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Senate

The Senate met at 3:01 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O, God, our provider, we come to You in our weakness, seeking Your mercy and help.

Lord, give us this day the mercy and grace of Your love that we may become all You desire us to be. Empower our lawmakers to cherish Your precepts and obey Your Word.

Lord, keep them walking in the way everlasting. Strengthen them so to run that they may reach the destination You have chosen for their lives. Enable them so to strive that they may win the victor's crown. Prepare them so to keep the faith that they may persevere to the very end.

We pray in Your merciful 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 19, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. HIRONO 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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Florence Y. Pan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

INFLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Last week, the American people received yet another absolutely crushing—crushing—inflation report. More than a year after Washington Democrats' policies set off the worst overall inflation in 40 years, the prices of some of the most essential items for working families are skyrocketing at their fastest rates in a generation.

Electricity costs are rising faster than they have since 1981, and grocery

inflation has eclipsed a high from 1979. Parents trying to put food on the table are now contending with annual price hikes of 16.2 percent for a loaf of bread, 17 percent for a gallon of milk, and 40 percent more for a dozen eggs.

Now, the very same day this painful news broke, just a few hours later, Washington Democrats threw a party for themselves on the White House lawn, celebrating their economic policies.

You really can't make this stuff up.

The official numbers had just confirmed that American families have seen the single worst year for both food and electricity inflation since the fallout from Jimmy Carter. And the Democrats' response was to throw themselves a party—a party—for spending hundreds of billions of dollars more, raising taxes, and making working-class Americans pay off the loans of doctors and lawyers.

You might think the Biden administration couldn't possibly get any more out of touch. You would think that kind of display would have to take the cake. But alas, last night, on "60 Minutes," President Biden gave an almost comically out-of-touch interview on the inflation crisis.

The President argued—with a straight face—that the American people ought to be grateful for last month's terrible inflation report because it could have been even worse. Here was a quote:

Guess where we are? We're in a position where, in the last several months, [inflation] hasn't spiked.

Struggling Americans are supposed to be grateful that we have plateaued at a steady ongoing inflation rate of more than 8 percent? The President wants a round of applause for steadily clocking month after month after month of the worst inflation in 40 years?

The inflation rate plateauing does not mean that prices themselves have leveled off. It means that prices are

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



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still steadily climbing all the time, at a historically fast pace, the worst in a generation.

Month after month after month, Democrats' policy failures are continuing to add inflation on top of inflation. The inflation rate plateauing above 8 percent does not mean that families are catching a break. It means exactly the opposite. It means that families are continuing to see prices go up and up and up all the time.

Simply surviving, just getting by, in Washington Democrats' economy costs 8.3 percent more than it did a year ago, but remember, the 12-month numbers now dramatically understate the damage the Democrats have done because it only looks back 1 year, when Democrats' inflation spiral was already up and running.

Here is the number that really matters. Since the day that President Biden was sworn in, since the day that this one-party Democratic government took power, our country's inflation rate has been—listen to this—13.2 percent. And according to President Biden, if you are angry about that, if parents are upset, if workers are frustrated, they just aren't putting things in proper perspective.

Considering the American people give President Biden a 38-percent approval rating on his handling of the economy, I would say it is the White House that needs to get some perspective, not the working people of this country.

And get this: When President Biden was asked how we can avoid a recession, since Democrats' policies have forced the Fed to raise their rates sharply, the President doubled down on his fantasyland. He suggested:

[W]e're growing the economy . . . it's growing in . . . a way that it hasn't in years and years.

But, of course, that is complete nonsense. You measure real GDP growth after inflation. From early 2017 until the beginning of the COVID pandemic, Republican policies had the economy humming along with robust growth, low unemployment, and low inflation—a great trifecta for the American people.

But now, with President Biden's policies in place, we have seen two consecutive quarters of real GDP actually falling. Once you account for the inflation that Democrats have caused, our economy is not growing at all. It is, in fact, shrinking.

Families talk about the term “shrinkflation” at the grocery store or the big-box store. That means not only have prices gone up, but the size of the package has gone down so you are both paying more and getting less. Like the size of a bag of chips or a box of cookies or the number of sheets in a roll of toilet paper or the weight of a bag of fertilizer—higher prices, smaller quantities.

And this is basically what President Biden and Democrats have done to the entire U.S. economy. Everything costs

more, even as the GDP is shrinking in real terms. Just like American families have seen their real wages plummet after inflation, the same thing has happened to the country as a whole for two quarters and counting.

So the President might want to talk to a couple of working Americans who are trying to survive under his policies before he sits down for his next TV interview.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Illinois.

MARK FRERICHS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, 2½ years ago, a native of my home State of Illinois and a veteran of the U.S. Navy, Mark Frerichs, was abducted by the Taliban or one of its affiliates in Afghanistan.

He was working there as a contractor, and his disappearance was devastating to his family back in Lombard, IL.

Senator DUCKWORTH and I have spent countless hours and staff hours working with his family trying to find out what happened to Mark. We spoke to his sister Charlene and repeatedly raised his case with both the Trump and Biden administrations. We wanted to let them know we cared, and we joined the family on that course.

Well, today, the family's prayers have been answered. The news was released that Mark is coming home. I want to commend President Biden, Secretary of State Blinken, and their teams for never giving up on Mark and ultimately securing his freedom.

His sister Charlene said upon news of her brother's release that “[w]e never gave up hope that he would survive and come home safely to us.” She was right. And Mark was so fortunate to have her as his steadfast champion.

Welcome home, Mark Frerichs.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2022

Madam President, I listened to the comments that were just made by the Republican leader about events in Washington, the state of the economy, and it was interesting, the perspective he took. He was critical of President Biden for calling a meeting of several thousand supporters last week on the White House lawn from all over the United States to celebrate the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act here in the U.S. Senate and House. You know and I know there wasn't a single Republican vote in favor of the Inflation Reduction Act. Some 6 weeks ago, we did some things that, frankly, many of us had been hoping for a long time without a single Republican vote supporting it.

The Senator from Kentucky wondered what we were celebrating. Well,

let me tell him a few of the things we are celebrating.

After years of candidates going out on the campaign trail and telling America that the cost of prescription drugs were too high, we finally did something about it—finally. After years of negotiating the price for drugs in the Veterans' Administration so we could afford to give our veterans the very best, we applied the same standard to Medicare. What does it mean? It means that the most popular and most expensive drugs that are sold through Medicare to recipients over the age of 65, we are now going to negotiate the prices to come up with a reasonable amount to charge taxpayers for those drugs.

Well, if you wondered whether or not the pharmaceutical industry can handle that kind of truth, I might remind people what they already know. Exactly the same drugs in the same boxes are for sale in Canada at a fraction of the price that we pay in the United States. The same thing is true in Europe. And we said, once and for all, we are going to do something about it. I think that is something to celebrate.

Let me tell you something else that is part of it too. We said that, from this point forward, when this bill takes effect, no recipient on Medicare will ever pay more than \$2,000 a year for prescription drugs—upper limit, ceiling, 2,000 bucks. Do you know what these same people were faced with when it came to cancer drugs and other therapies? Thousands and thousands of dollars. And we brought it home to a level—which I wish we could have done more, but it is very important as well—and that is when it comes to diabetes. Millions of Americans suffer from diabetes or someone in their family does, and we said that if you are on Medicare, you won't have to pay more than \$35 for a dose of insulin—\$35. That is a relief to a lot of people with diabetes in their family. Some of those people couldn't afford insulin, couldn't afford the doses they need, and they endangered their life in the process.

In addition to all of that, we, in this bill, did, in fact, address the Tax Code. The Senator from Kentucky said earlier that we raised taxes. We did. Let me tell you who is going to pay more in taxes. If you own a corporation that over the last 3 years has had a net profit, an average net profit, of \$1 billion a year—I am not asking for a show of hands—but if you had a net profit that averaged over \$1 billion over the last 3 years, you have to pay a minimum corporate tax of—get ready—15 percent. Fifteen percent.

Most Americans pay their taxes believing that is what the law requires, and many believe, as I do, that is the price of admission in America for a great nation. Fifteen percent—we would all welcome that rate. There are very few people at that rate. But to say that a corporation with a net profit on average of \$1 billion a year over the last 3 years finally has to pay taxes instead of escaping all tax liability—

guilty as charged. The Senator from Kentucky is right. We did that. Do you know the net result of it? The net result of it, it is going to reduce the deficit this year by \$1.3 trillion.

All this talk about the big spenders in Congress, the bill we put together for inflation reduction zeroed in on those two issues: capping the cost of prescription drugs for Medicare and making certain that corporations, profitable corporations, pay their fair share of taxes just like every American family. Those two elements were not mentioned by the Senator from Kentucky. It is understandable. But what I want to make clear is, we didn't have a single Republican vote in support of what I have just given you.

There is an additional section there that is controversial, but I feel strongly about it. I think we are facing in this world today obvious evidence of extreme weather and changes that should alarm us. Yes, it is climate change. It is global warming. And what we did in this bill was to create incentives for American families and corporations to start taking steps toward responsible conduct. It is coming. It wasn't a Federal mandate that required all the car companies to build electric vehicles. They see the writing on the wall. They realize we have to change the way that we energize transportation in America, and they want to be in front of the parade, not behind it. So do we. That was part of this bill as well. I support it. Not a single Republican voted for it. That is the reality.

Incidentally, inflation is a burden on American families and individuals. There is no doubt about it, and I am not going to sugarcoat it. We have seen some progress. For example, the price of gasoline stares us right in the face every time we drive right down the road. Well, I did some driving over the weekend, probably put 600 to 700 miles on the car in Illinois, driving around to various events, and I kept an eye out for the cost of gasoline. I don't know what it is in Hawaii or in any home State, but I will tell you that in Missouri, gasoline was selling for \$3.13 a gallon; in Illinois, closer to \$3.50 a gallon. High? Yes. But not \$5, which we faced just a few months ago. We have made some progress, and we need to continue to focus on reducing the cost of goods for families that they face every week. That is part of our mission as well.

IMMIGRATION

The last point I want to make is this. Madam President, there was a decision made by the Governor of Texas, Governor Abbott, several weeks ago to start transporting people who were legally in the United States but had just arrived from foreign countries on buses to various places around the country. Thousands of them were brought to Washington; thousands were brought to New York; and hundreds were brought to my city of Chicago that I represent.

These were people who came to our borders and asked if they could be ad-

mitted as legal immigrants to the United States, and they passed the threshold test. But let me quickly add, it is a threshold test as to whether they have credible fear for their own personal safety. They still have to face an adjudication, and the majority of them are not likely to win that adjudication. The problem we face is very obvious: It is a long time before that adjudication takes place. What are these families supposed to do when they are here waiting?

I went over to the Salvation Army rescue shelter on the West Side of Chicago to meet with some of these families and individuals who had been bused to Chicago by the Governor of Texas. I met one man, Carlos, and his family—his wife, his 5-year-old daughter, and his 8-month-old daughter as well. Through the translators, they told me their story. They are from Venezuela.

Venezuela is in a disaster situation. It is so dangerous that the United States warns travelers not to go to Venezuela, and the economy is so weak that the cost of living has gone up dramatically. Inflation there is even dramatically larger than the United States.

Carlos reached a point that, even working as hard as he could, he couldn't feed his family. So on May 15, he and his wife decided to pick up their children and try to make it to the border of the United States to try to find work. It took them 5 months, and they went through everything you can imagine; much of it on foot, and what travel they could find, they took advantage of. They were robbed, beaten up. They were pushed into a jungle situation in Panama where Carlos said, "I didn't think we were going to live through the night." It was that dangerous. They did survive, and they finally made it, and now they are here in Chicago.

I asked him what he wanted. He said, "I just want to go to work. I will take any job."

What we are finding—and the front page story in the New York Times confirmed it—is that many of these people are needed. Yes, we have unemployment of 5 million in America, but we have 11 million jobs that need to be filled. Many of them are entry-level jobs, and it is hard to get anyone to take them.

Last week, as well, I had the Illinois Farm Bureau come and see me. They started talking about their need for immigrant labor on the farms of America.

Madam President, you probably know this from your own home State, but currently half of the agricultural workers in America who are working on the dairy farms, picking crops, doing things that are pretty hard work, half of them are undocumented. We don't think twice about eating the fruits and vegetables that are the bounty of their work, but that is the reality.

Our immigration system, at this point in time, is badly broken. We need

to have legal immigration into the United States—controlled legal immigration into the United States for work purposes. Many of these people who are arriving are desperately needed for jobs that Americans won't fill. They don't want to work picking crops, for example, or on a dairy farm. A friend of mine who is a restaurateur in Chicago told me, if you removed all of the undocumented workers from the restaurants of Chicago, you would just start closing them right and left. Behind that screen door in your favorite restaurant are people working hard every single day who are undocumented.

We have to reach the point where we sit down in a bipartisan basis and do something about it. It was 8 years ago when we put together a comprehensive immigration reform bill. Democrats, DURBIN, SCHUMER—and I want to salute MICHAEL BENNET, who time and again has been able to come up with a good bipartisan approach to ag workers—and BOB MENENDEZ of New Jersey, we were on the Democratic part of the team of 8. On the Republican part, we had Senator McCain, Senator GRAHAM, Senator RUBIO, and then Senator Flake.

We worked for months, put together a comprehensive bill, brought it to the floor of the Senate, and passed it with 14 Republicans joining us. There were 68 votes on the floor of the U.S. Senate for a bill that would have addressed the very issues we are facing today. The bill was then sent over, after it passed the Senate, to the House of Representatives, and the Republican leader refused to take up it or even call it.

We had a chance, and we have to create that chance again—comprehensive immigration reform. We shouldn't do it at the expense of a poor family like Carlos's family who came from Venezuela. I would say what the Governors of Arizona and Texas and Florida are doing now is to jeopardize the safety and the health of these families. That is not fair to them. It is not American. Putting them on buses and promising them, at the end of the journey, that there are going to be jobs waiting for them, for example, is just to mislead them.

In addition, if these Governors were transporting these people in good faith to Chicago or New York or Washington, they would have the decency to tell us who is coming and when. They don't. They put the buses on the road, and they stop at a train station and turn them all loose. Many of these people know no one in those cities. We found recent evidence that some of them are in a position where they are taken away from where they are supposed to report—legally report—in this country and sent hundreds and thousands of miles away by these Governors for political reasons I can't explain. That is not who we are.

I do want to commend the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, many of the charities in our area.

WBEZ is our public radio station in Chicago. This was on their website:

Chicago agencies and local groups tell immigrants "We are so glad you are here."

They are getting an American welcome. They are being treated decently. They are being treated with respect.

Now, as we debate the politics of why they are here and whether they can stay, we shouldn't do it at the expense of demonstrating clear American values of humanity and caring. That is who we are. We are not going to allow these kids to reach a situation like they have before and be the victims of our political debate. We don't want kids in cages. We don't want kids forcibly removed from their parents. We don't want them to suffer on these bus rides, not knowing where they are going to end up and what is going to happen to them next. We are better than that as Americans, and we are better than that as a nation of immigrants.

I have said it on the floor many times, and I am proud to say it again: I am the son of an immigrant to this country. My mother came here at the age of 2 from Lithuania, brought with her the good luck that I could live my life and be part of the U.S. Senate and the governance of this Nation. We shouldn't look beyond that.

I will say the Presiding Officer holds a special place in the history of the Senate with her immigration status as well.

If you look in any direction, you are going to find immigrants, sons and daughters of immigrants, who really have made America what it is today. Let's get this right on a bipartisan basis. Let's not waste any time.

In the meantime, let us treat these people who are coming to our country and are now legally in the country with dignity and respect.

I yield the floor.

SOLID START ACT OF 2021

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. As if in legislative session and under the previous order, the Senate, having received from the House the returned papers with respect to S. 1198, the actions of the Senate on September 8, 2022, are vitiated; the committee-reported substitute is withdrawn; the Tester amendment at the desk, No. 5505, is agreed to; the bill, as amended, is considered read a third time and passed; and the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider (S. 1198) a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute is withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5505) in the nature of a substitute is agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Solid Start Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. SOLID START PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

"SUBCHAPTER II—OTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

"§ 6320. Solid Start program

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program, to be known as the 'Solid Start program', under which the Secretary shall—

"(1) build the capacity of the Department to efficiently and effectively respond to the queries and needs of veterans who have recently separated from the Armed Forces; and

"(2) systemically integrate and coordinate efforts to assist veterans, including efforts—

"(A) to proactively reach out to newly separated veterans to inform them of their eligibility for programs of and benefits provided by the Department; and

"(B) to connect veterans in crisis to resources that address their immediate needs.

"(b) ACTIVITIES OF THE SOLID START PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall carry out the Solid Start program of the Department by—

"(A) collecting up-to-date contact information during transition classes or separation counseling for all members of the Armed Forces who are separating from the Armed Forces, while explaining the existence and purpose of the Solid Start program;

"(B) calling each veteran, regardless of separation type or characterization of service, three times within the first year after separation of the veteran from the Armed Forces;

"(C) providing information about the Solid Start program on the website of the Department and in materials of the Department, especially transition booklets and other resources;

"(D) ensuring calls are truly tailored to the needs of each veteran's unique situation by conducting quality assurance tests;

"(E) prioritizing outreach to veterans who have accessed mental health resources prior to separation from the Armed Forces;

"(F) providing women veterans with information that is tailored to their specific health care and benefit needs;

"(G) as feasible, providing information on access to State and local resources, including Vet Centers and veterans service organizations; and

"(H) gathering and analyzing data assessing the effectiveness of the Solid Start program.

"(2) The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, may carry out the Solid Start program by—

"(A) encouraging members of the Armed Forces who are transitioning to civilian life to authorize alternate points of contact who can be reached should the member be unavailable during the first year following the separation of the member from the Armed Forces; and

"(B) following up missed phone calls with tailored mailings to ensure the veteran still receives similar information.

"(3) In this subsection:

"(A) The term 'Vet Center' has the meaning given that term in section 1712A(h) of this title.

"(B) The term 'veterans service organization' means an organization recognized by

the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of this title."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 63 of such title, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(1) by inserting before section 6301 the following:

"Subchapter I—Outreach Services Program";

and

(2) in sections 6301, 6303, 6304, 6305, 6306, and 6307, by striking "this chapter" each place it appears and inserting "this subchapter".

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 63 of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting before the item relating to section 6301 the following new item:

"SUBCHAPTER I—OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM";

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new items:

"SUBCHAPTER II—OTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

"6320. Solid Start program."

The bill (S. 1198), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

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

PUERTO RICO

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today, my thoughts are with all our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico—and all communities across the Caribbean—battered by the destruction of Hurricane Fiona. As of this morning, well over a million residents on the island remain without power, and two-thirds remain without running water.

In a short while, I will get on the phone with the FEMA Administrator and urge that they be ready to approve temporary 100 percent Federal cost share for all emergency protective services that Puerto Rico conducts in the coming days. That means covering the island's costs for distributing food and water, disaster operations, and emergency medical care. Right now, the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund has about \$15 billion as of late last week—a fund we Democrats fought extremely hard to secure.

I will also join with my colleagues in the New York delegation to send FEMA a letter calling on them to be ready to support Puerto Rico on any upcoming request for aid.

Five years—almost exactly 5 years to the day—after Puerto Rico was devastated by Hurricane Maria, the Federal Government has a responsibility to make sure we don't repeat the mistakes of the previous administration. The Federal response should be swift, robust, and continued for as long as the island needs.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Madam President, now on judges, as we begin the third week of the work period, the Senate presses ahead to confirm more of President Biden's impressive lineup of judicial nominees.

This week, we will aim to confirm our sixth—yes, sixth—circuit court nominee of the month, and this one is especially important. It is to move forward on Judge Florence Pan to serve as a lifetime appointment to the U.S. Circuit Court for the District of Columbia.

After the Supreme Court, the DC Court of Appeals is the most important Federal court in the country, with jurisdiction over cases involving Congress and executive branch Agencies. It goes without saying that those nominated to serve as jurists on this court must be individuals of the highest caliber, of impeccable credentials, and must show deep fidelity to the Constitution.

The President couldn't have done better than Judge Pan: a brilliant, accomplished, and truly bipartisan nominee. The Senate confirmed her to the DC district court with an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 68 to 30. Since then, her conduct on the bench has vindicated that margin. So I hope we can see similar bipartisan support this week.

The daughter of Taiwanese immigrants, Judge Pan graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and earned her law degree from Stanford, where she wrote on the Law Review.

As a judge for both the DC Superior Court and DC district court, she has seen practically every kind of legal dispute under the Sun: criminal law, family law, administrative law, consumer protection, immigration, employment law, and more. In short, she is a remarkably qualified and experienced jurist.

So I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of advancing this nominee. A seat on the DC Circuit deserves to be filled by a high-caliber and impartial jurist, and, thankfully, we have that in Judge Pan.

TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 117-1

Madam President, now on the Kigali treaty, besides working on judicial nominations, the Senate will also vote this week to advance a pair of critically important measures on the floor.

First, we will vote tomorrow to proceed to the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, an agreement from the 1980s that united much of the world in reducing the use of industrial chemicals harmful to our ozone layer. Three decades later, this agreement has been an unqualified success. The Kigali Amendment is a golden opportunity to strengthen U.S. businesses and secure an edge against China in the emerging industry of next-generation refrigerants.

Let me explain. It sounds a little complicated, but it is important. The Kigali Amendment, which has been negotiated by both Democratic and Republican administrations, would build on the Montreal Protocols by affirming the U.S. commitment to phase out the use of a particularly dangerous chemical known as hydrofluorocarbons, abbreviated commonly as HFCs. Though used only in small amounts in house-

hold appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners, they wreak havoc on our atmosphere. Many on both sides have long agreed we should transition away from their use.

By ratifying the Kigali Amendment, businesses that specialize in the next generation of refrigerant technologies would see new markets open for them. In fact, one study suggests U.S. net exports could increase by \$6 billion annually—\$6 billion. So this is a jobs bill.

Combined with previous measures to reduce HFCs, this step could help create 150,000 new jobs here in the United States. All the while, we would get a much needed leg up on Chinese businesses that still lag behind—for now—in developing viable HFC alternatives. Failure to ratify the Kigali Amendment would mean squandering billions in economic activity and potentially over 100,000 good-paying American jobs.

The good news: This measure has broad support from the business community, including the Chamber of Commerce, the American Chemistry Council, the Semiconductor Industry Association, and many others. The same support should manifest itself here in the Senate.

The first vote on cloture will require 60 Senators to move forward. And because this is a treaty, we will then need the support of two-thirds of the Chamber to ratify.

For the sake of U.S. businesses, U.S. innovators, and the sake of our climate and American dominance in emerging markets, I urge my colleagues from both sides to vote in favor of advancing and ratifying the Kigali Amendment.

DISCLOSE ACT

Madam President, finally on the DISCLOSE Act, today, I am announcing the Senate will vote this week to take up a measure critical to fighting the cancer of dark money in our elections: the DISCLOSE Act.

I have long promised to bring this bill to the floor, and I want to thank all my colleagues and in particular Senator WHITEHOUSE. He has done an amazing job documenting and pressing forward on trying to eliminate the evil scourge of dark money. He has been an amazing leader in championing this legislation.

The DISCLOSE Act is premised on a simple idea: Americans deserve to know who is trying to influence their elections. Sadly, most Americans today are largely in the dark, thanks to the abominable decision in Citizens United handed down by the Supreme Court's conservative majority. Their ruling has paved the way for billions in unlimited campaign contributions by Super PACs and other dark money groups over the last decade. Ordinary citizens, meanwhile, have had their voices drowned out by elites who have millions to spare for political donations.

And the worst part? Much of this spending happens entirely in secret. That is not like a democracy. It is a

veil cast over our democracy that must be ripped away once and for all.

The DISCLOSE Act is simple. It would require Super PACs and other dark money groups to report anyone contributing \$10,000 or more during an election. It would likewise require groups spending money on judicial nominees to disclose their donors too. There is no justification under Heaven for keeping such massive contributions hidden from the public.

This week, Republicans are going to have to take a stand on whether they want to fight the power of dark money or allow this cancer to grow even worse. Limiting the power of dark money shouldn't be a Democratic or Republican view; it should be bipartisan through and through.

I hope Republicans will join us, because Americans intuitively understand that right now, there is a stench taking over our campaign finance law. After all, when was the last time any of us heard voters cheer on the spread of dark money? When was the last time any of us heard voters say it is better for billionaires and special interests to buy elections in secret rather than be held accountable to the public? Of course, they don't think that unless they themselves are the ones cutting the multimillion-dollar checks.

So this week, all of us will go on record on whether or not we think Americans deserve to know who is spending billions to sway our democracy. It will be our chance to put into practice the famous saying by Judge Louis D. Brandeis that "sunlight is said to be the best disinfectant."

I once again commend Senator WHITEHOUSE for his years of leadership in fighting this wave of dark money, and I urge all my colleagues to support this measure this week.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, when Attorney General Garland went through the confirmation process for his current job as Attorney General of the United States, he made a solemn pledge to keep politics out of the Justice Department. I, for one, was encouraged by his statement, having seen the disastrous politicization of the Justice Department under former Attorneys General Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch.

Attorney General Garland said this. He said:

I will never make a decision in the Department based on politics or partisanship.

I took him at his word. I hoped we wouldn't see a return to the days when people saw double standards play out in the Justice Department based on who happened to be in office, who happened to be investigated. But, clearly, under Attorney General Garland's leadership, the Department of Justice has pointed its arrows toward concerned parents, for example, who are exercising their First Amendment rights to

speak up about their children's education. Attorney General Garland has sued the State of Georgia and the State of Texas, for example, claiming that ballot integrity measures that are within the prerogative of the States to pass were somehow suppressing the public's right to vote.

We are going to start voting in about 50 days from now. That is the main election date. In Texas, we will start voting a full 2 weeks before that date, where, without any reason whatsoever, you can show up and vote in person, 2 full weeks before the general election. Yet Attorney General Garland spins the false narrative that somehow the State of Texas is suppressing people's right to vote.

And then Attorney General Garland I think shocked everybody by authorizing an unprecedented search warrant on a former President and a current political rival when less intrusive means and methods would have produced the same documents that they claimed to be after.

Time and time again, the Department of Justice under Merrick Garland has taken aggressive actions that are viewed by the Biden administration as politically advantageous. For everybody else, though, it is a different story, that double standard. When Supreme Court Justices are receiving death threats, including the interdiction of a deranged man who was out to kill Justice Kavanaugh here in the Nation's Capital, the Attorney General did not respond by taking appropriate steps to prevent that violence. In fact, he fanned the flames. Instead of protecting the Justices, he chose to criticize them and encouraged what amounts to irresponsible conduct on the part of people on the left.

And now I am concerned about the Department's double standard in the handling of the Hunter Biden investigation. The public reports are that the President's son has been under investigation by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Delaware for a long time now. There is a lot, of course, we don't know, but reported leaks and evidence seem to show that Hunter Biden may have committed various felonies, including tax fraud, money laundering, and foreign lobbying violations. Despite the severity of these concerns, recent news reports have painted an alarming picture of the Department of Justice's handling of this investigation: silencing whistleblowers, downplaying or discrediting inculpatory information, prohibiting the Department of Justice and FBI employees from communicating with Members of Congress. This does not look, sound, or smell like an impartial investigation guided only by the facts and the rule of law.

Just across the street from here sits the Supreme Court of the United States. On the front of that Court is the inscription "Equal Justice Under Law." There is no footnote. There is no asterisk. There is no exception for rel-

atives of the President of the United States. Every American is entitled to fair and equal treatment and equal justice under the laws. The Attorney General must guarantee that Hunter Biden receives the same treatment as any other American who is under criminal investigation—not better, not worse, but the same.

Today, 32 of my colleagues and I have sent a letter to Attorney General Garland urging him to provide special counsel authorities and protections to U.S. Attorney David Weiss, who is leading the investigation into Hunter Biden. This is a critical step that the Attorney General can and should take to restore faith in this investigation and avoid even the appearance of impropriety. So I hope he will honor our request, do what he pledged to do when he was confirmed, and keep politics out of this investigation and, in the process, restore public confidence in our Nation's most revered institutions.

IMMIGRATION

Madam President, on another matter, the migration surge at the southern border has been at a crisis level for a year and a half now. Coming from a border State with 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico, we have experienced a disproportionate impact of that humanitarian surge, as well as the drugs that have found their way into the United States as a result.

This, after all, is part of a business model or plan by the cartels, which get rich smuggling people and drugs into the United States. But just in terms of the volume of migrants coming across, we have logged more than 150,000 border crossings every month for each of the last 17 consecutive months. That is unprecedented and shocking.

Alarm bells used to sound when illegal border crossings topped 100,000 a month, but we haven't dipped below that level since President Biden took office. In the last year, Customs and Border Protection has logged nearly 2.3 million—2.3 million—border crossings across the southern border.

Now, these records come with serious consequences for everyone involved. Our Democratic colleagues and members of the news media focus their attention on how this surge impacts the migrants themselves, and there is no question that migrants endure a brutal journey to reach our country. They typically pay thousands of dollars to travel with human traffickers—or coyotes, as they are sometimes called—who are known to rape, rob, abuse, and abandon for dead their customers.

Those who survive the perilous journey to our border still face serious dangers. These are people who come not through our legal immigration process but who want to jump ahead of the line of the people who are waiting, even though we naturalize about a million people a year in the United States.

In June of this year, 53 migrants, including 3 children, passed away after being locked in a tractor-trailer rig on a 100-degree day in Texas—a horrible

way to die. The Washington Post described it as the "deadliest smuggling incident of its kind in U.S. history." Last month, two children died attempting to cross the Rio Grande and drowned in that river attempting to make their way into the United States. One was a 5-year-old girl from Guatemala who was swept from her mother's arms into the river. And just 2 weeks ago, Customs and Border Protection confirmed that another nine migrants had died trying to cross the Rio Grande.

Since last October, more than 750,000 migrants have died at our border. That does not include the ones we have not yet discovered but will eventually discover as a rancher comes across the bleached bones of a migrant who has been left behind by the heartless coyotes.

Migrants are suffering every day, and we can't lose sight of the humanitarian crisis, but the migrants aren't the only victims of the border crisis. They have chosen to try to enter the United States irregularly, other than through legal means, and turn their lives over to people who care nothing for them but care only about them as a human commodity and how much money they can make smuggling them into the United States.

But migration surges have a devastating impact on border communities like the border communities in my State and Arizona, New Mexico, and California. Over the last year and a half, I have visited our border communities several times and repeatedly have heard of the strain of this crisis. Nonprofits that try to assist, in a humanitarian way, the migrants lack the space or resources to care for the thousands of people entering our country every day. Local businesses try to stay afloat amid safety concerns and significant financial losses. Morgues have reached capacity due to the influx of deceased migrants. As we have discussed during a Judiciary Committee hearing last week, local health systems and emergency response services are stretched to the breaking.

Last year alone, in a small town called Del Rio, TX, 15,000 Haitian migrants showed up under a bridge. Can you imagine a town of 35,000 people having to deal with trying to address the needs and treat these migrants in a humane way? Well, during the 2019 surge, Customs and Border Protection reported that it was on track to refer more than 31,000 migrants for medical treatment, compared with only 12,000 the previous year.

Of course, the surge in 2019 pales in comparison to what is happening now as a result of President Biden's failed border policies. The number of migrants needing medical care today is much, much higher. The strain this places on local hospitals and public health systems not only impacts the migrants but also the American citizens who live and work in these border communities.

We all remember the strain on our healthcare systems during the height of the pandemic. Hospitals inundated with COVID cases made it more difficult to get care in the event you were experiencing some other health emergency. As Brooks County Sheriff Martinez wrote in his testimony in the hearing we had last week, ambulances that ordinarily would respond to emergency calls from local citizens are now diverted to answer calls in remote areas to answer the needs of the migrants who are experiencing a health emergency, reducing the medical services available for the local residents who actually pay the taxes that support those services.

The impact of this crisis on border communities in Texas is not a consideration for the Biden administration. They simply don't care—or, frankly, most of my Democratic colleagues here in the Senate. We heard from the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the senior Senator from Illinois, complaining about the terrible state of our broken immigration system and what is happening now as migrants are being bused to places all across the country, including Chicago. But he is the only one who can convene a markup of legislation.

Our Democratic colleagues have a Democrat in the White House, a Democratic Speaker, and a Democratic majority leader in the U.S. Senate, yet we have not seen a single piece of legislation offered or passed to try to deal with the crisis. It is always somebody else's problem or it is just a political issue that you flail in the runup to the coming election.

Migrants are arriving in someone else's backyard—what do you care?—inundating someone else's public health system along the U.S.-Texas border and filling up somebody else's morgue. Apparently, the Biden administration doesn't care.

And I haven't mentioned the 108,000 Americans who have died of drug overdoses last year alone. Virtually all of those drugs, including for the 71,000 Americans who died from synthetic opioid or fentanyl overdoses, come from the southern border.

The precursors come from China. They come to Mexico, where the cartels get rich shipping their poison into the United States. And then it is distributed by criminal street gangs, like the same gangs that are responsible for the dozens and dozens of shootings that seem to occur in a lot of our major cities on a weekly basis, including places like Chicago.

These gangs that distribute the drugs that kill Americans fight for market share. They fight for territory. Yet our Senate Democratic colleagues who have been in the majority now—who control both the Senate, the House, and the White House—have not offered a single piece of legislation or a single response.

In Texas, because of our proximity to the border, we don't have the luxury of

ignoring this problem. Our communities are somehow expected to absorb and care for this vast humanitarian crisis, even though they don't have the resources to do so, even though it is the Federal Government's responsibility. International borders and immigration enforcement is a Federal responsibility. Yet the State of Texas and taxpayers in the State have spent billions of dollars to do the job that the Federal Government simply refuses to do and even then are overwhelmed.

It simply is unacceptable for our Senate colleagues or our Members of the House who haven't lifted a finger to deal with these problems to say this isn't our problem because it is not happening to us. Well, that is why maybe—just maybe—the fact that migrants who are showing up in Washington, DC, in New York, and Chicago seem to be getting the attention of others who previously have not lifted a finger or expressed any concerns whatsoever.

By the way, the Biden administration has been shipping and flying migrants into the interior of the United States for the last year and a half. I mean, you haven't heard a single peep. But when they start showing up in relatively small numbers compared to what is coming across the border, the Mayor of Washington, DC, declares a crisis. She asked for the activation of the National Guard.

Since April, roughly 9,400 migrants have arrived in Washington, DC. I mentioned 2.3 million have showed up at the border. But now, when 9,400 migrants arrive in Washington, DC—a self-described sanctuary city—the Mayor cries out for help from the Federal Government. She declared a public health emergency.

Well, I mentioned the total number, but an average of 6,000 migrants cross the southern border every day. And yet the Mayor of Washington, DC—a self-described sanctuary city—is in a panic when 9,400 come to her city.

The Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector alone sees almost an average of almost 1,400 migrants a day. Over the last 5 months, DC has absorbed the same number of migrants that the Rio Grande Valley Sector sees in a single week, and the city is crying out for help.

The way the Mayor really could help is to pick up the phone and call her friends in the Biden administration and say: We need to do something about what is happening at the border.

That would be a constructive thing to do. We are more than happy to work with our Democratic colleagues to come up with some solutions like the Bipartisan Border Solutions Act that I introduced last year with a Democrat, a border State Senator, Senator SINEMA; TONY GONZALES, a Republican from the 23rd Congressional District; and HENRY CUELLAR, a Democrat from Laredo, TX.

We offered this bill as a bipartisan, bicameral beginning to come up with a solution. Yet we have not heard a sin-

gle peep out of the Biden administration. You would think with the President's poll numbers plummeting as a result of his failure to deal with this border crisis, they would be looking for some way out, somewhere to land that plane. But they have not reached out at all. They have not responded. And Democratic leadership in the White House, House, and the Senate have taken zero action.

I would just like my Democratic colleagues to pause for a moment and think about the communities in my State that have been operating at crisis levels since President Biden took office more than a year and a half ago. We are the ones and they are the ones picking up the Federal Government's slack and managing a crisis—or trying to—that our Democratic colleagues refuse to even acknowledge.

My constituents and border communities in Texas and beyond are exhausting resources paid for by their tax dollars to serve their own communities—spending them on the Federal Government's responsibility. And it shouldn't be any surprise if they are exhausted; they are overwhelmed; and they are desperate for the Biden administration and the Democratic leadership in the House and Senate to do something.

Maybe, just maybe, now that this crisis has caught the attention of the Mayors of Washington, DC, and New York, and Chicago—maybe the administration will pay attention to those Mayors when they have ignored this problem so far.

Maybe, just maybe, they will see that what is happening along our border every day is dangerous, unsustainable, and a problem that we need to work on together to address.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

DEMOCRACY IS STRENGTHENED BY CASTING LIGHT ON SPENDING IN ELECTIONS ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to consider Calendar No. 484, S. 4822.

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

The motion was agreed to.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4822) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 484, S. 4822, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Patty Murray, Michael F. Bennet, Jacky Rosen, Alex Padilla, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Edward J. Markey, Angus S. King, Jr., Tim Kaine.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, September 19, be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1055.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Amanda Bennett, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1055, Amanda Bennett, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Ben Ray Lujan, Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher A. Coons, Tina Smith, Michael F. Bennet, Jacky Rosen, Edward J. Markey, Angus S. King, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1097.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Arati Prabhakar, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1097, Arati Prabhakar, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Chris Van Hollen, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Ben Ray Lujan, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Raphael G. Warnock.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 19, be waived.

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

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

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

RESTORING LAW AND ORDER ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. As I have talked on this floor through the past few years, I have talked about visiting each of the 95 counties in our great State of Tennessee every year. And when I am there, I spend much of the time talking with local leaders, small business owners, families, citizens who call Tennessee home. And I have seen firsthand what the Biden agenda has done to them over these past 2 years.

The out-of-control spending that started almost immediately after Democrats took power and the inflation it caused has made life too expensive to afford for many individuals. The open border policy that did indeed start on day 1 of this administration overwhelmed Border Patrol and turned every Tennessee town, just like towns all across this country, into a border town.

The Democrats' obsession with environmental radicalism and the Green New Deal destroyed thousands of jobs, and as a bonus, this has sent gas and energy prices soaring.

They ignored our broken-down supply chains, and now economic development in rural and depressed areas has stalled out. I wish I could chalk all this up to gross incompetence, but after 2 years, I know and Tennesseans know there is a lot more to that story. Joe Biden and the Democrats know what they are doing. They know it is wrong, and they are doing it anyway.

One of the most frightening consequences of Joe Biden's reckless abuse of power is the rise in violent crime. The left's "defund the police" movement gained traction before Biden and his Democratic allies took power here in Washington, DC, but it was their decision to let it fester and undermine local law enforcement.

Instead of abiding by their duty to keep Americans safe, they have made heroes out of criminals and turned police officers into villains.

The results have been disastrous. Compared to mid-2019, America's largest cities have seen a 50-percent increase in homicides and a 36-percent increase in aggravated assaults.

Cities that caved to the radical left's demands to gut the police department have seen crime rates rise even higher.

The people of Memphis have had a front-row seat to this violence. I would implore my colleagues to listen to them, rather than to the anti-police activists making their phones ring, because they—they—are the ones who are paying the price for this little experiment.

Ask them how they felt as they watched a shooting spree play out live on social media. I won't use the perpetrator's name here on the floor of the Senate, but he is accused of murdering three people, wounding three others, and committing not one but two carjackings.

Ask them how they felt when they found out what happened to the wife,

mother, and teacher who never came back from her morning run. A monster with a long criminal record—again, whose name I will not use here—is charged with her brutal abduction and murder. And then ask them how they would feel about living in a world without law enforcement officers.

There are thousands of examples, unfortunately, that I could list, but the point is that the Democrats and their reckless anti-cop, anti-law enforcement agenda destroyed the concept of law and order in this country to service a narrative about how evil America is, but in the end, all they did was to empower the real evildoers.

Joe Biden and the Democrats have squandered their time in power, wasting our money and throwing cops under the bus, and now, just as they have with every other disastrous choice they have made, they are determined to, unfortunately, ignore the consequences.

The Democrats did not take power with a mandate to defund the police, but if they listened to the American people, they would have known we do have a mandate to undo the damage that caused and support “Back the Blue” and make our communities safe again.

Last week, Senator HAGERTY and I introduced the Restoring Law and Order Act, and I am hopeful that my Democratic colleagues will see reason and help us move this through Congress and to the President's desk as soon as possible.

The bill addresses two key priorities we should all share: One, hiring more police officers with experience handling violent crime and, two, cutting down the processing time that it is taking for processing rape kits.

Sheriffs in Tennessee have confirmed for me, time and again, that manpower is, indeed, a problem. They don't have enough people to keep up with the crimewave that we are seeing. We need to change that.

We are also going to give them the resources they need to target drug crime, clean all that cartel fentanyl off the streets, and keep criminals locked up behind bars.

I want to devote the time I have left to the issue of the rape kit backlog because this is something that we have talked about for years but haven't been able to get to the bottom of, even with the help of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Simply throwing money at the problem is no longer enough. I want to use one program as an example of why we know this is the case. Between 2015 and 2021, \$266 million in grants has flowed out the door to 40 States and the District of Columbia as part of the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative.

These jurisdictions have identified about 136,000 unsubmitted kits and tested more than 81,000 of them. Let that number sink in. As I said, they have identified 136,000 kits. They have tested more than 81,000 of them.

This has led to 13,000 CODIS hits, 189 convictions, and 795 guilty pleas. Good

results but not good enough. Those grantees still have 50,000 kits gathering dust on the shelves of their evidence lockers—50,000—50,000 kits, aggravated assaults, rapes, incidences reported, but they have not been processed even yet.

So what is going on here? That is a question that is truly in need of an answer, and this administration, the Democrats, all of us in this Chamber, owe it to the women in this country to help local law enforcement officers get an answer.

Why are these kits not being processed in a timely manner? As I said, we have put hundreds of millions of dollars into this. We have made certain kits are there. We have money that has been put forward to push these through the system, but they are languishing. We are not getting those results in a timely manner in order to lock up violent criminals.

The Restoring Law and Order Act will direct some funds to State and local agencies to specifically address the backlog. It also will require the GAO to study the availability of and deficiencies in processing rape kits.

Congress has let this go on long enough. When I speak to women at home in Tennessee, they are terrified about how far this has been willing to let go. This President's anti-justice agenda has destroyed trust in our system.

It is astonishing to me that in 2022, we are still having to debate the merits—the merits—of maintaining law and order, especially considering we can see the consequences of undermining it live and on camera every single night.

Turn on the local news here in DC, you will get a taste of what it looks like when local leadership turns their backs on victims and empowers criminals.

The Restoring Law and Order Act is an important bill that the Senate should pass as soon as possible, but that is just one step. If you listen to the outcry from Memphis or L.A. or New York and other cities around the country and especially on the border, it is so clear this President and the Democrats have a mandate from the American people to fight crime, to empower law enforcement, and to seek justice for victims of violence.

This means embracing a simple mantra: If you do the crime, you have to pay the time. It also means hiring and electing tough prosecutors and district attorneys and eliminating soft-on-crime policies that allow violent offenders to roam free.

If the powers that be had been a little tougher on the violent criminal who live-streamed his shooting spree, the streets of Memphis would have been a little bit safer. He only served 11 months of a previous 3-year sentence for aggravated assault. But they let him out early, and now three individuals have lost their lives. If they had really taken their time with the other

criminal I mentioned just a few moments ago, who had a past record of rape and aggravated assault, they may not have let him out of prison before his 24-year sentence was up. If the crime lab had secured the resources to clear their rape kit backlog, they may have discovered the year-old kit containing his DNA and stopped his release. The monster would still be in jail; a wife and mother would still be alive; and one less family would be in mourning.

The time for politicizing this has come to an end. Tennesseans aren't worried about the midterms. They are not worried about a legislative timeline. What matters to them is restoring law and order.

I would venture to guess that this President's administration and my Democratic colleagues probably know this, and if they block this bill, if they stand between victims of violent crime and the justice they deserve, they do so with the knowledge that more people will die; more violent offenders will walk free; and more families will suffer.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we start the vote now.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1067, Florence Y. Pan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Christopher Murphy, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, Jeanne Shaheen, Jeff Merkley, Alex Padilla, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine, Ben Ray Lujan, Mazie Hirono.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Florence Y. Pan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 339 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—38

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

NOT VOTING—10

Baldwin	Kennedy	Warnock
Barrasso	Moran	Wyden
Cramer	Risch	
Graham	Toomey	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 38.

The motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, throughout the past five decades, the Senate has recognized the important role of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences—USUHS—in maintaining the health and readiness of our Nation's uniformed services. Today, I am proud to congratulate this fine institution, located in Bethesda, in my State of Maryland, on its 50th anniversary.

Public Law 92-426 established USUHS in 1972 to ensure continuity and leadership for uniformed medicine. USUHS is our country's only Federal graduate and undergraduate degree-granting health sciences university in support of the Department of Defense—DOD—and the Nation. Since its founding, USUHS has graduated more than 11,000 military health professionals.

USUHS has met every goal and mission envisioned by the founders of this remarkable institution. It is the only institute of higher learning to provide a unique military curriculum that educates and trains leaders in healthcare relevant to the military mission. USUHS provides its students a rigorous healthcare education combined with equally demanding training in leadership, military medicine, and public health. Students learn in a variety of settings, including modern classrooms and laboratories, a renowned simulation center, major military hospitals and clinics, summer operational experiences with military units, and progressively challenging field exercises. Students leave USUHS prepared to care in any setting, from a modern tertiary care hospital or primary care clinic, to the sickbay of a warship, the cargo bay of a critical care air transport flight, an operating room in a combat support hospital, or a treatment tent in a refugee camp.

The USUHS Hebert School of Medicine, compared with any other U.S. medical school, contributes the highest number of physician accessions to the military services. USUHS alumni comprise 25 percent of the Military Health System physician force. An independent analysis of USUHS conducted by the Institute for Defense Analysis found that, on a value basis that factors in retention, USUHS may offer the highest return on physician education and training investments. They concluded that USUHS graduates deployed more than 250 percent longer than other accession sources—an average of 731 days compared to 266—have higher proportions of officers in the mid- and senior-rank levels compared to other accession sources, have higher representation in special operation units compared to other accession sources, and attain a higher percentage of specialty board certification compared to other accession sources. The school's graduate education programs in biomedical sciences, public health, clinical psychology, health professions

education, and health policy have granted more than 1,000 graduate degrees. Many of these alumni are now serving as key leaders in the Federal Government, academia, research foundations and laboratories, and in public health. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, USUHS School of Medicine alumni supported under-resourced communities, as well as national and global preparedness and response efforts, and were involved in evaluating new COVID-19 test methods, including those that received emergency use authorization approvals. The USUHS Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing educates advanced practice nurses for the Federal Nursing Chiefs to provide the Nation with the highest quality graduate nurse clinicians, scientists, scholars, and leaders dedicated to Federal service, health readiness, and global engagement. Its nurse anesthesia program is consistently ranked among the top four in the country by U.S. News & World Report's Best Graduate School rankings, which also ranks the school's doctor of nursing practice degree program in the top 13 percent in the country. The USUHS Graduate School of Nursing has received multiple national recognitions and was acknowledged by the National League for nursing twice, as a Center of Excellence for enhanced student learning and faculty development. The USUHS postgraduate dental college's 19 postgraduate dental specialties and 26 postgraduate year-1 programs ensure that military dentists attain advanced skill sets beyond those acquired upon graduation from dental school. These advanced dental skills are essential to meeting the needs of warfighters before, during, and after military operations. The university's college of allied health sciences awards undergraduate college credit and degrees to enlisted medical professionals and trainees and has graduated more than 3,500 students from its 23 programs since its inception.

Over the past five decades, USUHS has played a critical role in national defense, in times of war and peace. USUHS graduates continue to be integral to combat deployments, humanitarian missions, disaster response, and public health crisis response throughout the world. USUHS provides its expertise to DOD and the Nation in global health, TBI, PTSD, disaster medicine, neuroscience, and human performance. During the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Military Health System achieved the highest rate of survival from battlefield injury in the history of the world. USUHS graduates and faculty have not only made important contributions to clinical practice in combat environments around the world, but to medical science and research, benefiting both the military and the public at large.

The value of the university's science is increasingly recognized by the National Institutes of Health—NIH—and other funders; USUHS is ranked 80 of

900 U.S. institutions of higher learning, putting it in the top 10th percentile in total research and development expenditures by the National Science Foundation. USUHS researchers generate high-impact military-relevant discoveries and products to protect the health of our forces and assure the national health security of the United States. Since its founding, USUHS has filed more than 2,273 patents for research discoveries and technology inventions. Its faculty have been the recipient of eight consecutive Federal Laboratory Consortium Technology Transfer Awards for their groundbreaking work.

USUHS's centers focus on advancing research, education, and public health. Its National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health has been at the forefront of the national Stop the Bleed and First Aid for Severe Trauma campaigns to encourage bystanders and high school students. USUHS was designated as the Nation's first National Stop the Bleed Campus in 2019. The USUHS Center for Biotechnology—4DBio3—uses 3D printers to produce military-relevant medical products in extreme austere environments for the benefit of our warfighters. It has also developed technology to generate red blood cells which would allow for whole blood transfusion and could become the answer to blood shortages on the battlefield, other remote locations, and in hospitals. The Surgical Critical Care Initiative at USUHS created an application to accurately predict whether a patient, who has just been admitted to the emergency room, would need a massive blood transfusion. USUHS researchers and trauma surgeons have also led the development of knowledge, skills, and abilities metrics that are being used to inform changes to patient workflow, increasing surgical workloads, and, ultimately, enhancing readiness within the Military Health System. These KSA metrics have proven vital to measuring military surgeons' individual clinical skills readiness, while also providing data to leadership, increasing clinical readiness-generating workload within the MHS.

USUHS has long met and exceeded the original intent of its founders to educate a career cadre of physicians to support our Nation's military. Over the past 50 years, USUHS has contributed immeasurably to the health and future of our Nation, through its stellar education and training programs, its innovative research, and its development of the next generation of military medical leaders and scientists. I am delighted to recognize and congratulate the remarkable students, faculty, and staff of USUHS for their outstanding work and commitment to serving our country, and my best wishes for a happy golden anniversary to our Nation's Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN BERG

• Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, today, I rise to honor the enduring legacy of an outstanding Utahn. As the autumn sun sunk below the mountains surrounding Southern Utah University's sprawling athletic fields, the men's teams had finished their practice for the day. Only under the night sky could one group of young, ambitious, and dedicated women finally take to the empty field, dressed in worn, plain PE uniforms with hand-stitched numbers. In the collegiate sporting era of the 1970s, these female athletes had no access to new equipment or team budgets, let alone scholarships or institutional support. But they did have a leader. Kathryn Berg, of Heber City, UT, proudly led this group of woman athletes as their coach, mentor, friend, and lifelong advocate for gender equality across all sports at the university and the State of Utah. Today, a return visit to SUU must rekindle mixed emotions for Kathryn, both for the enormous strides made for gender equality by virtue for her accomplishments as its associate athletic director and the work still required in pursuit of that goal. The field bears her name.

Despite her decorated career, measured in both awards and the boundless admiration of others, Kathryn Berg would be embarrassed to have the spotlight shone on her life and achievements. That is because she spent her over 33-year career elevating others into such a position. The athletes, families, and individuals who know Kathryn describe her as a humble servant to others, who worked overtime to provide opportunities for girls and women to participate in sports. To accomplish this, she educated herself in sports she knew little about by becoming an expert in the rules and regulations of each sport, took classes, and earned certifications at her own expense. She even became a certified gymnastics judge so she could be a better gymnastics coach. This enabled her athletes to reach their peak athletic and academic performances. An athlete herself, Kathryn played basketball and tennis at Wasatch High School before earning a B.A. and M.A. from Brigham Young University, followed by a doctorate from the University of Utah. She taught and coached at Richfield High School, Lincoln Junior High, and Orem Junior High, respectively, before arriving for a new challenge at Southern Utah University.

At SUU, she served as administrator for all women's sports, including softball, basketball, gymnastics, track and field, volleyball, cheerleading, and synchronized swimming. In Cedar City, she continued to face down the perennial obstacles halting progress for female athletic programs. With no available budget, Kathryn and her athletes had to fundraise for their right to take to the fields and courts. Kathryn stitched

together uniforms, spent her own money, and drove the team bus herself. With few female coaching mentors around, she instead learned as she went despite hearing "no" to most every request. As a direct result of her relentless advocacy for gender equality in collegiate athletics, countless student-athletes had a chance to compete, to succeed, and to dream.

A giver, a selfless servant, and always present for her friends and family. These attributes accurately describe who Kathryn is as a person and what she means to those who love her, reinforced by abundant examples of humility over the decades. One such example transcends careers or athletics and speaks to the true nature of Kathryn's heart. In 2001, she retired from her successful administrative career in order to care for her younger sister, Charlotte, who suffered from cerebral palsy. She needed full-time care after their parents died, and Kathryn made sure that she was able to live life to the fullest until her passing in 2014.

Kathryn Berg is a founding pioneer of gender equality in collegiate athletics in Utah. Her indelible legacy includes helping oversee SUU's ascension into NCAA Division I, helping establish the Utah Summer Games, and leading the creation of the Thunderbirds' enduring women's intercollegiate athletic program. She is aptly recognized in several athletic halls of fame and received an honorary doctorate degree from SUU. Kathryn is still active in the community, especially as the chair of the Daughters of Utah Pioneer Museum. She provides a scholarship to a senior at Wasatch High School each year and is the No. 1 fan of her family's extracurricular events.

Thank you, Kathryn, for your lifetime of achievement and inspiration for student-athletes everywhere. Your unwavering work will continue to benefit untold generations of female athletes and their families.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13224 OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2001, WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO COMMIT, THREATEN TO COMMIT, OR SUPPORT TERRORISM—PM 38

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, as amended, is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2022.

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Pennsylvania and against the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. This crisis continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13224, as amended, with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 19, 2022.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 302. An act to impose limits on accepting competitive service positions from the competitive service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2988. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to modify and enhance protec-

tions for Federal Government whistleblowers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8326. An act to amend title 13, United States Code, to improve the operations of the Bureau of the Census, and for other purposes.

At 3:57 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Clerk of the House be directed to return to the Senate the bill (S. 1198) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, in compliance with a request of the Senate for the return thereof.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 302. An act to impose limits on accepting competitive service positions from the competitive service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 884. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a national aviation preparedness plan for communicable disease outbreaks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2988. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to modify and enhance protections for Federal Government whistleblowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 8326. An act to amend title 13, United States Code, to improve the operations of the Bureau of the Census, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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-5020. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5021. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations, and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Cleanup: Schedule, Status, and Cost Estimates; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5022. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of sixteen (16) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5023. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14064 with respect to certain property of Da Afghanistan Bank; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5024. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13848 with respect to the threat of foreign interference in or undermining public confidence in United States elections; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5025. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14014 with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5026. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14046 with respect to Ethiopia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5027. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13224 with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5028. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13566 with respect to Libya; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5029. A communication from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2020 Annual Report of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5030. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Whistleblower Program Rules" (RIN3235-AN03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5031. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pay Versus Performance" (RIN3235-AL00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5032. 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 Ceiling Fans" (RIN1904-AC11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5033. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines; New Source Performance Standards for Stationary Internal Combustion Engines; Court Vacatur" ((RIN2060-AV76) (FRL No. 5300.3-01-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5034. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Oklahoma; Updates to the General SIP and Incorporation by Reference Provisions" (FRL No. 9085-02-R6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5035. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Florida; Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills" (FRL No. 9092-02-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5036. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request; Nogales PM2.5 Planning Area; Arizona" (FRL No. 9503-02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5037. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota; Revised Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction Provisions" (FRL No. 9649-02-R5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5038. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Removal of Excess Emissions Provisions" (FRL No. 9912-02-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5039. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program: Alternative RIN Retirement Schedule for Small Refineries" ((RIN2060-AV72) (FRL No. 9821-02-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5040. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plans; Arizona; Revised Format for Materials Incorporated by Reference; Correcting Amendment" (FRL No. 9602-02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5041. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Finding of Failure to Submit Regional Haze State Implementation Plans for

the Second Planning Period" (FRL No. 9731-01-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5042. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; OR; Oakridge PM2.5 Redesignation to Attainment and Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9488-02-R10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5043. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; OR; Oakridge PM10 Redesignation to Attainment and Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9489-02-R10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5044. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Partial Disapproval and Partial Approval; Pennsylvania; Attainment Plan for the Indiana, Pennsylvania Nonattainment Area for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 9607-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5045. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Construction Permit Exemptions" (FRL No. 9838-02-R7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5046. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Partial Disapproval; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Reasonably Available Control Technology Regulations for the 1997 and 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards" (FRL No. 10115-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5047. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expedited Approval of Alternative Test Procedures for the analysis of Contaminants under the Safe Drinking Water Act; Analysis and Sampling Procedures" (FRL No. 9834-01-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5048. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Missouri; General Conformity Rescission" (FRL No. 9906-02-R7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to

the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5049. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska During the 2022 Season" (RIN1018-BF65) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5050. A communication from the Branch of Administrative Support Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Removing *Adiantum vivesii* From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants" (RIN1018-BE41) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5051. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.82 Rev 5, 'Water Sources for Long-Term Recirculation Cooling Following a Loss-of-Coolant Accident'" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5052. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 8.34 Rev 1, 'Monitoring Criteria and Methods to Calculate Occupational Radiation Doses'" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5053. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Technical Cybersecurity Support Plan for Public Water Systems"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5054. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Report to Congress - Study on Intractable Public Water Systems Serving Fewer Than 1,000 People: Compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, Barriers, and Case Studies"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5055. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Fifth Report to Congress: Highlights of the DERA Program"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4879. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to permit credit unions to serve certain underserved areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4880. A bill to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 4881. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to graduates of career and technical education programs or programs of study for small business development centers and women's business centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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

S. 4882. A bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 4883. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 4884. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, to establish a joint natural infrastructure science program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 4885. A bill to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, to reauthorize the Missing Americans Alert Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KING, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 771. A resolution supporting the designation of September 19, 2022, as "National Stillbirth Prevention Day", recognizing tens of thousands of American families that have endured a stillbirth, and seizing the opportunity to keep other families from experiencing the same tragedy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. SMITH):

S. Res. 772. A resolution recognizing the seriousness of myotonic dystrophy and expressing support for the designation of September 15, 2022, as "International Myotonic Dystrophy Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 773. A resolution commemorating the second anniversary of the signing of the Abraham Accords Declaration; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 774. A resolution designating September 2022 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 344

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retirement pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 424

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 424, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 634

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world, and other purposes.

S. 1451

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1451, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 2952

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2952, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow manufacturers and sponsors of a drug to use alternative testing methods to animal testing to investigate the safety and effectiveness of a drug, and for other purposes.

S. 2981

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2981, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 2982

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2982, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to establish or expand programs to implement evidence-aligned practices in health care settings for the purpose of reducing the suicide rates of

covered individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 3295

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3295, a bill to increase access to pre-exposure prophylaxis to reduce the transmission of HIV.

S. 3381

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3381, a bill to require the Bureau of Indian Affairs to process and complete all mortgage packages associated with residential and business mortgages on Indian land by certain deadlines, and for other purposes.

S. 3621

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3621, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Climate Adaptation Science Center and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers to respond to the effects of extreme weather events and climate trends, and for other purposes.

S. 3806

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3806, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to establish a grant program to demonstrate the performance and reliability of heavy-duty fuel cell vehicles that use hydrogen as a fuel source, and for other purposes.

S. 4120

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4120, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 4240

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4240, a bill to amend section 2441 of title 18, United States Code, to broaden the scope of individuals subject to prosecution for war crimes.

S. 4293

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4293, a bill to prevent unfair and deceptive acts or practices and the dissemination of false information related to pharmacy benefit management services for prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 4541

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4541, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to furnish tailored information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes.

S. 4580

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4580, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 4605

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4605, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure stability in payments to home health agencies under the Medicare program.

S. 4693

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4693, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to include national discovery trails and designate the American Discovery Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 4741

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4741, a bill to encourage increased trade and investment between the United States and the countries in the Western Balkans, and for other purposes.

S. 4742

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4742, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to create a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council to enhance oversight and accountability for deficiencies in military housing, and accountability for deficiencies in military housing, and for other purposes.

S. 4818

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4818, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal and local funds to impose or enforce a COVID-19 vaccine mandate in District of Columbia schools, and to repeal the Coronavirus Immunization of School Students and Early Childhood Workers Regulation Amendment Act of 2021 enacted by the District of Columbia Council.

S. 4851

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4851, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

S. 4856

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4856, a bill to require the denial of admission to the United States for indi-

viduals subject to sanctions pursuant to Executive Order 13876, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 60, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria-Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)-Grants to State Entities (State Entity Grants); Grants to Charter Management Organizations for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (CMO Grants); and Grants to Charter School Developers for the Opening of New Charter Schools and for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (Developer Grants)."

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4879. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to permit credit unions to serve certain underserved areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Expanding Financial Access for Underserved Communities Act, which I introduced today.

Over the past decade, affordable banking services have become more difficult for many Americans to access due to the closure of physical bank branches. Addressing banking deserts is an important element to promoting equity across our entire economy.

I believe that credit unions can play a significant role in improving access to affordable banking services in underserved communities throughout our Nation.

That is why I am proud to introduce this legislation to allow all federally chartered credit unions to expand their field of membership to underserved areas. The bill would exempt business loans made to borrowers located in underserved areas from the credit union member business lending cap.

I am proud to join Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS in this effort. I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill to promote economic opportunity in low-income communities and communities of color.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 4883. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill, the Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2022. This bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to continue partnering and collaborating with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, ROD. ROD is a fungus, *Ceratocystis*, that was first found in Hawaii in 2014 and has since killed over a million native Ohia trees. Since then, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has partnered with the State of Hawaii and the U.S. Department of the Interior in efforts to detect and respond to the spread of ROD. Sustained efforts, such as those supported by this bill, are necessary to protect Ohia trees, which comprise 80 percent of Hawaii's native forests.

Over the past 8 years, ROD has been detected on Hawaii Island, Kauai, Maui, and Oahu. Efforts are currently underway to educate the public to reduce the spread, research transmission vectors of ROD such as humans, beetles, ungulates, and weather events, and test ROD resistant varieties of Ohia. This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the U.S. Geological Survey, to continue providing resources for the purposes of researching ROD vectors and transmission. It also requires the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with the State of Hawaii and other local stakeholders on ungulate management in control areas on Federal, State, and private land. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, to continue providing resources to prevent the spread of ROD and restore the native forests in Hawaii and to also continue to provide financial and staff resources to the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, IPIF, located in Hilo, to continue research on ROD.

The bill authorizes \$5 million in appropriations for each fiscal year from 2023 through 2033 for both the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to carry out these actions, which are necessary to protect and restore Hawaii's most abundant native tree—Ohia—for future generations.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 4884. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, to establish a joint natural infrastructure science program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill, the Natural Infrastructure Act of 2022. This bill requires the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture, to establish a Joint Natural Infrastructure Science Program. This program, which would be a joint effort by the U.S. Forest Service FS and the U.S. Geological Survey USGS, would

seek to further research on the use of natural solutions to address evolving infrastructure needs across the country. The bill also requires the Secretary of the Interior to assess the costs and effectiveness of select natural infrastructure projects on an annual basis.

The bill defines natural infrastructure as constructed landscape features and systems that employ nature-based solutions that promote, use, restore, or emulate natural ecological processes. These features, when compared to grey infrastructure solutions, are often more cost-effective, increase community resilience to climate change impacts, and attract community support. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that our country's need for infrastructure repairs through 2025 totals over \$4 trillion. In order to meet our country's short- and long-term infrastructure needs, research is needed to inform the decisions being made by the people charged with addressing these infrastructure needs—civil engineers, local governments, developers, and the construction industry. The Joint Natural Infrastructure Science Program established by this bill directs USGS and FS to work with colleges and universities to advance ongoing natural infrastructure research efforts to inform future infrastructure projects. The bill also establishes a stakeholder advisory group to inform the Secretary of the Interior on appropriate research topics to be assessed by the Joint Natural Infrastructure Science Program.

The bill authorizes \$4 million in appropriations for each fiscal year from 2023 through 2033 for both the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to implement the Joint Natural Infrastructure Program. Additionally, the bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to publish an annual report on no fewer than 30 natural infrastructure projects across the country to assess the cost and effectiveness of the projects as well as provide recommendations on ways to improve future natural infrastructure projects in terms of construction, costs, and effectiveness. The selected projects should be diverse in terms of both geographic location as well as project type. These reports, coupled with the research generated by the Joint Natural Infrastructure Science Program, will help inform future infrastructure projects as we seek out cost-effective solutions all across the country that maximize human and environmental benefits in the face of evolving challenges, including the increasing impacts of climate change.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 771—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2022, AS “NATIONAL STILLBIRTH PREVENTION DAY”, RECOGNIZING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN FAMILIES THAT HAVE ENDURED A STILLBIRTH, AND SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP OTHER FAMILIES FROM EXPERIENCING THE SAME TRAGEDY

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KING, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 771

Whereas, 23,000 pregnancies in the United States end in stillbirth each year, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the crisis;

Whereas racial disparities persist in birth outcomes, with Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous families at the greatest risk of losing a baby to stillbirth;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the annual number of stillbirths far exceeds the number of deaths among children under 15 years of age due to sudden infant death syndrome, car accidents, drowning, guns, fire, poison, and flu combined;

Whereas, in the last 2 decades, the stillbirth rate in the United States declined by a negligible 0.4 percent, and in a report published by the World Health Organization comparing progress in improving stillbirth rates, the United States ranked 183 out of 195 countries;

Whereas stillbirths are devastating and have a profound and lifelong impact on the families who endure them;

Whereas stillbirth is linked to an increased risk of maternal mortality;

Whereas, with increased awareness and better data collection, the United States will be able to better understand why stillbirths in the United States are happening at an alarming rate and identify what can be done to combat this crisis;

Whereas proven stillbirth prevention efforts have the power to save a minimum of 7,500 babies every year from preventable stillbirth in the United States, and innovations in stillbirth prevention could save thousands of additional families in the United States from the heartache of losing a baby each year;

Whereas recognizing “National Stillbirth Prevention Day” is an opportunity to increase awareness, support evidence-based prevention efforts, promote research, encourage improved data collection and greater understanding, and provide community to those who have experienced stillbirth; and

Whereas “National Stillbirth Prevention Day” calls on the President and all other Federal officials to use their authorities to reduce stillbirths in the United States by at least 33 percent and ensure every expectant family is educated on how to reduce the risk of losing a baby to stillbirth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “National Stillbirth Prevention Day”;

(2) understands the importance of advancing evidence-based prevention efforts; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the

United States to observe National Stillbirth Prevention Day with appropriate awareness programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 772—RECOGNIZING THE SERIOUSNESS OF MYOTONIC DYSTROPHY AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2022, AS “INTERNATIONAL MYOTONIC DYSTROPHY AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 772

Whereas myotonic dystrophy is a rare, multi-systemic, inherited disease that affects approximately 1 in 2,100 individuals and more than 150,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas 1 in 8,000 individuals are living with myotonic dystrophy globally, yet thousands of individuals do not know they have the disease and are in need of care;

Whereas myotonic dystrophy is the most common form of adult-onset muscular dystrophy, and the symptoms of the disease become more severe with each generation;

Whereas the disease is caused by a mutation in the DMPK gene, resulting in myotonic dystrophy type 1, or the CNBP gene, resulting in myotonic dystrophy type 2;

Whereas those mutations prevent those genes from functioning properly, impacting multiple body systems;

Whereas those mutations are autosomal dominant mutations, in which one copy of the altered gene is sufficient to cause the disorder, and affected individuals have a 50 percent chance of passing on the mutated gene to their children;

Whereas, through this inherited genetic anomaly, individuals with myotonic dystrophy experience varied and complex symptoms, ranging from skeletal muscle problems, early cataracts, and excessive daytime sleepiness to heart, breathing, digestive, hormonal, speech, swallowing, diabetic, immune, vision, and cognitive difficulties;

Whereas myotonic dystrophy is a highly variable and complicated disorder, and the younger an individual is when symptoms first appear, the more severe symptoms are likely to be;

Whereas misdiagnoses have persisted for decades, and delays in diagnosing myotonic dystrophy are common;

Whereas there are currently no treatments approved by the Food and Drug Administration for myotonic dystrophy;

Whereas the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation was founded in 2007 with a mission to enhance the quality of life of individuals living with myotonic dystrophy and accelerate research focused on finding treatments and a cure;

Whereas, in 2014, Congress enacted the Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research and Education Amendments of 2014 (Public Law 113-166; 128 Stat. 1879), which advanced muscular dystrophy research and public health surveillance activities, including for myotonic dystrophy;

Whereas, in September 2017, recognizing the seriousness of the disease and the especially disabling impact of myotonic dystrophy on individuals with congenital

myotonic dystrophy, the Social Security Administration added congenital myotonic dystrophy to the Compassionate Allowance Program, which allows individuals to quickly qualify for disability benefits, including health insurance coverage;

Whereas, in 2018, Congress added myotonic dystrophy to the list of eligible conditions for research funding under the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program of the Department of Defense, which resulted in more than \$6,000,000 in new research awards; and

Whereas a more robust scientific investment in myotonic dystrophy research will improve health outcomes, reduce disability, and increase life expectancy for individuals living with myotonic dystrophy, and holds great promise for helping individuals with similar genetic diseases: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of September 15, 2022, as “International Myotonic Dystrophy Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes the seriousness of myotonic dystrophy; and

(3) supports the goals and ideals of International Myotonic Dystrophy Awareness Day, which include—

(A) committing to promoting and advancing the health, well-being, and inherent dignity of all children and adults with myotonic dystrophy;

(B) supporting the advancement of scientific and medical myotonic dystrophy research;

(C) fostering biopharmaceutical innovation that will lead to Food and Drug Administration-approved treatments and eventually a cure for myotonic dystrophy;

(D) advancing programs and policies that assist individuals living with myotonic dystrophy and the caregivers of such individuals; and

(E) encouraging awareness and education of myotonic dystrophy for patients, caregivers, clinicians, and researchers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 773—COMMEMORATING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS DECLARATION

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 773

Whereas, on September 15, 2020, the United States, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain signed the historic Abraham Accords;

Whereas, on December 22, 2020, Morocco signed the Abraham Accords;

Whereas, on January 6, 2021, Sudan signed the Abraham Accords;

Whereas the Abraham Accords created formal diplomatic ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco increasing the number of Arab states with formal diplomatic ties with Israel to six;

Whereas the Abraham Accords marked the first instance of normalized relations between Israel and Arab countries in more than two decades;

Whereas the leadership and success of prior normalization agreements between Israel and Egypt in 1979 and between Israel and Jordan in 1994 paved the way for creating formal diplomatic ties with other Arab and Muslim-majority countries;

Whereas the Abraham Accords have reduced the likelihood of armed conflict, im-

proved ties between Israel and neighboring countries, and advanced the cause of achieving lasting peace in the Middle East, including through a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that ensures mutual recognition and guarantees that Israelis and Palestinians live side-by-side with freedom, security, and prosperity;

Whereas the Abraham Accords provide an opportunity to make tangible improvements in the lives of Palestinians, including increased multilateral investment in the Palestinian economy among signatory countries of the Abraham Accords;

Whereas continued political, economic, and security cooperation between the United States, Israel, and Arab states remains vital to the prosperity and security of the Middle East;

Whereas the relationship between the United States and Israel is rooted in shared values and interests;

Whereas the Abraham Accords demonstrably have advanced religious freedom in the Middle East, including through interfaith and intercultural dialogue between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain;

Whereas new opportunities for multilateral cooperation generated by the Abraham Accords may improve the ability of the United States to meet nascent threats and emerging challenges;

Whereas the Embassy of Israel in Abu Dhabi was opened on January 24, 2021, and the United Arab Emirates became the first Gulf country to open an embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, on May 30, 2021;

Whereas Israel opened a resident embassy in Manama, Bahrain, in September 2021, and the first ambassador to Israel from Bahrain assumed his post in August 2021;

Whereas the Foreign Ministers of Israel, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, and the United States convened at the Negev Summit in Sde Boker, Israel, resulting in the establishment of the Negev Forum and six working groups tasked with furthering multilateral cooperation in the areas of energy, education and coexistence, food and water security, health, regional security, and tourism;

Whereas the Abraham Accords have catalyzed increases in trade, tourism, and investment in the Middle East, benefitting the people of those countries;

Whereas, at the 2022 World Economic Forum, the Minister of State for Foreign Trade of the United Arab Emirates indicated that bilateral trade with Israel has surpassed \$2,500,000,000 since the signing of the Abraham Accords;

Whereas, on May 31, 2022, Israel and the United Arab Emirates signed a comprehensive free-trade agreement to cover 96 percent of bilateral trade, amounting to approximately \$1,000,000,000;

Whereas trade between the United Arab Emirates and Israel is expected to surpass \$10,000,000,000 within 5 years, economic conditions that were made possible by the Abraham Accords;

Whereas trade between Israel and Bahrain increased to \$1,200,000 in May 2022, up from \$0 in May 2021;

Whereas trade between Israel and Morocco increased to \$3,100,000 in May 2022, an increase of 94 percent since May 2021;

Whereas the Abraham Accords have facilitated direct commercial airline flights, improving people-to-people ties in spite of obstacles created by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, on July 14, 2022, the United States and Israel signed the Jerusalem U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration, which calls for a deepening and broadening of the Abraham Accords; and

Whereas destabilizing developments in the Middle East continue to demonstrate the importance of the Abraham Accords: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the second anniversary of the signing of the Abraham Accords;

(2) reaffirms the enduring and ironclad alliance between the United States and Israel;

(3) believes that the United States should—

(A) prioritize the expansion and strengthening of the Abraham Accords to encourage other countries to normalize relations with Israel and ensure that existing agreements reap tangible security and economic benefits for the citizens of those countries;

(B) with other signatory countries of the Abraham Accords, promote and develop new areas of regional collaboration including maritime security, defense cooperation, clean energy initiatives, water security initiatives, and direct flights; and

(C) build on the Abraham Accords to help advance prospects for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, make tangible improvements in the lives of the Palestinian people, and make progress toward a negotiated solution that ensures mutual recognition;

(4) supports efforts to increase security and prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa via continued security and defense cooperation in furtherance of the Abraham Accords;

(5) encourages the expansion of the Abraham Accords to include countries that do not have diplomatic relations with Israel, and urges the President to take the necessary steps to secure comparable agreements with other Arab and Muslim-majority countries; and

(6) supports opportunities to expand economic ties between the United States, Israel, and Arab states through comprehensive economic partnerships and other trade initiatives.

SENATE RESOLUTION 774—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2022 AS NATIONAL DEMOCRACY MONTH AS A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO A MORE FREE AND STABLE WORLD

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 774

Whereas, 2,000 years after the ancient Greeks laid the groundwork for democracy, the founders of the United States built an even greater system of government, a democratic republic, propelling the United States to become the most advanced nation in human history;

Whereas the model of government of the United States has been reproduced around the world;

Whereas Presidents Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln described democracy, respectively, as the “light that led us out of gothic darkness” and the “last best hope” of humankind;

Whereas, according to Freedom House, more than 1 in 3 people in the world do not live in states considered free;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights, including the addition of the Reconstruction Era amendments, enshrine the rights and civil liberties of citizens of the United States, including the right to vote in free and fair elections;

Whereas the perpetuation of the ideals of democracy does not happen on its own and can be stalled or reversed;

Whereas surveys show that citizens of the United States are losing faith in the democratic system;

Whereas former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said, "The practice of democracy is not passed down through the gene pool. It must be taught and learned anew by each generation of citizens.";

Whereas President John F. Kennedy said, "Democracy is never a final achievement. It is a call to untiring effort, to continual sacrifice and to the willingness, if necessary, to die in its defense.";

Whereas President Ronald Reagan said, "Democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man.";

Whereas Congressman John R. Lewis said, in his final words to the United States, "Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself.";

Whereas World War II demonstrated the fragility of democracy and the civilized life that accompanies democracy;

Whereas British Prime Minister Winston Churchill observed that, "Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time. . . .";

Whereas President George Washington said the United States must recognize the immense value of the national Union and work towards preservation of that Union with "jealous anxiety" and wrote that the security of a free Constitution may be accomplished by "teaching the people themselves to know and to value their own rights";

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Educate and inform the whole mass of the people. . . . They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.";

and

Whereas the Government of the United States must teach and educate the people by taking appropriate actions to highlight and emphasize the importance of democratic principles and the essential role of democratic principles in the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2022 as "National Democracy Month";

(2) encourages States and local governments to designate September 2022 as "National Democracy Month";

(3) recognizes the celebration of "National Democracy Month" as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe "National Democracy Month" with appropriate ceremonies and activities that—

(A) provide appreciation for the system of government of the United States; and

(B) demonstrate that the people of the United States shall never forget the sacrifices made by past generations of people of the United States to preserve the freedoms and principles of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5500. Ms. LUMMIS (for Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Ms. Lummis to the resolution of ratification to Treaty Doc. 117-1, Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Sub-

stances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the "Montreal Protocol"), adopted at Kigali on October 15, 2016, by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (the "Kigali Amendment"); which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5501. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification to Treaty Doc. 117-1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5502. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. LUMMIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification to Treaty Doc. 117-1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5503. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification to Treaty Doc. 117-1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5504. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification to Treaty Doc. 117-1, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5505. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1198, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

SA 5506. Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5499 submitted by Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5500. Ms. LUMMIS (for Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Ms. LUMMIS to the resolution of ratification to Treaty Doc. 117-1, Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the "Montreal Protocol"), adopted at Kigali on October 15, 2016, by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (the "Kigali Amendment"); which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1, in the section heading, insert "AND A CONDITION" after "DECLARATION".

In section 1, insert "and the condition of section 3" after "declaration of section 2".

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. CONDITION.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following condition: The Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer shall amend their Decision I/12E, "Clarification of terms and definitions: developing countries," made at the First Meeting of the Parties to remove the People's Republic of China.

SA 5501. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification to Treaty Doc. 117-1, Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the "Montreal Protocol"), adopted at Kigali on

October 15, 2016, by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (the "Kigali Amendment"); which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1, in the section heading, strike "DECLARATION" and insert "DECLARATIONS".

In section 1, insert "declaration of section 2" and insert "declarations of section 2".

In section 2, in the section heading, strike "DECLARATION" and insert "DECLARATIONS".

In section 2, strike "following declaration" and all that follows through the period at the end and insert the following: "following declarations:

(1) The Kigali amendment is not self-executing.

(2) The People's Republic of China is not a developing country, and the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations should not treat the People's Republic of China as such.

SA 5502. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. LUMMIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification to Treaty Doc. 117-1, Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the "Montreal Protocol"), adopted at Kigali on October 15, 2016, by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (the "Kigali Amendment"); which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1, in the section heading, insert "AND A CONDITION" after "DECLARATION".

In section 1, insert "and the condition of section 3" after "declaration of section 2".

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. CONDITION.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following condition: Prior to November 6, 2022, the Secretary of State shall transmit to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change a proposal to amend the list in Annex I to the Convention by adding the name of the People's Republic of China.

SA 5503. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification to Treaty Doc. 117-1, Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the "Montreal Protocol"), adopted at Kigali on October 15, 2016, by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (the "Kigali Amendment"); which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This resolution of ratification shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after ratification.

SA 5504. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the resolution of ratification to Treaty Doc. 117-1, 0; Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the "Montreal Protocol"), adopted at Kigali on October 15, 2016, by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (the "Kigali Amendment"); which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This resolution of ratification shall take effect on the date that is 2 days after ratification.

SA 5505. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. TESTER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1198, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Solid Start Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. SOLID START PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“SUBCHAPTER II—OTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

“§ 6320. Solid Start program

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a program, to be known as the ‘Solid Start program’, under which the Secretary shall—

“(1) build the capacity of the Department to efficiently and effectively respond to the queries and needs of veterans who have recently separated from the Armed Forces; and

“(2) systemically integrate and coordinate efforts to assist veterans, including efforts—

“(A) to proactively reach out to newly separated veterans to inform them of their eligibility for programs of and benefits provided by the Department; and

“(B) to connect veterans in crisis to resources that address their immediate needs.

“(b) ACTIVITIES OF THE SOLID START PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall carry out the Solid Start program of the Department by—

“(A) collecting up-to-date contact information during transition classes or separation counseling for all members of the Armed Forces who are separating from the Armed Forces, while explaining the existence and purpose of the Solid Start program;

“(B) calling each veteran, regardless of separation type or characterization of service, three times within the first year after separation of the veteran from the Armed Forces;

“(C) providing information about the Solid Start program on the website of the Department and in materials of the Department, especially transition booklets and other resources;

“(D) ensuring calls are truly tailored to the needs of each veteran’s unique situation by conducting quality assurance tests;

“(E) prioritizing outreach to veterans who have accessed mental health resources prior to separation from the Armed Forces;

“(F) providing women veterans with information that is tailored to their specific health care and benefit needs;

“(G) as feasible, providing information on access to State and local resources, including Vet Centers and veterans service organizations; and

“(H) gathering and analyzing data assessing the effectiveness of the Solid Start program.

“(2) The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, may carry out the Solid Start program by—

“(A) encouraging members of the Armed Forces who are transitioning to civilian life to authorize alternate points of contact who

can be reached should the member be unavailable during the first year following the separation of the member from the Armed Forces; and

“(B) following up missed phone calls with tailored mailings to ensure the veteran still receives similar information.

“(3) In this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘Vet Center’ has the meaning given that term in section 1712A(h) of this title.

“(B) The term ‘veterans service organization’ means an organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of this title.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Chapter 63 of such title, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(1) by inserting before section 6301 the following:

“Subchapter I—Outreach Services Program”;

and

(2) in sections 6301, 6303, 6304, 6305, 6306, and 6307, by striking “this chapter” each place it appears and inserting “this subchapter”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 63 of such title is amended—

(1) by inserting before the item relating to section 6301 the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER I—OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new items:

“SUBCHAPTER II—OTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

“6320. Solid Start program.”.

SA 5506. Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5499 submitted by Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PRIDE IN PATENT OWNERSHIP.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 35.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in chapter 11, by adding at the end the following:

“§ 124. Government funding of patent applications and maintenance fees

“(a) GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF PATENT APPLICATIONS.—For any application for patent, if any governmental entity, including a foreign governmental entity, provides funding specifically for the purpose of paying fees to the Office under section 41, or specifically for the purpose of paying an attorney or patent agent for prosecution of the application, the application shall include, or be amended to include, a statement that names the entity providing that funding.

“(b) GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF MAINTENANCE FEES.—For any patent, if any governmental entity, including a foreign governmental entity, provides funding specifically for the purpose of paying maintenance fees to the Office under section 41, or specifically for the purpose of paying an attorney or patent agent for submitting those maintenance

fees, the patent owner shall file a separate statement that names the entity providing that funding.”; and

(B) in section 261—

(i) by striking the first undesignated paragraph and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) ATTRIBUTES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY.—Subject to the provisions of this title, patents shall have the attributes of personal property.

“(2) REGISTER OF INTERESTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Patent and Trademark Office shall maintain a register of interests in patents and applications for patents and shall record any document related thereto upon request, and may require a fee therefor.

“(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Office shall make the information described in subparagraph (A) publicly accessible, to the extent permitted by law.

“(3) REQUIREMENT TO RECORD CERTAIN ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER INTERESTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever a patent issues, or certain rights or interests in a patent (as defined by the Director) are assigned, granted, or conveyed to another person, including a governmental or legal entity—

“(i) the patent owner shall submit, or cause to be submitted, a request described in paragraph (2), unless such a request was submitted before the issuance of the patent;

“(ii) the Office shall, not later than 60 days after the date on which the Office receives a request submitted under clause (i)—

“(I) notify the patent owner regarding any error in the request, consistent with the requirements under clauses (iii) and (iv), as applicable; or

“(II) record the interest in the register described in paragraph (2);

“(iii) with respect to a request submitted under clause (i) that the Office identifies as containing an error that can be corrected without having to change the date of submission of the original request, as determined by the Office, the Office shall allow the submitting party to file a corrected request not later than 60 days after the date on which the Office notifies the submitting party regarding the error; and

“(iv) in the case of a submitting party that receives an error notice from the Office, as described in clause (ii)(I), and fails to file a corrected request during the 60-day period described in clause (iii), the date on which the submitting party ultimately files the corrected request shall be deemed to be the date of submission of the original request.

“(B) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO COMPLY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), if the conditions described in subclause (I) of clause (ii) apply with respect to a patent, no party may recover, for infringement of the patent in any action, increased monetary damages under section 284 during the period beginning on the date that is 121 days after the effective date of the issuance, assignment, grant, or conveyance with respect to the patent, as applicable, and ending on the date on which the ownership, assignment, grant, or conveyance of the patent is properly requested to be recorded under paragraph (2).

“(ii) CONDITIONS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—The conditions described in this subclause with respect to a patent are as follows:

“(aa) A party asserts the patent against an alleged infringer through a civil complaint, demand letter, or otherwise.

“(bb) Any of the following:

“(AA) The patent owner fails to comply with subparagraph (A)(i) with an intent to deceive a member of the public.

“(BB) The alleged infringer has reasonably relied in the course of business on a failure

by the patent owner to comply with subparagraph (A)(i).

“(CC) The party asserting the patent does not substantially match the entity with a recorded right to assert the patent and the alleged infringer suffers prejudice as a result of that discrepancy.

“(DD) The failure of the patent owner to comply with subparagraph (A)(i) conceals a separate legal or regulatory error, such as an improper Federal tax payment or the misapplication of section 337(a)(2) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1337(a)(2)).

“(II) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE.—A person that, in any action, is alleged to have infringed a patent may plead, as an affirmative defense in that action, that the conditions described in subclause (I) are applicable with respect to the alleged infringement of the patent.

“(iii) EXCEPTION.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—This subparagraph shall not apply if—

“(aa) the applicable patent owner, as of the date that the application for the patent was submitted, was an entity to which section 41(h)(1) applies;

“(bb) the party asserting the patent would qualify as an entity to which section 41(h)(1) applies, as of the date on which the entity asserts the patent, if that party were to file a patent application; and

“(cc) the party asserting the patent has been the owner, assignee, or exclusive licensee of not more than 20 patents, as of the date on which the party asserts the patent.

“(II) BURDEN.—A patent owner shall have the burden of establishing in an action that the elements described in subclause (I) apply.”;

(i) in the first undesignated paragraph following subsection (a), as so designated by clause (i) of this subparagraph, by striking “Applications” and inserting the following:

“(b) APPLICATIONS AND PATENTS ASSIGNABLE.—Applications”;

(iii) in the first undesignated paragraph following subsection (b), as so designated by clause (ii) of this subparagraph, by striking “A certificate” and inserting the following:

“(c) CERTIFICATE OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—A certificate”;

(iv) in the undesignated paragraph following subsection (c), as so designated by clause (iii) of this subparagraph, by striking “An interest” and inserting the following:

“(d) EFFECT OF ASSIGNMENT.—An interest”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“124. Government funding of patent applications and maintenance fees.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATES; APPLICABILITY.—

(A) AMENDMENTS REGARDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING OF PATENT APPLICATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FEES; TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The amendments made by paragraphs (1)(A) and (2) shall take effect on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) AMENDMENTS REGARDING OWNERSHIP AND ASSIGNMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the amendments made by paragraph (1)(B) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(ii) REQUIREMENT TO RECORD ASSIGNMENTS AND CERTAIN OTHER INTERESTS.—Paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of section 261 of title 35, United States Code, as so designated by paragraph (1)(B)(i) of this subsection, shall—

(I) take effect on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(II) apply with respect to any patent issuance, assignment, grant, or conveyance that occurs on or after the effective date described in subclause (I).

(b) RULES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (referred to in this section as the “Director”) shall issue rules that accomplish the following:

(1)(A) Define the term “certain rights or interests in a patent” for the purposes of subsection (a)(3) of section 261 of title 35, United States Code, as so designated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, which shall include examples of types of rights or interests that—

(i) are required to be recorded under such subsection (a)(3), such as patent assignments and exclusive licenses; and

(ii) are not required to be recorded under such subsection (a)(3), such as ownership of less than 10 percent of a patent.

(B) For the purposes of subparagraph (A), the Director may review rules defining the term “beneficial owner” issued by other Federal entities and agencies, including the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, the Department of the Treasury, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(2) Establish procedures for the proper recording of interests in patents that—

(A) provide for—

(i) notice of any error in a request submitted under subsection (a)(2) of section 261 of title 35, United States Code, as so designated by subsection (a)(1) of this section; and

(ii) an opportunity to correct an error described in clause (i);

(B) describe—

(i) which types of errors described in subparagraph (A)(i) are eligible for correction without having to change the date of submission of the original request, if the amended request is filed not later than 60 days after the date on which the Director notifies the submitting party regarding the error; and

(ii) which types of errors described in subparagraph (A)(i) must result in a new request with a new submission date; and

(C) require the recording of any parent corporation when an interest in a patent is recorded.

(3) Implement section 124 of title 35, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1) of this section.

(4) Otherwise implement the amendments made by subsection (a)(1).

(c) REGISTER.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall, with respect to the register described in subsection (a)(2) of section 261 of title 35, United States Code, as so designated by subsection (a)(1) of this section, create a publicly accessible database that is digitally searchable with fields based on patent number, assignee, assignor, assignment date, and other criteria determined by the Director.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, September 20; 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 conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Pan nomination, postcloture; further, all postcloture time on the Pan nomination be considered expired at 11:30 a.m. and, following the disposition of the Pan nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, at 2:30 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the resolution of ratification with respect to Treaty document No. 117-1; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday'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.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:39 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

B. BIX ALIU, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to MONTENEGRO.

MARTINA ANNA TKADLEC STRONG, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD

KATHLEEN CUNNINGHAM MATTHEWS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2023. (NEW POSITION)

JEFFREY GEDMIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2025. (NEW POSITION)

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE

JOSEPH LEE FALK, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE GEORGE E. MOOSE, TERM EXPIRED.

ROGER ISRAEL ZAKHEIM, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JEREMY A. RABKIN, TERM EXPIRED.

THE JUDICIARY

LINDSAY C. JENKINS, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE JOHN Z. LEE, ELEVATED.

CHARNELLE BJELKENGREN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, VICE SALVADOR MENDOZA, JR., ELEVATED.