q's run out."

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, S. Con. Res. 14, the fiscal year 2022 congressional budget resolution, included authority in section 4009 to allow the chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust budget aggregates and committee allocations after the enactment of bipartisan infrastructure legislation. Similarly, the reserve fund in section 3003 allows the chairman to revise these levels as well as make adjustments to the pay-as-you-go ledger for legislation that would not increase the deficit over the period of 2022 to 2031.

H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was enacted on November 15, 2021, meets the conditions of being bipartisan infrastructure legislation. As a result, I am revising the budget spending aggregates and the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations by \$3,230 million in outlays resulting from the increase in contract authority included in that bill.

Furthermore, the combined budgetary impact of the direct spending and

revenue provisions in that bill reduce the deficit over 10 years. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 3684 will decrease nonemergency mandatory outlays by \$3.7 billion in 2022 and by almost \$90 billion over the period 2022 through 2031. Revenues will increase by more than \$8 billion in 2022 and more than \$50 billion over the period 2022 through 2031. As such, I am revising the spending and revenue aggregates and the allocation to the Committee on Environment and Public Works by the relevant amounts. I am also revising the Senate pay-as-you-go scorecard. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act also increased discretionary spending; that spending is designated as an emergency and is therefore excluded from enforceable budgetary spending levels and committee allocations.

Finally, section 4004 of the budget resolution allows the chairman to adjust budgetary levels for legislation containing disaster relief funding. I am increasing the outlay allocation to the Committee on Appropriations by \$89 million as a result of passage of H.R. 5305, the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, which was enacted on September 30, 2021.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

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

PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD FOR THE SENATE

[Revisions Pursuant to Section 3003 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022]
(\$ in billions)

	Balances
Current Balances:	
Fiscal Year 2022	7.144
Fiscal Years 2022–2026	7.079
Fiscal Years 2022–2031	0
Revisions:	
Fiscal Year 2022	–15.506
Fiscal Years 2022–2026	–82.969
Fiscal Years 2022–2031	–138.704
Revised Balances:	
Fiscal Year 2022	–8.362
Fiscal Years 2022–2026	–75.890
Fiscal Years 2022–2031	–138.704

Note: Adjustment reflects the direct spending and revenue implications of H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Pursuant to section 3110 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the FY 2016 budget resolution, the adjustment excludes \$21 billion over ten years of increased enterprise guarantee fees.

REVISIONS TO BUDGET AGGREGATES—BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS

(Pursuant to Sections 4004 & 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14)
(\$ in billions)

	2022
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	4,145.465
Outlays	4,504.246
Adjustment:	
Budget Authority	–2.226
Outlays	–3.692
Revised Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	4,143.239
Outlays	4,500.554

Note: The adjustment represents an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14 for a bipartisan infrastructure agreement that reduced direct spending budget authority and outlays but increased discretionary outlays, as well as an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4004 for additional disaster-related outlays from H.R. 5305. Pursuant to section 3110 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the FY 2016 budget resolution, the adjustment excludes \$2.9 billion of increased enterprise guarantee fees.

REVISIONS TO BUDGET REVENUE AGGREGATES

(Pursuant to Sections 3003 & 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)
(\$ in billions)

	2022	2022–2026	2026–2031
Current Revenue Aggregates	3,401.380	17,795.693	38,957.446
Adjustments	8.495	21.319	50.085
Revised Revenue Aggregates	3,409.875	17,817.012	39,007.531

Note: Adjustment includes additional revenue enacted in H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

REVISIONS TO ALLOCATION TO SENATE COMMITTEES

(Pursuant to Sections 3003 & 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022)
(\$ in billions)

	2022	2022–2026	2026–2031
Environment and Public Works:			
Budget Authority	48.743	243.930	492.473
Outlays	14.326	39.006	63.219
Revisions:			
Budget Authority	–2.226	14.580	72.681
Outlays	–7.011	–61.650	–88.619
Revised Environment & Public Works:			
Budget Authority	46.517	258.510	565.154
Outlays	7.315	–22.644	–25.400

Note: Adjustment includes additional direct spending budget authority and net outlay reductions enacted in H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Pursuant to section 3110 of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress), the FY 2016 budget resolution, the adjustment excludes \$21 billion over ten years of increased enterprise guarantee fees.

REVISIONS TO THE OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

(Pursuant to Sections 4004 & 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14)
(\$ in billions)

	Current Allocation	Adjustments	Revised Allocation
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	1,676.447	3.319	1,679.766

Note: The adjustment for outlays represents an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4009 of S. Con. Res. 14 for a bipartisan infrastructure agreement for \$3,230 million of additional outlays from the increased level of contract authority in H.R. 3684 and an adjustment pursuant to Sec. 4004 for \$89 million of additional disaster-related outlays from H.R. 5305.

REMEMBERING DR. LESTER CARTER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Dr. Lester Carter, who passed away on January 31, 2022, at the age of 90. Dr. Carter was a pharmacist who founded one of Milwaukee's first Black-owned pharmacies and worked there for over five decades.

Dr. Carter enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Korean war. He was sent to the Hospital Corpsman School in Portsmouth, VA, for training in healthcare and was later assigned to the USS *Tortuga* for 2 and a half years. After being discharged in 1954, he attended pharmacy school at Creighton University in Omaha, NE, and became the school's first African-American graduate in 1958. Dr. Carter worked at a "Whites only" pharmacy in Omaha for 6 years, only being allowed to work in the backroom out of public view.

After filling in at a pharmacy in Milwaukee, WI, Dr. Carter was offered a position at the store and moved to the city. He then began looking for his own store and found out about a pharmacy located on North 24th and West Burleigh where the owners wanted to retire. Dr. Carter purchased the pharmacy and set up shop in what at the time was a majority White and German neighborhood. Dr. Carter learned German phrases and quickly earned a great deal of respect and trust from his customers.

During his career on Burleigh Street, Dr. Carter always welcomed everyone with a smile. He touched thousands of lives in positive ways, making time to talk and get to know his customers well. Dr. Carter saw many children grow up and become adults during his career, and some went on to become pharmacists due to his influence.

Dr. Carter never retired after his pharmacy merged with Hayat, working part-time as the pharmacy's herbal specialist. Recognizing people's concern for medication side effects he developed 12 herbal formulas to resolve health issues his customers were having. He always listened to customer concerns and invested himself into the care of the community.

Dr. Carter served as an example for Milwaukee on how to break down barriers. He treated everyone with dignity and respect. A common consensus was that once you left his store, you were already feeling better just by being in his presence. In 2018, North 24th Street was named in his honor. While Dr. Carter will be missed, he will be remembered by the generations of families he helped take care of and by the community he helped shape.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PATTI ANNE LODGE

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my colleague Senator Jim Risch, we honor Idaho State Senator Patti Anne Lodge for her 22 years of service in the Idaho State Senate.

Senator Lodge, an educator for 35 years and agribusiness owner, is a dedicated servant of the community. Her determination and patience are hallmarks of her attentive problem solving. The list of committees, councils, task forces and boards she has led and devoted her time and talents to is extensive and diverse. They include her chairmanship of three senate committees: State affairs; judiciary and rules; and health and welfare. She has also cochaired the joint millennium fund committee and criminal justice reinvestment oversight committee, to name some of her many other leadership roles.

Her service stretches far beyond the State senate and well into the communities she represents, as she has served on the Boys & Girls Club Advisory Committee, Idaho Meth Project Advisory Board, Nampa Chamber of Commerce, Caldwell Chamber of Commerce, and so much more. She has led local Republicans with distinction, serving as precinct chairman, Canyon County GOP chairman, president of the Idaho Federation of Republican Women, on the board of the National Republican Women, and more.

It is no surprise she has earned many awards and recognitions for her committed service. They include her recognition as the Idaho Republican Senator of the Year in 2010 and Idaho Fra-

ternal Order of Police Legislator of the Year in 2014, her induction into the Idaho Republican Hall of Fame and so many more honors.

Throughout, Senator Lodge has worked hard to be a good steward of tax dollars, promoted jobs and educational opportunities, backed personal accountability and responsibility, and, overall, she has been a thoughtful, steadfast advocate for Canyon County residents, including the small family farmers and ranchers who call this wonderful part of our State home.

Thank you, Senator Lodge, for you decades of service on behalf of Idahoans. In addition, thank you to your friends and loved ones, especially your husband Edward J. Lodge; children Mary-Jeanne, Edward R. and Anne-Marie; and grandchildren, who have shared your time with our great State all these years. We congratulate you on your extraordinary career and wish you well.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4445. An act to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

At 11:37 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 583. An act to promote innovative acquisition techniques and procurement strategies, and for other purposes.

At 5:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3076. An act to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6617. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 4445. An act to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 3076. An act to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6617. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

S. 3600. A bill to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

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-3080. 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 39-21828" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1008)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3081. 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; General Electric Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-21765" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0273)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3082. 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; Pratt & Whitney Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-21792" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0661)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3083. 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 39-21827" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3084. 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 39-21791" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0545)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3085. 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; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-21797" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0382)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3086. 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 39-21796" ((RIN2120-AA64) (FAA-2021-0262)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3087. 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; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0613)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3088. 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 C Airspace; Columbus, OH" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0807)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3089. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Tacoma Narrows Airport, WA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0925)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3090. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Oil Pipeline Repairs; San Pedro Bay, CA" ((RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0911)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3091. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Frantic Inc Chase Center Fireworks, San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0865)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3092. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Potomac River, Between Charles County, MD and King George County, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0906)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3093. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Tchefuncte River, Madisonville, LA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0808)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3094. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Houston Ship Channel, Houston, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0883)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3095. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Ohio River, Olmsted, IL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0495)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3096. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0876)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3097. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Oil Pipeline Repairs; San Pedro Bay, CA" ((RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0784)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3098. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulated Navigation Area; Biscayne Bay Causeway Island Slip, Miami Beach, FL" ((RIN1625-AA11) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0077)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3099. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; San Juan Bay for Jurakan Triathlon, San Juan, PR." ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0775)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3100. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0768)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3101. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Potomac River, Between Charles County, MD and King George County, VA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0745)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3102. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Ogeechee River, Richmond Hill, GA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0596)) received in the

Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3103. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations; Recurring Marine Events within the Fifth Coast Guard District" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2020-0332)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3104. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Munitions Transfer; Alameda, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0801)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3105. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Atlantic Ocean, Key West, FL" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0582)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3106. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; San Diego Bay, San Diego, CA" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0804)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3107. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Indiana Harbor Canal, East Chicago, IN" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0332)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3108. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Qualifications of Drivers; Vision Standard" (RIN2126-AC17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3109. 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, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3110. 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, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3111. 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 Assistant Secretary

for Aviation and International Affairs, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3112. 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 Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3113. 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 Maritime Administrator, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3114. 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 Maritime Administrator, Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3115. 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, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3116. 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, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3117. 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, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3118. 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 Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3119. 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 Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3120. 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 Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3121. 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 Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3122. 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 Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3123. 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 Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3124. 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 Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3125. 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 Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3126. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Portland, OR" (MB Docket No. 21-130) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3127. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Henderson, Nevada" (MB Docket No. 21-124) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3128. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Fort Bragg, California" (MB Docket No. 21-123) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3129. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Monroe, Louisiana" (MB Docket No. 21-126) received in the Office

of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3130. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services; Hazard, Kentucky" (MB Docket No. 21-125) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3131. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Political Programming and Record-Keeping Rules" (MB Docket No. 21-293) (FCC 22-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3132. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nitrpyrin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9419-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3133. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Alcohols, C10-16, ethoxylated, sulfates, mono(hydroxyethyl)ammonium salts (CAS No. 157627-92-4); Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9326-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3134. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cyprodinil; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9301-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3135. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Thiabendazole; Pesticide Tolerances; Technical Correction" (FRL No. 9352-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3136. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ethaboxam; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9331-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 18, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3137. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 9086-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3138. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acetic acid ethenyl ester, polymer with ethene, N-

(hydroxymethyl)-2-propenamide, and 2-propenamide; (AM-E-NMA-VA); Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 9231-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3139. 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 Burma that was declared in Executive Order 14014 of February 10, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3140. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3141. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Mali that was declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3142. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3143. A communication from the Senior Counsel, Bureau of the Fiscal Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Government Participation in the Automated Clearing House" (RIN1530-AA26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3144. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations" (RIN3064-AF79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3145. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustments" (12 CFR Part 1083) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3146. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustments to Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3147. A communication from the Acting Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Iraq; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3148. A communication from the Congressional Affairs Director, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Export-Import Bank of the United States, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 31, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3149. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Strategic Plan for the period of 2022 through 2026 received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3150. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3151. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Definition of Showerhead" (RIN1904-AE85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3152. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Appliance Standards: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces and Commercial Water Heaters" (RIN1904-AE39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3153. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Test Procedure Interim Waiver Process" (RIN1904-AE24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3154. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Appliance Standards: Procedures, Interpretations, and Policies for Consideration in New or Revised Energy Conservation Standards and Test Procedures for Consumer Products and Commercial/Industrial Equipment" (RIN1904-AF13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3155. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Product Classes for Residential Dishwashers, Residential Clothes Washers, and Consumer Clothes Dryers" (RIN1904-AF14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3156. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Final Determination of Fans and Blowers as Covered Equipment" (RIN1905-AC55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3157. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of

Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Clothes Dryers" (RIN1904-AD46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3158. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Metal Halide Lamp Fixtures" (RIN1904-AD89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3159. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Distribution Transformers" (RIN1904-AE19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3160. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Refrigeration Products" (RIN1904-AD84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 1, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

Report to accompany S. 497. A bill to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-68).

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 3541. A bill to improve health care and services for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

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 Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3593. A bill to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend certain telehealth services covered by Medicare and to evaluate the impact of telehealth services on Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3594. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to hold violent criminals and child predators accountable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3595. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3596. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to disregard State expenditures on health services initiatives to increase access to behavioral health services for children in schools for purposes of the reimbursement limitation on expenditures under the Children's Health Insurance Program that are not related to Medicaid or health insurance assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3597. A bill to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3598. A bill to require issuers filing annual reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission to disclose whether the issuers have connections with the Chinese Communist Party, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3599. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Internal Revenue Service from requiring taxpayers to provide biometric information; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3600. A bill to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3601. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to include breast pumps and other lactation supplies and equipment in disaster relief and emergency response; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 3602. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to prohibit the use of certain identification documents at airport security checkpoints, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3603. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of veterans to access medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community by providing veterans the ability to choose health care providers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 506. A resolution supporting the goals of National Catholic Schools Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. Res. 507. A resolution designating February 1, 2022, as "Blue Star Mother's Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 407

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to provide redress to the employees of Air America.

S. 564

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 564, a bill to prohibit Members of Congress from purchasing or selling certain investments, and for other purposes.

S. 1284

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1284, a bill to establish the Amache National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to promote innovative approaches to outdoor recreation on Federal land and to increase opportunities for collaboration with non-Federal partners, and for other purposes.

S. 2081

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2081, a bill to improve the structure of the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 2342

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2342, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration of disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

S. 2405

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2405, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2410

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2410, a bill to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 2424

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2424, a bill to make available \$250,000,000 from the Travel Promotion Fund for the Corporation for Travel Promotion.

S. 2786

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2786, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to address the inappropriate or unlawful denial by the Department of Veterans Affairs of benefits and services for former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged or released from the active military, naval, or air service under conditions characterized as neither dishonorable nor honorable, and for other purposes.

S. 3018

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3103

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 3103, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate the statute of limitations for the filing of a civil claim for any person who, while a minor, was a victim of a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241(c), 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of such title.

S. 3208

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3208, a bill to establish the Office of Supply Chain Resiliency within the Department of Commerce to provide expansion support to companies and supply chains in the United States that are vulnerable to shortages and price increases, and for other purposes.

S. 3213

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3213, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 3281

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3281, a bill to amend the Bill

Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act to clarify and expand food donation, and for other purposes.

S. 3282

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3282, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act to authorize grants for smart water infrastructure technology, and for other purposes.

S. 3447

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3447, a bill to authorize the National Service Animals Monument Corporation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 3494

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3494, a bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents to place certain assets into blind trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 3522

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3522, a bill to provide enhanced authority for the President to enter into agreements with the Government of Ukraine to lend or lease defense articles to that Government to protect civilian populations in Ukraine from Russian military invasion, and for other purposes.

S. 3523

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3523, a bill to amend the STOCK Act to require the public availability of financial disclosure forms of certain special consultants and information relating to certain confidential filers, and for other purposes.

S. 3538

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3538, a bill to establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 3546

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3546, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 3554

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 3554, a bill to establish an alternative use of certain Federal education funds when in-person instruction is not available.

S. 3573

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3573, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to seek to enter into negotiations with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office to rename its office the "Taiwan Representative Office", and for other purposes.

S. 3580

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3580, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to prohibited acts by ocean common carriers or marine terminal operators, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 334

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 334, a resolution memorializing those impacted by and lost to the COVID-19 virus.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3596. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to disregard State expenditures on health services initiatives to increase access to behavioral health services for children in schools for purposes of the reimbursement limitation on expenditures under the Children's Health Insurance Program that are not related to Medicaid or health insurance assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THUNE. 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. 3596

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 "CHIP School Behavioral Health Incentive Act".

SEC. 2. DISREGARD OF STATE EXPENDITURES ON HEALTH SERVICES INITIATIVES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS FOR PURPOSES OF THE CHIP REIMBURSEMENT LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES NOT USED FOR MEDICAID OR HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE.

Section 2105(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397ee(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) DISREGARD OF EXPENDITURES FOR HEALTH SERVICES INITIATIVE FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SCHOOLS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of enactment of this subparagraph (or, if earlier, the fiscal year in which guidance issued by the Secretary to implement this subparagraph takes effect), the amount of any expenditures described in clause (ii) for a fiscal year shall be disregarded for purposes of applying the limitation under subparagraph (A) for such fiscal year, except that in no case shall the amount of payment that may be made under subsection (a) for a fiscal year for expenditures subject to such limitation (including expenditures described in clause (ii)) exceed 15 percent.

"(ii) EXPENDITURES DESCRIBED.—Expenditures described in this clause are expenditures by a State to implement or operate a health services initiative under the State child health plan under this title that would improve the health of children by increasing access to behavioral health services in schools."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 506—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S.RES. 506

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and provide students with more than just an exceptional education;

Whereas Catholic schools instill a broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in young people in the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools serve the United States by providing a strong academic and moral foundation to a diverse student population from all regions of the country and all socioeconomic backgrounds, and of that student population—

(1) 21.4 percent of students are from racial minority backgrounds;

(2) 18.6 percent of students are of Hispanic heritage; and

(3) 20.1 percent of students are from non-Catholic families;

Whereas Catholic schools are an affordable option for parents, particularly in underserved urban areas;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students who are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development;

Whereas Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who hold "helping others" as a core value;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2021–2022 academic year was more than 1,680,000 and the student-teacher ratio was 11.5 to 1;

Whereas the Catholic high school graduation rate is 98 percent, with 85.2 percent of graduates attending 4-year colleges;

Whereas the week of January 30, 2022, to February 5, 2022, has been designated as "National Catholic Schools Week" by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops;

Whereas National Catholic Schools Week was first established in 1974 and has been

celebrated annually for the past 48 years; and

Whereas the theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2022 is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." and reflects Catholic schools' purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, love God and neighbor, and enrich society with the leaven of the gospel and by example of faith: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of National Catholic Schools Week, an event—

(A) cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and

(B) established to recognize the vital contributions of the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States;

(2) applauds the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on their selection of a theme that all people can celebrate; and

(3) supports—

(A) the dedication of Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States to academic excellence; and

(B) the key role that Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the United States play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 507—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 1, 2022, AS "BLUE STAR MOTHER'S DAY"

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 507

Whereas, on January 22, 1942, in the midst of the Second World War, United States Army Captain George Maines ran an advertisement in the Flint News Observer calling for mothers of members of the Armed Forces to meet;

Whereas, on February 1, 1942, 300 mothers of members of the Armed Forces held their first meeting at the Durant Hotel in Flint, Michigan, and February 1, 2022, is the 80th anniversary of that meeting;

Whereas, on July 14, 1960, the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., received its charter from Congress;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers make enormous sacrifices while their sons and daughters are providing for the defense of the United States;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers pack and ship thousands of care packages every year to members of the Armed Forces deployed overseas, volunteer to help homeless veterans, provide support for wounded warriors, visit with hospitalized veterans, honor fallen heroes during funeral services, and offer a compassionate community for the mothers of men and women of the Armed Forces serving in harm's way;

Whereas Blue Star Mothers promote the values of the United States, demonstrate a patriotic spirit, and advance a national sense of pride and appreciation for the men and women of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas there are 208 active chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., throughout the United States representing thousands of military families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 1, 2022, as "Blue Star Mother's Day";

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.; and

(B) the important role Blue Star Mothers play in supporting each other and members and veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to observe Blue Star Mother's Day; and

(B) to support the work of local chapters of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I have 9 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a staff briefing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 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 Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

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 Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL COURTS, OVERSIGHT, AGENCY ACTION, AND FEDERAL RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and

Federal Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 506, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 506) supporting the goals of National Catholic Schools Week.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 506) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD (legislative day of Thursday, February 3, 2022) under "Submitted Resolutions.")

BLUE STAR MOTHER'S DAY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 507, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 507) designating February 1, 2022, as "Blue Star Mother's Day".

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

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 507) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution n, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD (legislative day of Thursday, February 3, 2022) under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3600, H.R. 3076, AND H.R. 6617

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I understand that there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3600) to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 3076) to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purpose.

A bill (H.R. 6617) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Mr. MURPHY. I would now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE AND THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF THE EURO-NATO JOINT JET PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 424.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 424) commemorating the 80th anniversary of the dedication of Sheppard Air Force Base and the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training Program.

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 424) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 20, 2021 under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, February 9; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclu-

sion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Bush nomination; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Nathan nomination and that following disposition of the Nathan nomination, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Bush nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the Bush nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MURPHY. 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, following the remarks of Senator PORTMAN.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this evening to urge that Congress speak with one voice, at a critical time, on an urgent matter.

The fight for freedom is being waged in Ukraine right now, and the outcome is going to have profound effects not just in Eastern Europe but around the globe.

Russia has invaded Ukraine twice in the last 8 years, illegally annexing Crimea, inserting troops and offensive military equipment into the Donbas region in the east. They have initiated cyber attacks against public and private entities in Ukraine, and they continue to use disinformation to try to destabilize the democratically elected government in Kyiv.

Now, the Russians have gone further by amassing more than 100,000 troops under the command of 100 tactical groups on Russia's Ukrainian border. This Russian deployment includes rockets, tanks, and artillery, and it is no longer just on the eastern border of Ukraine but now on the northern border, where Russian combat troops and heavy equipment have moved into Belarus and in Crimea in the Black Sea area.

Let me give a little history as to how we got here. Eight years ago, Ukraine made a choice. The people of Ukraine stood up to a corrupt Russian-backed government in 2014 and made a conscious decision to turn to the West—to the European Union, to the United States.

I was in Ukraine in 2014 shortly after what is called the Euromaidan or the Revolution of Dignity. When I was there in 2014, the Revolution of Dignity

barricades were still up, and in the center of town, the Maidan was still occupied by Ukrainian patriots who were determined that their country not go backwards.

The Ukrainian people at that time rejected authoritarianism. They said instead they were choosing democracy, freedom of speech, and freedom to gather, respect for the rule of law and free markets—turning to us.

Despite Russia's unrelenting efforts at destabilization over the past 8 years, the Ukrainian people are more committed than ever to an independent, sovereign, and democratic nation. And Ukrainians today are increasingly patriotic and opposed to the Russian efforts to destabilize their country. They don't want state control, repression, and fear; they choose liberty and prosperity.

Moscow would have the world believe that somehow this massive, unwarranted Russian buildup is about trying to shore up its border against threats from Ukraine and NATO. This is, of course, patently false. Ukraine's military posture has always been purely defensive, and, unlike Russia, Ukraine has up held its commitments under the Minsk agreements, which were designed to ensure a ceasefire in Eastern Ukraine in the Donbas region.

NATO, of course, is a defensive alliance and is no threat to Russian territorial integrity. NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg recently told reporters that the "significant movement" of Russian troops into Ukraine's neighbor, Belarus, is the "biggest Russian deployment there since the Cold War." And Russian troop numbers in Belarus are likely to climb to 30,000, with the backing of special forces, advanced fighter jets, short-range ballistic missiles, and S-400 ground-to-air missile defense systems. This is new.

By the way, Ukraine is not asking for us to fight these wars for them. They have been in a war with Russia over the past 8 years. They have lost over 14,000 Ukrainians to this battle, including at the line of contact, where there has been a hot conflict. I have been to the line of contact. I have seen it. I have seen where the Russian snipers have killed Ukrainian soldiers. I have talked to the soldiers from Ukraine, who are determined, committed, and patriotic.

Fourteen thousand people—if you compare the population of Ukraine to our population here in the United States of America, that would be the equivalent of us losing about 120,000 Americans over the past 8 years to an enemy. That is more people than we lost in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan combined. Think how we would feel. This is how the Ukrainians feel.

Ukraine is not asking, again, for us to fight their war for them, but they are asking for increased lethal military assistance to help defend themselves should Russia make a big mistake and decide to invade further into Ukraine.

When it comes to our allies, I have been pleased that most have really stepped up to help Ukraine during this crisis. The British have provided anti-tank missiles. When I was in Ukraine recently with the congressional delegation, as we left the airport—this was about 3 weeks ago—a cargo plane arrived—an American-made cargo plane—with weapons from the U.K. The United Kingdom was providing anti-tank weapons to Ukraine. I saw them being unloaded, and I saw the smiles on the faces of the Ukrainians knowing that this will give them a better chance to defend themselves. We appreciate the Brits.

The Canadians have helped, specifically recently providing important training on some of the new equipment they are getting. The Danes have helped with additional funding, and the Baltics have transferred weapons as well. Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have all been strongly supportive. Poland has been so supportive—and so many others.

We need all of our allies to step up like that—certainly all of our NATO allies but, really, all freedom-loving countries around the world. This is where the cause of freedom is being fought right now.

My hope is that Congress can come together and speak with one voice—Republicans and Democrats alike—pass bipartisan sanctions legislation and an aid package that sends a strong message of support to the Ukrainian people, a message that we stand with them in their fight for freedom but also sends a strong message to Russia that, if they choose to invade further, the armed conflict will carry a heavy cost, the sanctions will be devastating—and, finally, legislation that sends a strong message to the world that the United States stands with its allies in Eastern Europe and throughout freedom-loving countries across the world.

The time to speak is now, with one voice. The world is listening and watching.

JOHN H. LEAHR AND HERBERT M. HEILBRUN POST OFFICE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to come to the Senate floor today to speak in support of a bill sponsored by the entire Ohio delegation naming the post office in Avondale—of Cincinnati, OH—for two World War II aviators: John Leahr and Herbert Heilbrun.

These two remarkable men—one Black and one White—grew up in Avondale, which is a neighborhood which is part of Cincinnati, OH. They dreamed of flying and signed up for the Army Air Corps after Pearl Harbor. John Leahr flew the P-51 Mustang with the Tuskegee Airmen, and Herb Heilbrun flew the B-17 bomber.

The Tuskegee fighters were assigned to protect the bombers in the European theater. John and Herb worked together on some of the same missions, but as World War II airmen, they were segregated and did not interact. They didn't get to know each other until more than 50 years after the war ended.

In 1997, Herb Heilbrun discovered that an event for the Tuskegee Airmen was going to be held in downtown Cincinnati. He decided to stop by and thank the fighter pilots who helped protect him and his bomber and his bomber squad in Europe.

There, Herb met John Leahr, and the two men hit it off and discovered how much they had in common. They found out they had both grown up in Avondale and both spent time waiting for training working at the same engine plant: Wright Aeronautical in Lockland, OH. They realized they had been in the same third grade class at North Avondale Elementary School. Luckily, Herb had saved the class picture; and there, you can see them standing right next to each other, John and Herb.

Their friendship was obviously meant to be. John Leahr had long wanted to make sure people knew about the Tuskegee Airmen and their contributions during the war. Together, John and Herb shared their story with schoolchildren and adults, talking about how things were different in the past and promoting racial understanding and the rejection of bigotry today.

Here they are with a group of young people, Herb and John, with models of the airplanes that they flew.

The Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations honored them for their work in 2003, and in 2007, there was a book—“Black and White Airmen: Their True History”—and it recounts their story.

John died in 2015 at the age of 94. Herb died in 2020 at 100 years old.

I believe naming this post office in their neighborhood for John Leahr and Herb Heilbrun is a fitting way to honor the memory of this team, who served our country with bravery and distinction in World War II but then continued an important part of their public service long after their military service ended.

My hope is that this legislation will be passed by the Senate on a bipartisan basis and we can name this post office after these two remarkable men.

(Ms. HASSAN assumed the Chair.)

TRIBUTE TO ANGIE YOUNGEN

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, finally, I want to acknowledge someone who is in the Chamber tonight. I want to acknowledge her dedicated service. This is one of my senior staff members,

who is moving to Richmond, VA, to join the new Virginia Governor's administration.

Angie Youngen is an Ohio native and an Ashland University graduate—who is very proud of that—and who was the scheduler for my predecessor, Senator George Voinovich. I have had the good fortune of having her on my team. Her loyalty, hard work, and judgment over the past 8 years is deeply appreciated.

So, Angie Youngen, we will miss you here on Capitol Hill, but best of luck in your new adventure.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:57 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 8, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HOMER L. WILKES, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT.

THE JUDICIARY

JOHN P. HOWARD III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

LOREN L. ALIKHAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

CHANTALE YOKMIN WONG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMY GUTMANN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

LISA A. CARTY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations under the authority of the order of the Senate of 01/07/2009 and the nominations were placed on the Executive Calendar pursuant to S.Res. 116, 112th Congress:

*PARISA SALEHI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, EXPORT-IMPORT BANK.

*BRIAN MICHAEL TOMNEY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.

*Nominee has committed to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.