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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, we trust You to guide our Nation and world. Permit us to feel Your nearness and to know the inspiration of Your presence. May our closeness to you help us to choose truth over falsehood, love over hate, and good over evil.

Lord, move among our lawmakers, instructing, lifting, and guiding them so that whatever they do in word or deed they will glorify You. Show our Senators what needs to be done and give them the courage and wisdom to do Your will.

We pray in Your glorious Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Republican leader is recognized.

### UKRAINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, here on the floor yesterday, I called on America's European allies, including Germany, to do more to equip Ukraine with long-requested tanks, not just to resist Russian aggression but to defeat it.

I have consistently called on the Biden administration to be more proactive and to lead by example in delivering lethal aid, like the long-range weapons, with a greater sense of urgency.

I was happy to learn yesterday and this morning that, indeed, both the White House and their counterparts in Germany are finally moving forward with these overdue steps.

Germany has announced it will supply Ukraine with an initial 14 Leopard 2 tanks, and the Biden administration is expected to send at least 30 M1 Abrams tanks as well. Good news.

Now that Berlin has taken this step, I hope and expect that Germany and other European countries with tanks in their inventory will move expeditiously to send them to Ukraine.

Modern main battle tanks will provide highly maneuverable armored firepower that will help Ukraine liberate territory and keep pressure on the Russian aggressors, but, as I have said repeatedly, time is of the essence.

Of course, as we rush these long-overdue capabilities to Ukraine, the West's work is far from over. These drawdowns of Western arsenals must also prompt serious work to expand the capacity of our defense industrial base. The Biden administration's efforts on this front are overdue but important, and I hope more of our allies will follow through by moving quickly to put

critical munitions and weapons systems under contract and expanding each of their industrial capacities.

### CRIME

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, here are just a few scenes from across our country in the last few weeks.

Thirty people were shot in Chicago this past weekend alone. That is up from 21 the weekend before.

In Philadelphia, police are investigating a carjacking spree that is reportedly being carried out by armed juveniles:

They put a gun to my head and they took the van. [And] I haven't found it back again.

Out in San Francisco, just one neighborhood has seen a beating, an attempted robbery, a 2-year-old suffering fentanyl poisoning after playing in the park, and 17 car windows smashed—all on one street, all on one night.

Streets, neighborhoods, and cities across our country are being swamped—literally, swamped—by a level of crime that is unsafe, uncivilized, and totally unacceptable.

My hometown of Louisville, KY, saw 10 homicides in just the first 10 days of 2023, and already 5 more since then—the latest additions to the list of 500-plus homicides we have seen since the start of this violent crime wave 3 years ago.

As Louisville's mayor said a few weeks ago, "these are not just numbers; these are people."

Many of the individuals our city lost were young, just starting out their careers and families. Far too many were children, including a 14-year-old boy we lost just 10 days ago.

Of course, for every victim who lost their life to violent crime, there are even more who have been injured or traumatized or literally forced to live in fear. As one resident said, "I got to lock my doors all the time . . . I'm worried about my children going outside. It's not fair."

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



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It is not fair. Of course, he is absolutely right. It is not fair that once-safe neighborhoods have become war zones. It is not fair that children are being murdered.

Or look at what is happening right here in the Nation's Capital. Right here in Washington, law and order have been in a free fall. Over the weekend, in broad daylight, a rideshare driver had his car stolen by a group of men brandishing rifles. City-wide, Washington is averaging a carjacking every day. Homicides this year are up 17 percent. Just yesterday, two 18-year-olds, fresh off a carjacking spree in a nearby county, came right here to the capital, ran into two separate Capitol Police vehicles, and then tried to flee on foot. Fortunately, the Capitol Police brought them into custody.

Yet the DC City Council is so completely captured by the woke far-left, they have responded to the crime wave with a new criminal code that—listen to this—reduces penalties even further. That is the response of the DC City Council.

Just last week, the council overrode the mayor's veto and pushed through a measure that shreds—shreds—the maximum punishment for gun crimes. It eliminates almost all mandatory minimum sentences. It will clog up the court system with massive expansions of new jury trials for misdemeanors.

Well, the good news on this front is that the U.S. Congress gets to have the final word over reckless local policies from the DC government. Senate Republicans will have a lot more to say on this subject. Stay tuned.

The American people know crime is getting worse, and they know it hasn't happened by accident. From Los Angeles to Philadelphia, to Chicago, the Democratic Party has backed radical district attorneys who have tried to unilaterally take parts of the local criminal code offline. They simply decline to prosecute serious crimes, from drug possession to criminal threats, as a matter of principle. In some cases these woke prosecutors are seeking early release for felons convicted of violent crimes.

Many other Democrats have spent years fanning the dangerous flames of the far-left's antipolice rhetoric. Of course, studies have proven that public hostility to police leads directly to more crime, including more homicides, in the at-risk communities that need law and order the most.

Furthermore, the Biden administration and Senate Democrats have spent 2 years working to stack the Federal judiciary with former public defenders and others whose sympathies lie more with criminal defendants than with innocent victims.

Nobody is arguing that criminal defenders should never become judges, but this has been a dramatic, deliberate transformation project that is skewed overwhelmingly in one direction. Even the New York Times has admitted it has been "a sea change in the world of traditional nominations."

The Biden administration never misses an opportunity to make crime even worse. Deaths from cocaine have quintupled over the past decade, but, just a few weeks ago, this President and his Attorney General took the radical and borderline lawless step of unilaterally reducing the penalties for dealing crack.

These liberals respond to soaring overdose fatalities by going even softer on drugs.

Democrats are struggling with the basics. Actually, this shouldn't be that hard. Drugs belong off the streets. Career criminals belong behind bars, and far-left politicians who put innocent citizens last belong far away from the levers of power.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I get into my remarks, there is just some floor business.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 23, H.R. 26, S.J. RES. 4, H.R. 22

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there are four measures at the desk that are due for a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 23) to rescind certain balances made available to the Internal Revenue Service.

A bill (H.R. 26) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 4) removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

A bill (H.R. 22) to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the measures on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to their further proceeding en bloc.

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

#### WELCOMING PETER WELCH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I believe this is the first time our new

Senator from Vermont is sitting in the Chair.

Congratulations. There will be many more opportunities just like this.

#### DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as the debate over raising the debt ceiling continues, Leader MCCONNELL said something yesterday that, I think, is right on the mark. He said that when it comes to moving a debt ceiling proposal through Congress, the House should go first. He is correct. Not only should the House go first, but they must quickly show the American people what their plan actually is for avoiding a first-ever default on the national debt. So far, we haven't heard anything beyond vague and troubling talking points about the need to cut Federal spending. That is not going to fly when you are in the majority, as Speaker MCCARTHY, of course, is. The substance and details make all the difference. The debt ceiling is not some political game, and Speaker MCCARTHY has an obligation to level with the American people on what precisely the new House plans to do in order to avoid a default.

President Biden and the Speaker have reportedly agreed to sit down in the near future on this topic, and the Speaker is apparently heralding this development as some sort of big win or concession. But look, Speaker MCCARTHY sitting down without a clear plan is no win. Sitting down to talk about the debt ceiling without a plan is like coming to the table with no cards. President Biden, meanwhile, has a plan. He has cards. He has been clear that there must be no brinksmanship and no default on the debt ceiling.

Speaker MCCARTHY, what about you? The House GOP is threatening spending cuts. Well, what are they? why the evasion? Why is your conference hiding from the American people?

House Republicans, where are your cards?

Again, I want to be clear that the debt ceiling is a subject of the highest consequence, and using it as a bargaining chip—using it as brinksmanship, as hostage-taking—as Republicans are trying to do, is exceedingly dangerous because if the House of Representatives continues on their current course and allows the United States to default on its debt obligations, every single American is going to pay a terrible and expensive price.

The consequences of default are not some theoretical abstraction. If default happens, Americans will see the consequences in their daily lives. Interest rates will go soaring on everything from credit cards and student loans to cars, mortgages, and more. That is thousands of dollars for each American going right out the door. That will happen and through no fault of their own.

Retirement plans, like 401(k)s, would lose their value, robbing people of their hard-earned livelihoods. For millions

of Americans who one day dream of owning a home—their own piece of the rock—a default would add \$130,000 to the lifetime cost of a new home. Imagine spending years putting a little bit of your paycheck aside every month in order to buy a house, only to find out that suddenly that dream is entirely out of reach because radical politicians in Washington bumbled their way into a financial catastrophe. That is precisely the danger we approach, thanks to the House GOP's reckless approach to the debt ceiling.

None of this need be inevitable or even likely if only House Republicans would quit their radical posturing and work with Democrats in a serious way to raise the debt ceiling together, and we should do it soon, not months from now when America finds itself staring straight into the abyss of a financial catastrophe.

I would remind my Republican colleagues they did it before, when Trump was President, three times, with no Democratic obstruction or hostage-taking, and we did it once together when Biden was President. Much of this debt comes from spending when Trump was President, voted on by a Republican House and a Republican Senate. So it is a bit of hypocrisy now to say that they can't do it again and are holding it hostage and are playing a dangerous form of brinksmanship. It shouldn't matter who is President. These are still bills we already incurred that must be paid for the good of all Americans.

#### NATIONAL SALES TAX

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the Republican national sales tax, the House Republicans keep churning this stuff out. It is unbelievable. In the 118th Congress, it is already a tale of two parties: Democrats united on one side, Republicans in chaos on the other.

While Democrats are laser-focused on making life better for everyday families, Republicans are making it clear they want to help the very, very wealthy—the ultrarich. While Democrats want to embrace collaboration and bipartisanship wherever possible, Republicans seem to be trapped by MAGA extremism. That is the contrast in a nutshell: Democratic unity versus Republican chaos, Democratic unity versus Republican chaos.

Yesterday, I joined with President Biden, the Vice President, Leader JEFFRIES, and Democratic colleagues from both Chambers to talk about how we Democrats can maintain our unity and turn it into action in order to help the American people.

Later today, I will join with Leader JEFFRIES to further highlight the contrast between Democrats' "people first" agenda and Republicans' radical plans—radical plans—for a national sales tax.

Multiple extreme-right Republicans say that Speaker MCCARTHY has prom-

ised them a vote on their national sales tax bill, which they guilefully refer to as the "FairTax Act." Nothing could be less fair to the American people. In a universe of bad ideas, a Republican national sales tax reigns supreme. This proposal, pushed by the MAGA fringe, who now controls the House Republican conference, would impose a 30-percent tax on every single purchase Americans make just as inflation is beginning to drop. This so-called FairTax is truly foul legislation for American families.

For young families who want to buy a home, well, the Republican tax plan would add nearly \$125,000 extra on top of the price you pay for your house—an impossible sum for many young people struggling to get their start in life.

And what about Americans out there thinking of buying a car? Under the Republican tax plan, the average American would pay \$10,000 more on that single purchase alone.

What about seniors getting ready for retirement? A Republican national sales tax means people's life savings would suddenly lose 30 percent of their value. Imagine working your entire life, playing by the rules, paying your taxes, saving a little of each paycheck only to have Republicans swoop in and erase nearly a third—a third—of what you have saved up.

And it doesn't end there.

Under the Republican tax plan, a mere trip to the grocery store would be torture. Eggs are high enough right now at \$4.25 a dozen. They would be \$5.50 under the Republican plan. Milk, right now, is \$4.40. It would cost \$5.70 under the Republican plan. The same holds true for everything else: bread, produce, canned goods, cleaning supplies, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers—you name it. All of it would go up by a third for millions of families—millions, tens of millions, probably hundreds of millions. It would be a devastating blow.

But do you know who wouldn't mind a Republican national sales tax? The ultrarich, the ultrawealthy. The top 1 percent of our earners wouldn't notice much change in expenses. That is who would win under the Republicans' proposal—the very, very rich—because their taxes would be greatly reduced even further, even worse than under the Trump tax cuts. No wonder, then, that even Grover Norquist—no friend of the Democrats—calls this bill a "terrible idea" and an "assault on your retirement savings."

Look, if Republicans want to start their majority with a debate on their national sales tax bill, Democrats would welcome it. Let the American people see which party is fighting for everyday folks and which party is trying to rig the game in favor of the ultrarich. It is a debate the American people need to see.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### 118TH CONGRESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the new Congress is a chance for a fresh start, and we need a fresh start. We cannot afford a repeat of the past 2 years.

Despite the fact that Democrats controlled Congress by the slimmest of margins in the last Congress, Democrats acted as if they had a mandate for radical, far-left change.

Democrats shoved through multiple partisan spending sprees, including the so-called American Rescue Plan Act which kicked off our current inflation crisis. And what they got through was mild compared to what they wanted to push through—from a Federal takeover of elections to some of the most extreme abortion legislation in the world. Fortunately, some of the Democrats' most radical proposals didn't ultimately make it through Congress, but not for a lack of trying on Democrats' part.

Despite the fact that they had nothing more than a technical majority, Democrats did their best to eliminate a voice for the minority party in the Senate by attacking the Senate filibuster rule. Some contemplated packing the Supreme Court to secure judicial support for Democrat policy priorities. And Democrats' rhetoric was often as extreme and divisive as their policies, with the standout example being an address the President gave a year ago this month in which he suggested that half the country was racist.

Mr. President, we have had another election, and the American people rejected one-party rule by electing a Republican House of Representatives. They have created a situation in which both parties will have to work together to get anything done.

I hope this will mark a new less partisan moment here in Congress. I hope we can move on from the past 2 years and start afresh to work together to address the challenges facing our country, because there is a lot that we can do together.

Despite the partisanship of the Democrat agenda over the last 2 years, there were still moments that reminded us that there are many areas where we can agree or are close enough to work together.

I introduced a number of bipartisan bills in the last Congress, and I am looking forward to working with colleagues of both parties on a number of issues in the new Congress.

One major piece of legislation we take up every few years is the farm bill, which has a strong bipartisan history. During my time in the Senate, I have introduced farm bill legislation with both Democratic and Republican

colleagues, and I think that working together, we can produce a bill this year that will meet the needs of our Nation's farmers and ranchers and strengthen U.S. agriculture production.

Another obvious area for bipartisan cooperation is the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization that is coming due this year, and none too soon, as recent air travel fiascos have made clear. Our last FAA reauthorization bill was a strongly bipartisan piece of legislation, and this year's bill should be the same.

Another area where I think there is a lot of room for bipartisan cooperation is promoting transparency and accountability in Big Tech.

President Biden recently published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal calling for, among other things, section 230 reform. I already have bipartisan legislation with Senator SCHATZ to reform section 230 and increase transparency and due process for users around content moderation actions taken by Big Tech platforms, and I will work to advance that legislation in this Congress.

I also think there is a lot we can do on a bipartisan basis to advance trade agreements to expand markets for American products and services around the world. The Biden administration has been slow to take action on trade, and I think there is a real interest from Members of Congress of both parties to accelerate our trade efforts and create new market access opportunities for American workers and producers.

I would also like to think we can agree on the need to conduct serious oversight of government spending to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively. Democrats forced through trillions of dollars in new spending during the last Congress, and conducting oversight of how that money is being spent is nothing less than our responsibility as Members of Congress. I am thinking in particular of the massive funding infusion—\$80 billion the Democrats handed to the IRS. Especially given the IRS' shaky record when it comes to handling taxpayer data, I would hope we can agree that rigorous oversight of the IRS is required.

I also hope that my Democrat colleagues will be open to working to extend tax relief for American businesses and American families. Americans and small businesses are going to face serious tax hikes if the tax relief from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act isn't extended or made permanent. I would like to think that Members of both parties could work together to extend this tax relief and the benefits it provides for Americans.

Another thing that I am hoping will happen in this Congress is a return to regular order when it comes to appropriations bills and other legislation. Omnibus appropriations bills are not an ideal way to fund the government,

to put it mildly. They are an invitation for waste and all the other problems that come with hastily thrown together legislation, and we need to do everything we can to make sure individual appropriations bills go through the committee process and are individually debated on the floor.

I am very encouraged that the incoming Democrat chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee has joined Senator COLLINS, who will be the top-ranking Republican on the committee, to announce her desire to pass appropriations bills through regular order. I really hope that that will be a bipartisan priority this year.

For similar reasons, we need to put a greater emphasis on making sure non-appropriations bills—especially the biggest bills that we consider—go through regular order in committee, where they could be publicly debated and amended and receive input from all committee members.

I hope that we can move forward a more collaborative and transparent process, which is the kind of process that best serves the American people.

Getting anything done in divided government requires a genuine attitude of compromise, with both sides conceding things, rather than the "my way or the highway" approach that we have seen from Democrats over the past 2 years. But if we can get there, then I think we can achieve a lot together in this new Congress.

I am eager to work with my colleagues from both parties to address the challenges facing our country. And for the good of the American people, I hope we will build a record of bipartisan accomplishment over the next 2 years.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### TRIBUTE TO DANIEL EDELMAN

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing a true Montana hero, Dr. Daniel Edelman. Dr. Edelman is a veteran of the U.S. Army who was seriously injured on a mission while deployed overseas as the non-commissioned officer in charge of security and intelligence of the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

Despite his severe injuries, Dr. Edelman pursued and obtained bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees, along with several professional certifications, allowing him to have a long and distinguished career serving his fellow Montanans.

While serving as chancellor at Montana State University Billings, Dr.

Edelman championed many student causes, with a particular focus on veterans, disabilities, first-generation, underserved, and Native American students. He worked with the FBI and other agencies to provide educational opportunities for victims of human trafficking and also entered into an agreement for MSUB to partner with the University of North Texas Health Science Center to identify human remains, particularly those of murdered Native Americans. Additionally, he created a veterans success center at MSUB. Dr. Edelman helped raise the final funds for a science building and student scholarships.

Outside of his work at MSUB, Dr. Edelman volunteers by serving on the board of Horses Spirits Healing, a non-profit that helps veterans with PTSD.

After a career dedicated to serving Montana and our Nation, Dr. Edelman recently retired from MSUB due to a terminal condition connected to his time in the U.S. Army. Dr. Edelman truly embodies the values and the spirit of a Montanan, and I have no doubt that his legacy of service will continue for many generations to come.

It is my honor to recognize Dr. Edelman, who is here in the Chamber today in the Gallery with his family. I want to recognize Dr. Edelman for his service to our great State, our great Nation, and for his dedication to improving the lives of his students and his fellow Montanan veterans.

Dr. Edelman, you have made Montana and our country very proud.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The majority whip.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN PENN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the State of Illinois is my home, and it holds an important place in the history of the American labor movement. All of us learned the name Upton Sinclair in our early days in school, the author of the 1906 novel "The Jungle," which told the story of the horrendous working conditions endured by, largely, immigrant workers in Chicago's meatpacking plants and led to Federal regulation.

A. Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, one of America's first unions for African-American workers, was a civil rights champion and a leader of the 1963 March on Washington.

There is also the story of Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, an Irish immigrant who survived the Great Famine in Ireland, the yellow fever epidemic of 1867, which took the lives of her husband and children, and after her own dress shop was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, she went on to become a woman labor organizer and a fierce and beloved champion of coal miners. Before she died, she said she wanted to be buried in a place of honor among coal miners. She is buried in a town near my home called Mount

Olive, IL, in the Union Miners Cemetery, the only union-owned cemetery in America.

Aside from being legends of labor history, Upton Sinclair, A. Philip Randolph, and Mother Jones had something else in common. They are all members of the Illinois Labor History Society's Union Hall of Honor, which was founded in 1969 to make sure that important figures and defining chapters of America's labor history are not forgotten.

The society's highest honor is to be named to its Union Hall of Honor. Last month, a longtime friend of mine, John Penn, was inducted into the Illinois Labor History Society's Union Hall of Honor. After nearly 60 years of protecting workers' rights in Illinois, the Midwest, and our Nation, John has certainly earned that honor. He is one of 113 men and women who have been inducted into the Union Hall of Honor, but to me John is one in a million.

He got his first union card in 1965, when he was 16 years old, joining the Laborers' International Union of North America Local 362 in Bloomington, IL. He took a break by joining the United States Air Force, serving in Vietnam, Korea, Guam, and then returning back to Bloomington and Local 362.

It was the same path taken a generation earlier by his father, Paul Penn, a World War II veteran who rose to become president of the same local. But John's family connections didn't win any special treatment. He had to rise through the ranks, and rise he did—from business manager of Local 362 to business manager of the 36-county North Central Illinois Laborers' District Council, then business manager of the four-state Great Plains Laborers' District Council, and, in 2008, vice president and regional manager of LIUNA's 10-State Midwest region and a member of the international union's general executive board, positions to which he has been reelected three different times.

Under John Penn's leadership, LIUNA Local 362 grew, giving a voice to scores of workers who previously had never benefited from union representation.

Some years ago, in response to several tragic accidents, John made himself known to many by stopping all highway construction in McLean County to force the State of Illinois to improve protections for vulnerable construction workers and others on the State's roadways. That action culminated in the creation of the Illinois State's Work Zone Safety Committee and implementation of numerous policies that saved lives.

Somehow, John also found time to resurrect Bloomington's Labor Day parade, to serve on several community and State boards, including the United Way of McLean County, the Children's Christmas Party for Unemployed Families, Illinois Special Olympics, the McLean County Promise Council, and the Bloomington-Normal Advancement and Economic Development Council.

He was honored by his hometown newspaper, the Bloomington Pantagraph, as its 2003 Person of the Year. He received a Thousand Points of Light Foundation award from then-President Clinton in 1997 in recognition of his volunteer efforts and those of all Bloomington-Normal building tradespeople who he recruited over the years to take part in these organizations.

At the end of this month, John Penn is retiring from this position with the Laborers' union. As he begins this new chapter, Loretta and I wish John and Mary, his wife of 55 years, good health, good times with their daughter Shawn, their children and grandchildren.

John, you made a real difference for so many people. You are truly a hall of famer, and thanks for all that you have done.

#### MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in the last two centuries, Federal support for scientific research has helped to split the atom, defeat polio, explore space, create the internet, map the human genome, develop vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, and so much more.

No nation has made such significant investments in science, and no nation's scientists have done more to improve the quality of life.

But with the challenges we face today, from devastating diseases to climate change, there is more progress to be made.

So America is at a turning point, and unless we commit to providing strong and sustained funding increases for our Nation's premier medical and scientific researchers, our position as the world leader will be at risk.

That is exactly why, since 2014, I have continued to introduce legislation to keep our Nation on the cutting edge. It is entitled the American Cures Act.

This bill will provide our top medical research Agencies with 5 percent real funding growth every year. That is steady, predictable growth, pegged above the rate of inflation.

This money would support the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense Health Program, and the Veterans' Affairs Medical and Prosthetics Research Program.

This investment would be game-changing for the Agencies. Consider the National Institutes of Health. It is our Nation's—if not the world's—premier medical research Agency. Their pioneering work at this single agency saves lives and fuels our economy, supporting nearly 20,000 jobs just in my home State of Illinois.

Today, the NIH budget is \$47.5 billion. More than 95 percent of this funding is competitively awarded to scientists, research institutions, and small businesses in every State across the country.

Researchers supported by the NIH make tens of thousands of new discov-

eries every year—breakthroughs that could literally change the world.

In recognition of these remarkable feats, Congress has, on a bipartisan basis, increased the NIH annual budget by more than \$17 billion since I first introduced the American Cures Act in 2014.

This chart is an indication of that growth. It has gone from \$30 billion to \$48 billion in that period of time since 2014—a 58-percent increase.

These increases would not have been possible without a bipartisan effort in the U.S. Senate.

I enlisted a willing participant and ally and really effective Member of the Senate, PATTY MURRAY, to be part of this; former Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri, who, when the Republicans were in majority control of the Senate, kept up this promise to increase the spending; and retired Senator Lamar Alexander from Tennessee, who shared our passion for medical research.

Luckily, we had a leader at the time, Dr. Francis Collins, former Director of the NIH, who really did his part in enlisting support for these increases.

NIH is not the only Federal medical research Agency to see significant funding increases. We have also secured \$2.4 billion in increased funding for the CDC over the last 9 years. That is a 35-percent increase since fiscal year 2014.

And while it is not reflected in the chart I just showed, both the CDC and NIH also received billions in supplemental funding from COVID rescue bills passed by the Senate in 2020 and 2021.

While this year's budget provided a 5.8-percent bump to the NIH, a \$2.5 billion increase, I am sorry to say we fell short of the 5-percent real-growth target above inflation.

If we had met this target, NIH would have received \$650 million, up to a level of more than \$48 billion.

That said, I am still encouraged about how far we have come. We finally reversed a 22-percent decline in NIH purchasing power that took place after 12 years of flat funding, but we need to step up our efforts.

Diseases like cancer, stroke, opioid addiction, and mental illness will not wait on us. Half of all men and one-third of all women in the U.S. will develop cancer in their lifetime. Someone's mother, father, brother, sister, or spouse is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease every 65 seconds.

And 1 in every 300 people will be diagnosed with ALS in their lifetime. Sadly, a number of my closest friends already have received this diagnosis.

Sustained and robust NIH funding will help cure, prevent, and treat these diseases. It will help the people that we all care about the most, and it already has.

Because of NIH funding—listen to this—the American Cancer Society estimates that nearly 3½ million lives were saved between 1991 and 2019 as a result of improvements in cancer treatment, detection, and prevention—a 32-

percent drop in the cancer death rate since 1991.

Thirty years ago, HIV was a death sentence, but because of NIH research, that is no longer the case.

And because of NIH funding, we are also on the verge of curing—yes, curing—sickle cell anemia, an inherited blood disorder that primarily affects African Americans.

Consider this: NIH funding contributed to research associated with every new drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration from 2010 to 2019.

Let me repeat that for emphasis. There are only two countries in the world that allow general advertising of prescription drugs—the United States and New Zealand. You can't turn on the television without hearing the story of a new drug. Every single drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration from 2010 to 2019 started off with government-funded, taxpayer-funded research at the National Institutes of Health.

So when you see these wonderful drugs, understand we, as Americans, put down the initial investment that made these drugs all possible.

However, there is a real threat to our Nation's investment in medical research. The new House Republican majority, after more than a dozen—in fact, 15—painful and embarrassing failed votes to secure the Speaker, announced that Speaker McCarthy had finally won the day, he made some deals, agreements with MAGA Republicans for that to happen.

One of those agreements would literally devastate funding for medical research in the future. What a price to pay.

He reportedly agreed to hamstringing government funding for 2024 at 2022 levels—a senseless move—senseless move—that would cut funding for scientific breakthroughs by roughly 7 percent and delay the delivery of new cures and treatments for those most in need.

So I would like to know, for the record, which diseases and conditions would Speaker McCarthy and the House Republicans like us to slash funding for? Cancer? Alzheimer's? Parkinson's? Diabetes? ALS? Heart disease? Which one?

Speak up, Mr. Speaker. This is supposed to be a new transparent House of Representatives. If you are going to cut funding in medical research, what can we put on the back of the burner, and how can we explain that to the families across America?

Now is not the time for political horse-trading that puts one person in power at the expense of everyone waiting for a cure.

We need to build on the bipartisan success which we have had to date and we have achieved over the past decade and continue to prioritize medical research funding that creates jobs but, most importantly, saves lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about the border one more time, but I was intrigued by the rhetorical questions my friend from Illinois has asked the Speaker.

I have got a question for President Biden: When you say that you are not going to negotiate on the debt ceiling, does that mean that the Federal Government is going to continue to rack up more and more debt on top of the \$30 trillion that we already owe, particularly during inflationary times when interest rates on that debt basically are eating up more and more of our discretionary budget?

To me, if the answer is yes, I am going to refuse to negotiate as we continue to rack up more and more debt, about two-thirds of which is on autopilot, as the Presiding Officer knows—it is mandatory spending. That is a supremely irresponsible position to take.

President Biden, when he was in the Senate, was known as a dealmaker, and as I said yesterday, during 2011, he negotiated with Senator McConnell the Budget Control Act, which was probably the most recent response, sort of a mixed bag as it was, to try to control Federal spending. It was a noble effort, although it did not succeed.

So I know our friends on the Democratic side would like to sort of add to Mr. McCarthy's challenges. We have got 6 months, perhaps, between now and the time the extraordinary measures the Treasury Department is going to be using to make sure we don't actually breach that debt limit, but I would suggest that the time would be better used, rather than sort of to add gasoline to the fire, to actually try to solve the problem. And the problem—the debt limit—is real. It needs to be addressed by two people: Speaker McCarthy and the President of the United States. Because anything the Senate were to pass with 60 votes, which would be required, would certainly be dead on arrival in the House of Representatives.

And so as a practical matter, while we are going to be very interested and engaged in the debate and discussion, that is where the decision is going to have to be made sometime between now and the time extraordinary measures are exhausted, perhaps as early as June.

But in the meantime, for the President of the United States, who represents not just Democrats, who represents all Americans—all 330 million-plus of us—to say: I am not negotiating, even though he has got a track record as a Senator and as a Vice President of negotiating hard things like this, to me, is an irresponsible answer, and I hope he will reconsider.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Now, Mr. President, to talk about what I came here to talk about—talk about the border.

I live in a border State. We have 1,200 miles of border with Mexico. We have, as a country, 2,000 miles of border with Mexico. And we are seeing numbers of people showing up at the border that we have never seen before—millions of people since President Biden was sworn in as President on January 20, 2021, millions of people showing up, many of whom are claiming asylum and seeking to immigrate permanently into the United States under the asylum laws. Because the administration has a policy of releasing those individuals into the interior of the United States to await a future immigration court hearing, which may be years in the future because of backlog, many of those individuals do not show up at their immigration court hearing but simply are willing to play the odds that they can just melt into the Great American heartland and not be returned or repatriated to their country of origin or actually have to appear at an asylum hearing.

We know that, statistically, the number of people who actually do show up for an asylum hearing in front of an immigration judge, only roughly 90 percent of them fail to meet the very stringent requirement for asylum, which is basically a credible fear of persecution based on some classification: race, sex, ethnic origin, or the like. That is a very narrow test, and it certainly does not include fear of poverty or even violence in your home country. Yet the policy of the Biden administration to basically create open borders and place individuals who show up and claim asylum—these are not people trying to run away from the Border Patrol, by the way. These are people who are turning themselves in because they know they can play the system, and they will be able to make their way into the United States without any consequences—certainly, no legal consequences.

I am sure those of my colleagues who have visited the border—and we had a bipartisan group just a couple weeks ago who did visit again both Yuma, AZ, and El Paso. But as my colleagues can attest, there is no data, there is no image there, frankly, or no words to adequately convey the complexity of what is happening at the border today. To understand, you have to see and hear for yourself.

Several years ago, I traveled to Brooks County, which is a little county in South Texas, where I visited a ranch that the Border Patrol had a rescue beacon in the middle of.

And just to explain, the Border Patrol does a lot of humanitarian rescues because, as you can imagine, people coming from Central America, up across the land bridge into Mexico, up to the United States, many of them show up dehydrated, suffering from exposure, and some of them, frankly, die on the trip. But the Border Patrol, while they have the responsibility of enforcing our immigration laws at the border and interdicting illegal drugs,

they also rescue migrants who are in distress. And what these rescue beacons are, out in the middle of nowhere, frankly—what they are are large poles with a light on top that allows migrants who are sick, injured, or otherwise in distress to contact law enforcement for help and immediately get access to first aid, water, food, whatever they need. There is a sign at the bottom of these rescue beacons that instructs the migrants to press a red button for help and to remain in the area.

Well, when I first went to Brooks County, which is where this—Falfurrias is probably the largest inland port where the Border Patrol has a checkpoint in Brooks County. I was surprised to see the rescue beacons not written in just English, not just written in Spanish but in Mandarin. Mandarin. This is Brooks County, TX, a rural county 70 or so miles from the U.S.-Mexico border, and the rescue beacon is in Chinese, the Chinese language. This is a factoid about the border crisis that doesn't get nearly the attention that it deserves. What this tells me and what I have learned subsequently is that migrants aren't just coming from Mexico. They are not just coming from Central America. They are literally coming from all around the world.

Now, when I hear, for example, Vice President HARRIS or the President of the United States or Secretary of State Blinken talk about the migration crisis, they want to talk about root causes. And I think, although that is a little bit vague, I think what they are talking about is they view migration as an economic crisis: people living in their home country who are seeking a better life, which we all certainly understand, or fleeing violence—they want to talk about root causes.

But I think what they don't understand or certainly aren't articulating is the fact that this is far broader than a regional problem concentrated in Mexico and Central America. I think the fact that these rescue beacons have been, for many years, written in English, Spanish, and Mandarin is evidence of the fact that this is a far larger problem but one that the administration has simply not acknowledged.

A couple of weeks ago, I traveled with a bipartisan delegation of colleagues to El Paso, TX, which is the westernmost point in my State. Actually, just a bit of trivia, the city of El Paso is closer to the Pacific Ocean than it is to the eastern tip of Texas, to give you an idea of the scope of what we are talking about. It is a big place.

But we traveled to El Paso, TX, which is an urban area, but we also went to Yuma, AZ, which, if you look on the map, is the southwestern portion of Arizona, another border State, just right up against California. But it is an agricultural community. I think it is fair to say—I am not disparaging it—it is kind of a sleepy little agricultural town.

We met a number of people in El Paso and Yuma whom I want to men-

tion. In El Paso, we went out on a night patrol with the Border Patrol. They got on their horses, and they rode over this large area where there is a lot of traffic. And then we were informed that they had detained two migrants. And so we walked over there to sort of see what was going on, and the Border Patrol said: Well, these two are from China. El Paso, TX, two Chinese migrants trying to make their way across the border. As a matter of fact, one of the Border Patrol Agents had to use an app on the phone, I think it is called Google Translate, in order to communicate with these migrants.

Then, when we went to one of the detention facilities or processing facilities, actually—not actually detention—we met a family from Uzbekistan while touring the Border Patrol Central Processing Center in El Paso—not in Mexico, not Central America, but Uzbekistan. You can look that up on the map. It is not a part of the region that the President, the Secretary of State, and Vice President are talking about when they are talking about root causes of illegal immigration.

But when we went to Yuma, the little sleepy agricultural town on the border of Mexico and the United States, the Acting Border Patrol Chief told us that one of the unusual features of a number of the migrants who came across Yuma were they came from 176 different countries, and they spoke more than 200 languages.

And you might ask: How in the world is that possible? Well, Senator KELLY, one of the Arizona Senators, said: Well, there is an airport right across the border in Mexico, at the northern border, in a city called Mexicali. Again, if you look at your map of Mexico, you will see that Mexicali is a pretty large urban area right there on the Arizona border. And people fly into there. Of course, they have to pay human smugglers, criminal organizations that are a network that smuggle human beings for money from anywhere in the world to that airport, and then they walk across or walk up to the Yuma Border Patrol and claim asylum.

They noted that many of them are apparently well-to-do. Somebody mentioned Gucci luggage. I don't know whether Gucci makes luggage or not, but you get the idea. These are the not the sort of mental pictures that I think many people have of migrants who are seeking a better life, necessarily, fleeing poverty, I should say, or fleeing violence.

So the reason I mention this is because the reality of what is happening on the ground along the border undercuts the rhetoric we hear from the administration about how to solve this problem.

The White House has pushed a narrative that the only way to fix the border crisis is to fix the “root causes” of migration, meaning the economic and security concerns that cause people to come here. It has honed in on the Northern Triangle, including El Sal-

vador, Guatemala, and Honduras, as the primary region of concern.

The administration's border czar, Vice President HARRIS, even led the development of the “root causes strategy.” The problem is the data shows that this is not the region driving illegal migration.

Last month, Customs and Border Protection encountered more than a quarter of a million migrants at the southern border. Fewer than 33,000 of those 250,000 were from Northern Triangle countries—33,000 out of the 250,000 were from Northern Triangle countries. So these are the three countries that the administration is focused on.

It reminds me of the story of people who look through a soda straw at a problem. Well, they can look down the soda straw, and they can see what is happening there, but they don't see what is happening around it, and they lose any sense of context or the complete picture. That is what the administration is doing when they are looking at the border and the humanitarian and national security crisis occurring there on a daily basis and in my State's backyard.

As a matter of fact, these three countries represent only about 13 percent of the migrants encountered at the southern border in December. Mexican nationals, the large country right on our southern border—Mexico is not driving the numbers either. Only 19 percent of the border encounters in December were Mexican nationals.

So where are all these men and women and children coming from? Well, you can take a global map, a map of the world, and you can take a dart and throw the dart at the map and you are likely to hit a place where these migrants are coming from. Last year, across the entire border, Customs and Border Protection encountered migrants from 174 different countries. People from every corner of the globe are traveling through Mexico and crossing America's southern border.

There is no question that the conditions in Mexico and the Northern Triangle are contributing, but they are only a small fraction of the problem. People around the world see the Biden administration catching and releasing migrants by the thousands on a daily basis. They see the yearslong wait for asylum cases to be adjudicated. They see the lack of any interior enforcement by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and as they look at this picture, they realize that if they can make it across the southern border, they are likely to be able to stay in the United States for years, if not a lifetime.

Despite what the administration may think, this is not just a regional problem; it is a global phenomenon, run by transnational criminal organizations. That ought to concern all of us.

Last year, CBP encountered migrants from 174 different countries. If the administration wants to fix the “root



causes" of this crisis, are they going to fix the world? You can see why their misconception, their misunderstanding, their erroneous narrative of what the problem is doesn't help solve the problem.

It is time for the Biden administration to acknowledge the reality of the situation and look at solutions that are realistic and effective. In order to get this crisis under control, we have to move quickly on a bipartisan basis to insist on the enforcement of our immigration laws when people attempt to enter our country other than through legal means. That is the only viable path forward, and the sooner the administration understands that, the better off we will all be.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Nebraska.

### BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I would thank my colleague, the senior Senator from Texas, for his comments and his perspective and his insight, as a Senator serving from a border State, on what they are facing every single day. I would say to my colleague that Nebraska has become a border State. I know Colorado has become a border State. Every State in this country now is feeling the effects of the chaos that we see at our southern border, so my thanks to the senior Senator from Texas for offering his perspective on that.

I would say that on January 13 in Nebraska, we had two Nebraska State Patrol officers who pulled over two separate vehicles that were hours away from each other. One car contained 50,000 suspected fentanyl pills. The other contained a suspected fentanyl-cocaine mixture. Both cars were driven up from the border. These are only the latest instances of synthetic opioid trafficking in my State of Nebraska. In 2022, the Nebraska State Patrol confiscated 66 pounds of fentanyl, and that is up from 25 pounds the year before and 10 pounds in 2020.

In Nebraska and throughout this Nation, the numbers of drug seizures are staggering. At the southwest border, there was a 55-percent increase in fentanyl seizures from just November to December. Heroin seizures increased by 52 percent the month before. Methamphetamine seizures increased as well.

We know what is driving these drug trafficking numbers: We have a crisis at our southern border. The effects of that crisis are rippling across the country, felt by communities in Nebraska and beyond.

When we cannot control who is entering the United States, what they are bringing in, or where they are going, that is a serious national security risk.

Let's go over the numbers. Customs and Border Protection encountered 2.3 million migrants at the southern bor-

der this past fiscal year—more encounters than any other year in our history. Migrant encounters in December reached the highest monthly level ever recorded, with over 250,000 encounters in 1 month. That number had tripled in just 2 years. And it gets even worse. Border Patrol agents have stopped individuals on the government's terror watch list 38 times so far since October. Suspected terrorist encounters will hit record levels if this trend continues through 2023. Gang-affiliated encounters skyrocketed last year as well, from 348 to 751.

These historic statistics should concern anyone who cares about our country's security and the safety of our communities and the safety of American families. But this administration doesn't consider what is going on at the border to be a crisis. In fact, our President hardly seems to consider what is going on at the border at all. Despite his recent trip south for what I thought was a photo op, his administration has exacerbated the border crisis.

In case anybody has forgotten, let me refresh your memories. With simple strokes of his pen, President Biden ended the national emergency declaration at the border. He halted construction on the border wall, and he scaled back ICE enforcement in the first few months of his Presidency.

No amount of photo ops can change what we all know: This administration has not only failed to prioritize the safety and security of our border, it has put forward policies over the past 2 years that have worsened this crisis.

Only a month ago, President Biden himself insisted that "there are more important things going on." I happen to think the national security threat posed by an influx of suspected terrorists across the border is important. I think that human trafficking overrunning our border is important. I think the massive increase in overdoses due to drug smuggling across the border is important. Across the country, fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 49. Between 2019 and 2021, Nebraska's largest county saw an appalling 400-percent increase in fentanyl overdose deaths.

Complacency is not an acceptable response to this atrocious uptick in loss of life. My Republican colleagues and I have real, commonsense solutions to the problems that our border is facing. We need to invest more in new border security measures and resources for the men and women who serve us honorably as Border Patrol agents. We need to end the lenient policies like catch-and-release and increase penalties for people who don't show up for their immigration court hearings. We need the Department of Homeland Security to create a serious, comprehensive strategy to address those issues.

Simply throwing more tax dollars toward a smartphone app that offers migrants appointments to cross our bor-

der—well, that is what the Biden administration has proposed. It is not the right response to the mayhem we are seeing. Their policies do nothing to secure the border and to reinforce our Nation's security.

Until President Biden and my Democratic colleagues seriously work with us to fix this border chaos once and for all, we can expect to see more drugs brought into our country, more women and children facing a life of sex trafficking, and more threats to the security of our Nation.

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.

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

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

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

### BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today at the beginning of this new year to talk about a problem we have talked about a lot, but unfortunately we haven't gotten the results we need, and that is to talk about our southern border.

It is not a new topic for me—I have been on the floor many times talking about this, as have my colleagues—and it is not a new topic for the American people because they see this every day, and many people are living it very close-up. Many of my colleagues can say the same because this is a topic they have unfortunately had to discuss over and over and over again, with no real results, and we are going to hear from some of them today.

Years ago on this Senate floor, I said:

I urge my colleagues here in the Senate to take a long—hard look at the undisputed facts that demonstrate the crisis at the border is escalating.

When I said those words, it was December 2018. The number of apprehensions along the southern border then was a little more than 60,000. Over the weekend, Customs and Border Protection released the numbers for this past December, and apprehensions along our southern border were reported at 251,487—an alltime high.

You can see from the chart I have here—you might not be able to read the numbers, but the dark blue is what we have been doing all through 2022, far eclipsing the light blue of 2021, which



were record numbers. But, here again, in the dark purple, which is the lower one, this is the average from fiscal year 2013 to 2020, and many times, this is five times, six times the amount in December. That is startling—startling.

But one thing that has changed over these last 2 years, fortunately, is that the President finally decided to visit the southern border. He went to El Paso several weeks ago. Well, it is about time. It certainly shouldn't have taken that long to visit a part of our country that is deeply affected by these numbers, but he finally went down.

I have been to the southern border many times. I am sure, Madam President, you have been there many times as well—quite a bit over the years. We just had several codels go down these past couple weeks.

The President has been saying of Republicans that “it is easy to demagogue the issue and reject solutions.” So here is what I have to say to the President in response to that: No, Mr. President, it is not easy to demagogue. It is easy to see that the issue is not getting the attention that it deserves by this administration.

The chart pretty much says it all right there.

The Biden administration often pivots to calling for comprehensive immigration reform and that Congress needs to provide the resources. Some of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are discussing these very issues. But this is not an either/or scenario. Any discussions about the need for and the way we reform our immigration system are separate and apart from the need to enforce the laws to secure the border.

I am particularly struck by the President's comment on solutions. To explain these record numbers almost each and every month, we have been told: The surge is seasonal.

By the way, December is traditionally, as you can see, one of the lower months over the years, so the seasonal charge cannot be the issue.

The surge was the result of particular political conditions in relative countries.

Well, we see people coming in from hundreds of countries, not just surging from political conditions in a country.

Our economy is a magnet.

It very well could be.

It is a surge for asylum or those fleeing countries that are impacted by natural disasters.

All of these things, these excuses, are from the administration.

One thing is clear: Thousands of individuals and families are continually coming into our country unaccounted for, draining the resources of many of our communities.

But Congress needs to do our part to provide the funds and support for the men and women in the Agencies that are tasked with securing our border, enforcing our immigration laws, and stemming the flow of drugs, particularly fentanyl, from getting into our

country. I stand ready to do that and have done that through my work on the Appropriations Committee as the ranking member on Homeland Security.

Now, you may disagree with the tone and tactics of the last administration, but I think everyone can agree that border security was certainly a priority, and that is why so many of us called for President Biden to go to the border himself and see the crisis for himself. The numbers under President Trump were measurably less because of his policies.

There is an irony here because after 2 years of neglect, we have seen the need to go to the border in a way dwindled because the border crisis has actually come to the President, come to Washington, DC, come to West Virginia, come to Denver.

But some of the most critical comments about the impacts and failures of these policies have not come from Republicans but from a mayor of a town along the Rio Grande or from the Democratic mayor of the city of New York. Mayor Adams, mayor of New York City, has called this situation not just a crisis, but, instead, he has called it a disaster—exactly what it is. Mayor Adams is now seeking funds to help house those tens of thousands of migrants who are arriving in New York City.

Cities far into the interior of our country are being stretched to the max from the migrant surge. This is why we have to do everything we can to stem the influx.

We just passed an Omnibus appropriations bill that increases funding for these activities, particularly at CBP, ICE, and FEMA, for personnel and for technology. But imagine the men and women who have to deal with this all the time—the fatigue, the morale, the difficulties when you are so overrun. They are just pressed beyond capacity month after month and year after year. Each year, we have worked in a bipartisan way within Homeland Security to encourage and fund increased hiring for Border Patrol agents, for example. We are way down on those. But it has been difficult to fill these positions or to even maintain the current force.

One of the things I am most proud about in my tenure as ranking member on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee is the creation and funding of a new position for CBP called the processing coordinators. We did this because too many of our trained agents were pulled from their duty stations and their mission to perform tasks that they are not prepared to do. This balance enables Agencies to go back to actually performing tasks they are supposed to do, they are equipped for, and they are trained for.

In addition to increasing resources for CBP, we must also be making efforts to increase interior enforcement. Once they get through the border and they declare asylum, they are told to come back in 5 to 7 years. Many of

them don't, but that is what they are—and they are in the interior of the country, and we don't use the interior enforcement mechanisms that we have. It is very unacceptable that thousands upon thousands are waiting—in some cases waiting 7 years before they can even begin any kind of removal procedures.

We just cannot let this crisis continue.

Bottom line: The issue was not a priority of the first 2 years of this administration. That is very obvious. As I said, the chart—this is the second year of the President's administration. This is the first year which is way above the averages, but it definitely cannot be ignored. The impact on too many families, too many businesses, and too many communities along the southern border, even in our State of West Virginia, simply cannot be ignored.

I am glad the President went, and now he is fully aware, hopefully, of the problem. I sure hope he is ready and willing to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I gave my remarks on border security, and as the new vice chair of the Republican conference, I have gathered some really strong voices here to share in the concerns that I have. I am really pleased to have the chair of our policy committee here, Senator ERNST from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Thank you, Vice Chair CAPITO. Wow. It is great to have another woman in leadership and leading these floor events now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, I do want to thank my friend and colleague Senator CAPITO of West Virginia for her leadership in bringing Senate Republicans to the floor to talk about what is a very important issue to all of our constituents—the safety and the security of our great Nation.

Joe Biden created a crisis that has now turned into a complete catastrophe—one a mere photo op at a cleaned-up site in Texas won't fix. In just 2 years, under President Biden, over 4 million illegal immigrants have crossed the southern border—151 who are on the terror watch list. To top that off, we know of at least 1.2 million individuals who evaded the authorities. Those are the individuals we call the “got-aways.”

This border catastrophe is so much more than a flood of illegal immigrants hoping to jump the legal immigration line to get in the door. An open border is an invitation for mischief. It is a drug lord's dream.

In my home State of Iowa, drug overdoses among young people have risen 120 percent in the last few years. According to the State's Division of

Criminal Investigation, there were four times the amount of fentanyl pills disguised as prescription drugs in 2022 as compared to the previous year.

We must act now to counter this deadly fentanyl epidemic. We, as lawmakers, should make the distribution of fentanyl resulting in death punishable by Federal felony murder charges. It is past time the consequences for intentionally inflicting an overdose fits the crime.

The cartels producing and smuggling this deadly drug into the United States are also funneling a significant number of illegal firearms and weapons, leading to barbaric violence. Just last week in California, a family of six, including a 10-month-old baby girl, was killed in a drug cartel execution. Unfortunately, the suspects are still at large.

Folks, this death and devastation cannot continue. In the coming weeks, I am looking forward to leading a bicameral delegation to the California-Mexico border. There, we plan to hear directly from Customs and Border Protection personnel about fentanyl and their ongoing drug interdictions. We will tour the port in San Diego—the epicenter for fentanyl trafficking into the United States—and get a firsthand look at the dangerous and critical work our Border Patrol agents are doing day in and day out.

I anticipate a common theme in all of our conversations: the need to physically secure our border, something my colleagues on the other side of the aisle used to support.

In 2007, then-Senator Joe Biden argued:

No great country can say it's secure without being able to secure its borders.

In 2010, Senator CHUCK SCHUMER supported border security and agreed the border lacked “the resources to fully combat the drug smugglers, gun runners, human traffickers, money launderers, and organized criminals that seek to do harm to innocent Americans along our border.”

Amen, folks. I agree with both of them. But where is that same attitude now, when the southern border has become immensely more dangerous, more permeable, and more lethal?

At every single one of my townhalls, over the past 3 weeks, and in dozens of interviews with Iowa media, I was asked about the crisis at the southern border.

So, to those on the left who say this is just a Republican stunt, I think you had better get out of the beltway and into Middle America, hear directly from the people you are supposed to serve, and you will quickly find out it is no stunt; it is reality.

Iowa families want solutions. They want safety, and they want to curtail the ever-increasing access to deadly drugs for their children, and they are not alone. The American people want a solution. In fact, over a majority of Americans—73 percent, according to one Pew Research poll—say they believe we need to increase security along the U.S.-Mexico border.

It is a great place to start, a place to find common ground.

In fact, there are left over border materials from the Trump administration just lying out in the desert, materials that taxpayers have paid for that are just collecting dust. And get this: The Federal Government is actually paying—yes, they have hired contractors, and they spend our tax dollars to do this—to watch over those materials that are lying there in the desert.

Without a secure border, we cannot have a larger conversation about reforming our immigration system.

So maybe, just maybe, a good place to start is for this administration to allow States that want to complete the border barrier to do so, instead of taking them to court.

Besides, doesn't Biden's Justice Department have enough on their hands right now?

So I agree with the Senator from West Virginia that this is an issue that needs to be addressed.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I have been on this floor many times to speak to this body about the issue of immigration on our southwest border. It is an issue. It has been an issue for the past couple of years, and, unfortunately, it continues to get worse.

As I talk to people in Oklahoma, they are very open to immigration. They just want legal immigration, and they want our system set up in such a way to incentivize legal immigration. But that is not what is happening right now.

Seven of us, 2 weeks ago, in a bipartisan codel, went to the southwest border, and we spent a couple of days there in the El Paso area and then over into Yuma, AZ, just to be able to visit with the folks on the line, with the folks in the communities, to be able to talk to those individuals who are taking care of human needs, to say: What is going on on the ground? What do we need to know?

I have been to the border many times. So I have had the opportunity to be able to hear some of the other reports, but it is always interesting just to be able to get the perspective of what is happening right now, because, as they say along the border, if you have been to one spot on the border, you have been to one spot on the border because it is different in each area, what they are facing.

Let me give you just one story from this. When we visited with the sheriff

and with the city manager and with the mayor of a small town in Arizona named Yuma, AZ—Yuma, AZ, is right on the border. It is an ag community. If you have eaten a salad in the past year, you have eaten something from Yuma, AZ, because they grow the vast majority of the lettuce for our country. Yuma, AZ, 3 years ago, in that area, had 8,100 people illegally cross in that year. For that one small town, they were trying to manage 8,100 people crossing 3 years ago. This past year, Yuma, AZ, had 310,000 people illegally cross the area.

So in 3 years, they went from 8,000 people illegally crossing to 310,000 people illegally crossing in a year. They are overwhelmed.

May I remind you, the mayor of New York is worried about an additional 40 to 50,000 people in New York City and having a difficult time absorbing that. Yuma, AZ, is trying to figure out how to absorb 310,000 people coming through their community.

The issues are complicated and they are difficult, but they are not unachievable. It is an issue of how are we going to enforce the law.

Now, I would tell you that I have met with the Border Patrol many times over the years, and one of the things they will often talk to me about is that they finally get a break each December because, typically, of Christmas, quite frankly, not as many people cross illegally during Christmastime. They stay home with families. And so December is usually a down month for illegal crossings, and it is year after year after year, until this year.

This year, there was a record number of people illegally crossing in December. So instead of going down, it actually went up when a quarter million people illegally crossed our southwest border in 1 month. That was last month, in December, a quarter million people.

This is a growing issue that requires attention, and it is not just the people this year. It is also all the other complications that come with it, because the Border Patrol is very clear: While we are managing this massive number of people coming from all over the world across that border, we can't go interdict drugs, we can't go interdict other things because we don't have the manpower to be able to do both.

So, again, last month, drug seizures in the United States increased 17.5 percent. In 1 month, it went up. This is an issue that requires real focus, and my concern is that the numbers are so large and it is so out of control that people are just saying: It is too big. I am not going to deal with it.

But the chaos along our border is continuing.

Now, the administration has made some bold statements of late. They said we are going to dramatically increase the number of people who are going to have expedited removal attached to them. Now, that sounds really severe—“expedited removal.” They

are going to have extradited removal when they get there. Except, when we ran the numbers to be able to look at it, at how many people are actually removed who get expedited removal, the number came back 7 percent.

So expedited removal doesn't actually mean removal. It is just a title that is being placed on individuals. So nothing is really changing there.

And as I mentioned before, these are not just individuals from Central America or from Mexico. These are individuals coming from all over the world.

When our bipartisan codel was down on the border a few weeks ago, we watched two individuals who had just been picked up by mounted patrol as they were running across the border. But they were not running faster than the mounted patrol, which was able to catch up with them, and they were able to arrest them. Those two individuals were Chinese nationals who were making their way across the border illegally at night, running from the Border Patrol.

People from all over the world are coming because there is an invitation to illegally cross the border. People are coming right now because it is actually easier to get a job in America. If you are living in another country and you want to work in America, it is easier to get a job in America if you illegally cross.

That is not just me saying that. That is the data saying that. If you are outside the United States and you apply for a work visa and want to be able to come in in a legal, normal process, to be able to go through, currently it is 6½ months to be able to get that work visa—6½ months. But if you illegally cross our border and you are labeled with "parole"—and the mass number of people are labeled with "parole" when they illegally cross our border—you get a work permit within 3 to 4 weeks. So you could legally do this and wait 6½ months or you could illegally do this and you get it in 3 to 4 weeks. Literally, this administration is incentivizing illegal activity with how they are setting up the work permits.

Listen, there are a lot of things this Congress needs to do to be able to deal with illegal immigration. I have stated over and over and over again that the asylum laws need to change. We have got to do a real fix. This is the issue, and it has been multiple administrations that have said that this is the problem. In fact, this administration, just in the last month, has floated the idea of changing the regulation on how they actually handle asylum, and I have affirmed them for that. That has got to change in the way it is being implemented. It also needs to change in law in the way we handle it here.

But there is also the legal process of actually enforcing our laws on the southern border that will make a significant difference not incentivizing individuals to be able to illegally cross our border. There are things the ad-

ministration can do, and they are not doing currently. There are things that this body needs to do that we have not taken up.

Two hundred and fifty thousand people illegally crossed our southwest border last month. When are we going to act on this problem? It needs to be now.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I started the new year by joining Senator BLACKBURN of Tennessee and our new colleague Senator BRITT of Alabama on a recent tour of the Del Rio Border Sector in Texas.

We traveled to the border to gain more firsthand knowledge of the ongoing mass migration of illegal immigrants into our Nation, to hear from Border Patrol agents about how they are handling this crisis, and to, perhaps more powerfully, hear from young women and girls who are victims of President Biden's careless border and immigration policies.

We learned more how States are taking action to protect their citizens and their borders when the administration won't. Few States are affected more than Texas, which instituted Operation Lone Star in March of 2021 to counter illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

We looked on as a family led by a coyote crossed the Rio Grande in dangerously cold waters and witnessed the family's struggle to help their grandmother wade through rushing waters to enter our Nation illegally. She made it safely across, but, sadly, that is not always the case for many people, including children who have drowned making the same trek under the misguided belief that our borders are open.

We visited a massive migrant processing center where illegal immigrants were taken upon arrival. An astonishing fact about this processing center is that it costs U.S. taxpayers \$16 million a month to operate, and that is just one of five on the southern border. Let me say that again. It is costing American taxpayers \$16 million per month to process illegal immigrants at just one of these five centers.

What was especially gut-wrenching to me was hearing directly from human trafficking victims. We heard from one young lady who was trafficked from the age of 12 to the age of 16. She told a story I will never forget, and there are thousands of stories just like hers.

Yes, we learned about the true severity of the crisis. We learned how Border Patrol agents simply cannot carry out their jobs. We learned how States are forced to use up resources on border security and migrants—resources meant for U.S. citizens. We learned how ranchers and U.S. property owners are being overwhelmed and in constant fear of being robbed and assaulted by

smugglers. We learned how all of this affects our entire Nation—not just the unbelievable pricetag, but in the incidences of human trafficking across the country and tens of thousands of overdose deaths linked to fentanyl smuggled across our border.

And, heartbreakingly, we learned of the wickedness of the cartels. They are thriving, thanks to President Biden's apathetic attitude toward his own country's border.

This should not be a political debate. People and children are dying in an attempt to enter our country illegally. Drug cartels are taking control of not just the border towns on the Mexican side of the border but on the American side too. Human trafficking is now a \$13 billion industry.

How did we get here? Why do they come? Well, because our President basically invited them. Immediately after President Biden was sworn in, he started dismantling vital policies like "Remain in Mexico" and restarted catch-and-release, halted construction on the border, and, essentially, set up a big neon sign on the southwest border that read "Vacant."

The rest is history: 4.5 million border apprehensions with an estimated 1.5 million undetected got-aways, a staggering increase in the number of women and children who are being subject to assault and domestic violence, fentanyl flowing into our communities and skyrocketing deaths.

I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to go and listen to Border Patrol agents. Hear the stories of the cartel victims. See for yourself the heartbreaking scenarios the greatest country in the world is allowing to unfold.

I learned much from my visit to the border, but perhaps the worst thing I learned is this: The Biden administration is not lacking any resources or authority to address this crisis. No, it can support our Border Patrol and border States. It can secure our border. It can save children from dying and drowning in the Rio Grande or 14-year-old girls from being sold. But it won't, either through incompetence or, worse, by design.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I want to thank my friend and colleague from Mississippi for her comments on this subject.

I am down here on the floor to also talk about the crisis at the border—the humanitarian crisis, the Homeland Security crisis, and a crisis that is resulting in cartels making \$800 million a year in human trafficking.

I joined a bipartisan delegation 2 weeks ago. We visited the border. It was very productive. It was one of the first bipartisan delegations in quite some time. The reason that was important is, if you go down there with a

partisan delegation, you are only going to actually talk about one side of the issue. If you go down there with a bipartisan delegation, you can talk about what we need to do on a bipartisan basis to solve the crisis at the border.

I want to start where Senator HYDE-SMITH finished—the humanitarian crisis. I am one of the Members who has been trying to negotiate a bipartisan immigration reform bill that has border security and asylum reform in it. I had a lot of my staff ask me: Why would you do that? You know it is going to be unpopular. You are going to get criticized from the left for going too far. You are going to get criticized from the right for having any discussion about immigration reform.

I have been down to the border several times. I told my staff that it is hard for me to forget border security telling me that they just transported an 11-year-old girl who had been repeatedly raped, so much so, she screamed so long she couldn't even speak anymore before she crossed the border.

I told them I can't forget going down the Rio Grande River and seeing a corpse taken out of the river, real time, while I was down there. It wasn't staged because it is happening repeatedly every year.

When you hear stories of truckloads of people being bused across the border—53 of them dying through suffocation and heat exposure on American soil—I can't forget that. That is a humanitarian crisis that has to be solved.

Then I went to the border last week and I started at the Rio Grande Sector and then I went over to the Yuma sector. At night, at the Rio Grande Sector, we saw two Chinese nationals who had been apprehended.

Chinese nationals pay, on average, about \$35,000 to cross the border. In many cases, they don't have the money to do it. They have somebody invest in them, and then they become indentured servants in the United States to pay off that debt.

You have people pay \$5,000, \$6,000, \$10,000 who have an expectation from the cartel that they have a debt to be repaid. That may be an honest job that they could get or that could be an illegal activity that helps the cartels.

Now we go over to the Yuma Sector. The Yuma Sector is in Western Arizona. There is a section of border there that hasn't been completed. It is about 7 miles wide. But the most important part of that 7 miles is about a 12-foot gate. Three years ago, 8,000 people crossed through that gate; 2 years ago, 200,000 people crossed through that same 12-foot gate; and over the last 12 months, 300,000 people have. Five thousand of them were Russian nationals; another 5,000 were Chinese nationals.

Look, I understand why people want to get out of Russia, and I understand why people want to get out of China. What I don't understand is why on Earth in transit to that border—that dangerous crossing that you are paying

tens of thousands of dollars to a cartel, a transnational criminal organization—why on Earth wouldn't you stop in a nation that is safe, the first safe country that you can get to out of the country that you are trying to flee from?

That is how international asylum treaties work. You get out of the dangerous country. You go to a country that has international agreements on asylum. You claim asylum. And then you may even want to seek asylum in the United States.

We had reports in the Yuma Sector of people who are flying into Mexicali. They are flying in, not making the trek as many people think of caravans coming from Central America through Mexico—flying into Mexicali with suitcases and bags and taking a cab to the border, making sure their toll is paid and then crossing the border. There is no way on Earth that people coming from many of these nations could not have sought asylum somewhere closer to home and then give us a chance for orderly entry.

In total, it is estimated that the transnational criminal organizations, the cartels, are being paid almost \$800 million a year. What are they doing with that? If you go down to the border—particularly if you go down there around midnight—they play the same play every night, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. They will take innocent people who are going to come across the border, and they tell them: Once you get across the border, present yourself to a Border Patrol agent, and you will be processed, which is exactly what happens.

Under the Biden administration, you are likely to be released within a few days or not more than about a week. The disturbing trend is the one that Senator HYDE-SMITH talked about, the disturbing number of people who are evading Border Patrol. Why on Earth would you not opt to go into a facility that is heated in the winter and cooled in the summer and spend a week of being fed three times a day, to have access to facilities, to have changing tables for babies, to have play areas while they are being detained and processed? Why on Earth would you avoid all that and take the dangerous step of evading detection, unless, at least for some of them, there is a nefarious purpose.

Then they are moving into communities where we have already seen—in North Carolina, an illegal immigrant murdered a young lady just a couple of years ago. We have seen this crime, and it tracks back almost invariably to the people who are the so-called got-aways.

Now I want to go to the Yuma Sector and talk about those 300,000 Border Patrol. I am wearing a “Back the Blue” flag. But as you all know, if it is Border Patrol, they wear green uniforms, so I say, “Back Law Enforcement.”

Right now, Border Patrol only has less than half of the people who are sworn to protect the border doing those

jobs. They are in processing facilities. They are driving buses. They are providing support for daycare. Literally, I am not exaggerating.

So that means that we have half as many people protecting a border that has wide-open spaces. There are no structures whatsoever. Come across. Walk through the Rio Grande. In most cases, you can. You don't have to swim. But when those 300,000 people get there—this is the most amazing thing about this country—they are going through that 12-foot gate. If Border Patrol goes there, then the rest of the border is open for the got-aways. Our country is so extraordinary that they say: I know that it is only about a 10-minute ride from that 12-foot gate to the processing facility, but they won't transport a child unless they have a car seat for them. If somebody has disabilities, they have to make special accommodations. Imagine 300,000—300,000—people coming across the border in a 12-month period, what Border Patrol has to do to conform to our laws and treat these people humanely and safely.

They need time. Time can only come when Congress recognizes that we have to secure the border. We have to fill the gaps. We have to insist that if you want to come to this country, present yourself at a legal port of entry, present a request for asylum, you will be processed.

We need to send the message: If you want to come to the United States, thank you for the compliment you are willing to risk your life to come to the United States, but respect our laws and don't pay cartels \$800 million a year so that they can create a conduit for fentanyl and other drugs that are poisoning almost 100,000 Americans a year.

Now let's talk about immigration reform. I think that one of the ways that we can provide a future flow—a downward pressure on future flow—is to simply say to people who want to respect our laws and apply for citizenship, for work visas, or other forms of being in this country legally, we need to actually fix the immigration laws that we have on the books to do that.

If we do that, I am not going to have to worry about those memories of that little girl. I am not going to have to worry about the corpses that we are picking up in Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico. I believe we will have fewer people dying from fentanyl because less of it will come here, for a couple reasons: We will have better security at the border, and we will bankrupt the cartels that are making, over the last 2 years, almost \$2 billion.

We need people in Congress to recognize that a bipartisan solution is possible. We have a crisis at the border that needs to be solved, and we have to have an administration that spends more than four hours in 2 years at the border recognizing it is on them to help us fix it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Tennessee.

### BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I had the opportunity this month to make a trip down to the southern border. And this was not my first trip down to that southern border. And I will have to say that I found our Border Patrol more discouraged than ever before. And I looked at it, and I really kind of used it as a basis for comparison every time I go down there, whether I am in California or Arizona or Texas, just talking with them and hearing where they are and what they are seeing and what their experiences are on the border every single day. And many of them feel like their job is an impossible task.

And this trip, I was in the Del Rio sector in Texas and had the opportunity to also talk with the Texas military that is down there on the border with the Texas DPS. They are down there on the border working. And there at Eagle Pass is where so many people are crossing into the country. And one of the things that they pointed out was they really can't stop this flow because, basically, the Biden administration has told them they can't stop this flow.

So we did a little checking into what has actually transpired since Joe Biden went into office. And, according to the Migration Policy Institute—which is not a conservative group, by any means; it is a more liberal policy think tank—in Joe Biden's first 100 days, he took 94 Executive actions that undermined the job that the Border Patrol is trying to do on that southern border.

So think about this. You are in service to your country, and the Commander in Chief is taking actions that make your job—the job that you have taken an oath to do—making that job harder to do, harder to execute your job.

Well, now, those who believe in open border policy, they think that taking 94 Executive actions to make it easier for people to illegally enter the country—they would see that as a good thing. But those of us who are constitutionalists, those of us who really believe in the rule of law, those of us who want our Nation to have an immigration policy that honors the rule of law, we look at that and we say: 94 Executive actions take a branch of this government, an Agency of this government, and makes it more difficult for them to do their job.

Now, many of my colleagues across the aisle have been no help in getting this situation at the border under control. They have voted to keep sending checks, basically, to those who illegally enter the country. They have approved a payday—a massive payday—a lot of funding going out to many of these sanctuary cities.

And, in 2022, Democrats voted to expand the Biden administration's catch-

and-release policy. This is people who are apprehended at the border and then they kind of get a checkmark. They get a plane ticket or a bus ticket to somewhere in the country and are told to show up on a date, maybe 2 years in the future, and have their asylum claim heard.

What they have also done—my Democratic friends across the aisle—is they have voted against giving Border Patrol the funding that they need to control the chaos that that policy has created.

So to many of us, it seems like things are backward; they are upside down. There should be agreement that we are going to honor the rule of law. There should be agreement that we are going to protect our sovereignty. There should be agreement that our border will be closed. There should be agreement that we are going to fund the Border Patrol. There should be agreement that we are going to fund ICE. There should be agreement that we are going to fund title 42, that we are going to fund building the border wall, and that we are going to fund additional screening for dangerous narcotics like fentanyl. But that has not been the case.

So open border, yes. But also, according to Border Patrol, what we have in this country with this administration is a lawless border policy. That is right—a lawless border policy.

And here is the reason for that. That was not said lightly. But it has become the reality because of the intentionality of this administration to leave that border open, to pass those Executive actions—a President, 94 Executive actions—that make it more difficult for Border Patrol to do their job—94. That is what you call intentional. That is what you call undermining what should be the policy and the support on the southern border for our Border Patrol.

Now, if you want to look at it on a month by month basis—December. Let's take just the month of December. Traditionally, you don't have as many people crossing in December, but because we have seen the border open and the “You all come” sign hanging out on that border, you have people coming across that border in record numbers.

In Yuma, AZ, they said they had people from 176 different countries speaking 200 different languages coming across that border.

In the month of December alone, there were 250,000—a quarter million—illegal encounters. These are the ones that the Border Patrol was able to apprehend. They are the ones who touch U.S. soil, raise their hands, and say: We claim asylum—250,000.

And over the past 2 years, there have been more than 4.1 million illegal border crossings. This is a record.

And you have the got-aways—the known got-aways—that you can see on surveillance but you can't get to them.

And as Border Patrol will tell you, the really bad guys—the really, really

bad guys—the unknown got-aways, they are the ones they don't see, but they are slipping into the country.

How do they know they are here? They find what they drop when they come across the river. They find clothes and shoes—carpet shoes. They see tracks. They see cars that come and pick these individuals up.

Do we have criminals coming into this country? Absolutely, we do.

In Eagle Pass, they told us that in the first 3 months of this fiscal year, in fiscal 2023, they apprehended 143 convicted criminals. Now, these are people who had committed felonies, whether it is rape or armed robbery or manslaughter. These are people with a criminal record.

Last year, in 2022, they apprehended 98 terrorists. They have apprehended dozens of gang members, MS-13 gang members.

And the thing that is so critical about this is that these individuals don't stay in Yuma or El Paso or Eagle Pass. That is where they come across, and they are ending up in your towns. They are ending up in Wisconsin. They are ending up in Tennessee, my beloved State.

I was talking with a police chief from Tennessee before I came over here. In rural Tennessee, the vast majority of the drugs they apprehend are either fentanyl or fentanyl-laced. They are using Narcan more than they ever thought they would need to use Narcan. TBI told us last month that the cartel is active in Tennessee.

Last week, I was visiting with a police chief from another city there in my State, and he said: Oh, it is not only active in the State; it is active right here in our town. He talked about some of the loss of life.

So as we discuss what is happening at the border, we have to look at the humanitarian crisis there.

Yes, everybody coming across that border, they will pay the cartel. Now, think about that. They paid \$5,000, \$7,000, \$10,000, whatever is the going rate. They are flying into places like Mexicali, Mexico, and then they are coming across the border.

Cartels are global organizations now. They are Big Business. Human trafficking is a \$13 billion-a-year business. It has grown in the last few years from a \$500 million-a-year business to a \$13 billion-a-year business. All of this ends up in our communities.

Indeed, every town is a border town. Every State is a border State right now because of this lawless border policy that is taking place at our southern border.

When you talk to the Border Patrol, they will tell you that there is a way to get this under control.

Was it better under the previous administration? Yes. The numbers were down. They did not see as many crossings because people understood that we were going to do some basic things. We were going to enforce the law. We were going to eliminate and we did eliminate the incentives for people to come.

We had “Remain in Mexico.” We ended catch-and-release. We had title 42. And we were doing what the Border Patrol has said for three decades they need: a physical barrier.

People commonly called it “Build the wall.” And wherever a wall could be built, there was a plan to build it, and they were working on it. And having people working on that border made certain that you didn’t have those border crossings.

Border Patrol has also said that they need better surveillance because, right now, the cartels have better technology than our Border Patrol. Think about this. With the cartels—multinational, big business—you don’t cross the border any way, shape, or form—sex trafficking, human trafficking, gangs, drug trafficking. Nobody and nothing comes across that border without the cartel getting their cut.

That is what is happening, and our Border Patrol is saying: Here is what we need. There is a way to fix this. We can fix this issue.

The Border Patrol says: Look, let us enforce the laws that are on the books. We have immigration laws. Let’s enforce them.

So you see why it is frustrating to them when you have a President and a Department of Homeland Security, and the President is signing 94 Executive actions that make it harder for them to do their job. It defies common sense.

Eliminate the monetary incentives that are out there. The cartel feels like they have a great business model. They get people to the border. People raise their hands, claim asylum. Then the U.S. taxpayer picks up the tab, buys them a plane ticket, a bus ticket, and gets them wherever they are wanting to go in the country.

When was the last time the Federal Government did something like that for you? Wherever you want to go, we will give you a ticket. We will get you there. We will provide you food, housing, shelter.

Look at those economic incentives and remove those.

As I said, “Remain in Mexico,” building the wall, those are things that the Border Patrol—those are the things that people who live on the border—tell us need to be done.

I was down here earlier this week talking about this trip and talked about a visit I had at a ranch. It was out in Uvalde. I met with people from Kinney County, TX, and from Uvalde, and some ranchers, some farmers, some business owners. Right now, with this border policy, it is making it very difficult for them to ranch. Some of them have cattle on their ranches. The migrants come in. They cut fences. So they are bearing that cost of fences.

Some are farmers with watermelons, lettuce, and cabbage, and their fields are getting torn up. Pecan orchards are being run through. And they are saying: Help us.

One rancher looked at me, and he said: Marsha, how long can we continue

this, and what is the endgame? Because he has people who die and they end up on his ranch, he finds it hard to do their cattle business.

We need to think carefully about this. The Border Patrol has said these are steps that would stop the chaos. This would bring some law and order back to the southern border, but the Biden administration is going to have to say: We got this policy wrong. We need to take these steps. We need to honor the service of the Border Patrol. We need to respect the people who live and work on this border. We need to make certain that we build that wall, that we secure this area.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this is becoming a regular appearance on the Senate floor to talk about Social Security. It is something that most Americans think that Congress supports almost unanimously.

It is a program that has been with us. President Roosevelt, on August 14, 1935, signed the Social Security Act. Out of that came Medicare, when a Democratic Congress in 1965, with President Johnson’s signature, signed it.

We know what Medicare means. We know what Social Security means for people who live longer, healthier lives. No matter your income, no matter if you have been a Senator for 20 years, no matter if you are a CEO, no matter if you are a UAW member and at a Ford plant in Avon, no matter if you are a low-income worker at the Hilton Hotel on West Market in Akron, no matter your work, you are eligible, at a certain age, for Social Security and Medicare.

So what is the debate about? Well, the debate is philosophical, and I am not even sure what. It is partly my conservative colleagues who generally want to privatize Medicare and Social Security. For them, it seems to be something philosophic or ideological or sometimes it is just people wanting to support the insurance industry because if you privatize Medicare and Social Security, yes, it will help the insurance companies; yes, it will help the banks. If you privatize the VA, like many want to do—the Veterans’ Administration—undermining what veterans have earned by serving their country, it may help some private sector corporations. It will help pad their bottom line. It will help many CEOs make even more money, but it is wrong. When work has dignity, people have a secure retirement, veterans have benefits, and pen-

sions are protected, Americans can count on Medicare and count on Social Security.

A secure retirement shouldn’t be a partisan issue. It wasn’t a partisan issue, particularly in the 1930s. It is not a partisan issue to the American people. I don’t think you can tell a Republican from a Democrat who is 70 years old or 80 years old drawing Social Security and Medicare. They know they have earned it. They have paid into it for decades. As I have said, they have earned it.

It is one of the most unifying institutions in the country. Americans want to protect Social Security and Medicare. They want to make those programs stronger, Americans do. But elected officials—far too many people on this side of the aisle, as the Senator from Connecticut knows—far too many people from this side of the aisle think that we should privatize those programs; that they will be more efficient or some such philosophical jargon that they throw forward. But we know what will happen: insurance companies will make more money, banks will make more money, and people who have worked in this country and played by the rules all their lives get squeezed.

Today, down the hall—especially straight down the hall in the House of Representatives down there—the Republicans are threatening, in order to raise the debt limit—the debt limit is simply, we should pay our bills. The Trump administration and all administrations have run this deficit up. We should pay the bills. That is what it is about. They are refusing to pay the bills our Nation owes, and they are saying that if we don’t do what they want to do, then they are going stop Social Security checks from going out. They are going to try to privatize Social Security.

They want to take this country and the American economy to the brink of default. They want to leverage their fiscal lunacy. It really is leveraging their fiscal lunacy, frankly, to cut your Social Security. It is that simple.

Then, as I said, there is privatizing Social Security. The details differ. The terms may change, but the goal is the same.

I have been in the Senate now, this is the beginning—it is my 17th year. Every couple of years, a few of the “wunderkinds” on that side of the aisle want to try to find a way to privatize Social Security, privatize Medicare, and privatize the Veterans’ Administration. It is nothing less than an attempt to go back on a bedrock promise.

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

The Senator from Nevada understands that people pay into Social Security every paycheck. They tend to pay into Medicare every—well, that is not actually true. If you are really, really, really rich, you only pay into Social Security for the first part of the year because you have already paid enough for the year, and it is some philosophy that I don’t really understand.



But it is a bedrock promise to all of us. You pay in; you get those benefits.

Last year, I introduced a resolution—the Senator from Nevada cosponsored it—affirming the Senate's commitment to protecting and expanding Social Security. It was pretty simple. It simply said we affirm, we pledge we will protect Social Security and Medicare from any kinds of cuts from the far right that doesn't believe in the program. Almost every Democrat signed on. Not one Republican signed on. Not one Republican committed to our promise, re-committed to our promise to the American people, that if you work hard all your life, Social Security will be there for you.

So Americans shouldn't have to worry that politicians, secure with their government pensions, are going to try to take away their retirement. I urge my colleagues to do what the American people want us to do overwhelmingly. They want us to protect and expand Social Security and Medicare.

As I said, just look down the hall in the House of Representatives. There is a new majority there—a new majority controlled by the far right—of what used to be a pretty centrist Republican Party, from the far right, that—when ever they try to privatize Social Security and Medicare, they get all kinds of contributions from the rightwing and from Wall Street and from some big healthcare companies and some big energy companies and all that, and it is wrong. We know it is wrong. Whether it is Nevada, whether it is Las Vegas or Cleveland, whether it is Reno or Columbus, whether it is Carson City or Dayton, we know that overwhelmingly people in this country want a strong Social Security that will always be there for our kids and our grandkids and our great-grandkids. They want a Medicare that will provide healthcare to people regardless of your wealth, regardless of your income, regardless of your station in life.

That is my pledge. I know the Senators on the floor from Connecticut and Nevada also support that commitment and pledge. It is where we are as a country. It is not, unfortunately, where some of my colleagues sit.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

#### MASS SHOOTINGS

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, this week, the country has been riveted again by scenes of mass shootings, this time in California. I spoke on the phone to my seatmate Senator PADILLA just a few days ago, and it is a conversation that I have had with the Presiding Officer. It is a conversation I have had with Senators from Colorado and Virginia. We all now increasingly come from States where we have seen dozens of people murdered at one time in these horrific, horrific mass shootings.

I am proud that in the wake of the Uvalde massacre and the shooting in Buffalo, last summer this Congress came together and finally passed, after 30 years of inaction, legislation that begins to make our communities safer, but what we saw in Monterey and Half Moon Bay is just confirmation—reaffirmation—that we have enormous work to do.

Let me first tell you the good news, and that is this: The legislation we passed last summer, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, is saving lives as we speak. If you recall, that legislation set up a new background check process for younger buyers of weapons in this country. It eliminated the boyfriend loophole so that no domestic abusers in this country can get their hands on weapons. It gave funding to States to set up red flag laws. It strengthened our background check system. It is a set of really important changes.

A bipartisan group of us went out to West Virginia just a few weeks ago—Senator CORNYN, Senator TILLIS, Senator CAPITO—three Republicans—and myself and Senator MANCHIN—to see the background check system at work. We went out and sat right next to the background checks operators in their cubicles, and we watched them process these new background checks that are required because of the law we passed.

We got briefings from the FBI in which they laid out for us the details of incredibly dangerous individuals, individuals who were in crisis, many of them under 21, who would have gotten a weapon in their moment of crisis had it not been for the legislation we passed.

I also saw how diligent these background checks operators were, how serious they were about their job, how proud they were of their job, because they knew that in their hands they held the safety of the American public; that every time they click that button, there was an individual walking out of the store with a gun, and they wanted to make sure of two things: First, they were protecting the American public—make sure that only those who were qualified under the law, who weren't deemed to be too dangerous, were getting those weapons. The second thing they were concerned about—and every single one of them told us this—they were there to uphold the Second Amendment as well. They were there to make sure—to make sure—of the guarantee that if you are a law-abiding citizen, you can get a legal weapon.

I think all of us who visited were really impressed by the work that our background checks operators do and were confident that the bill we passed last summer is saving lives as we speak. But everybody in this country knows it is not enough. Everybody in this country knows it was just a start. I hope this year we will be able to build on the progress we made last year to find additional common ground because what you are seeing in California

and what you have seen all across the country are individuals—largely men, mostly younger men—whose brains are breaking, and in that moment of crisis, they are reaching for a weapon, they are seeing their path to exorcise those demons as running through an episode of mass slaughter.

But it is important to note that this is not the only country in the world where brains break. This is not the only country in the world where people have paranoid ideas. This is not the only country in the world with severe mental illness. So the story of American mass murder is not a story of mental illness; it is not a story of paranoia; it is not a story of grudge or grievance because every other country has that. But only in the United States does that grudge, grievance, paranoia, and mental illness lead to mass assassination. That is because in this country we are flooded with weapons—and not just any weapons but weapons of mass destruction.

These killers, they use the same set of weapons, semiautomatic weapons with attachable clips that can fire 300 bullets out of 1 cartridge. They all use the same set of weapons because they are trying to kill as many people as quickly as possible. Only in this country can those individuals, who have decided to take out their anger, their grudge, and their grievance through mass murder, get their hands on a weapon that will allow them to do that. Other countries don't allow that to happen.

I have told this story many times before, but on the same day that Sandy Hook occurred, there was an equal number of students attacked in a school in Henan Province, China. Every kid who was shot in Sandy Hook died. Why? I won't describe it for you on the floor today, but the damage that a bullet fired from an AR-15 does to the body of a little child is irrevocable. It literally tears you apart, the bullet is going so fast through your body. So none of those kids survived. But in Henan Province, China, every child who was attacked survived. Why? Because in Henan Province, the attacker, who was just as unhinged, likely, as the attacker in Sandy Hook, had a knife and not a gun. Knives can do damage, too, but not as much damage as an AR-15.

So States that are more serious about keeping assault weapons off the streets and guns away from dangerous people have a lot less gun crime—a lot less. Countries that are more serious about making sure that people who have these grudges, grievances, and paranoid ideas don't get their hands on dangerous weapons—they have almost rock-bottom levels of gun violence.

I think we are at a moment in time where Americans know this. Americans are sick and tired of the status quo. That is why we were able to pass this law last summer. It was a start—a really important start—but it was not a result of any of the advocates in the Senate perfecting their argument; it was a



result of parents and students and families out there in America compelling Congress to do something because this country has had enough.

This country has not just had enough of the mass shootings but of the hundred-plus people who die every day from gunshot wounds—suicides, accidental shootings, homicides—all of which can be prevented through limiting the access by dangerous people or people who are going through a crisis to weaponry and particularly weaponry of mass destruction.

So I think that message from the American public we heard last summer—it is not going away. The good news is, we found common ground. And right now in the U.S. Congress, you have no choice if you want to get something done but to find common ground. We found it. I don't think that anybody who voted for it paid any substantial political price. I think there was only political upside to supporting a compromise that was wildly popular.

If you remember, Senator McCONNELL showed a PowerPoint presentation to the Republican caucus in May of last year and showed his Republican colleagues how popular all of the things that we voted on last summer were—red flag laws, stopping domestic abusers from getting guns—no political downside in continuing to make progress when it comes to making our communities safer.

As we live amidst another moment in American history where the country is recognizing the unique problem of mass shootings; as we think about 20-some-odd days gone in the year with 40 mass shootings already; when we think about the fear that our kids live in when they go to school, wondering whether they will be next, and now the fear that workplaces have and churchgoers have of whether they will be next, it is more reason for us to make 2023 a year in which we don't follow the pre-2022 precedent of doing nothing but we follow the 2022 precedent of finding the common ground between Republicans and Democrats to make this country safer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT S. RES 13

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that S. Res. 13, submitted earlier today, be held at the desk; that following morning business tomorrow, the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that at 1:45 p.m., the Senate vote on adoption of the resolution; that if the resolution is agreed to, the preamble be considered agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 81, S. 82, and H.R. 300

Mr. MURPHY. I understand there are three bills at the desk and I ask for their first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 81) to provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting gain-of-function research.

A bill (S. 82) to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

A bill (H.R. 300) to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I ask for a second reading and in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING WALTER ULLOA

• Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of Walter Ulloa, a trailblazing figure in the media and entertainment industry, a role model to many in California, and my personal friend.

Walter grew up in Brawley, CA, at a time when Latinos were still segregated in his community. He graduated from the University of Southern California in 1970, before earning his law degree from Loyola School of Law in 1975.

After earning his degrees, Walter embarked on what would become a nearly five-decade career in media, playing a pivotal role in the growth of Spanish-language television and radio across the United States.

At KMEX in Los Angeles, there were some early signs that Walter's work ethic, intellect, and mind for media would make him successful. During his 13 years there, he worked as operations manager, production manager, news director, local sales manager, and account executive before venturing out to create his own projects.

In 1996, he cofounded Entravision, a now global Latino media, marketing, and technology company. For over 25 years, he served as chairman and chief executive officer at Entravision, where he grew his young company to own over 100 television and radio stations, as well as digital platforms throughout the United States. Whether in Los An-

geles or across the country, if you watched or listened to Spanish-language media in the last five decades, there is a very good chance you have Walter Ulloa to thank.

But away from his industry impact, communities in California knew him for his generosity and his commitment to public service. So respected was Walter for his expertise and appreciation of the arts, that President Barack Obama appointed him to the board of trustees for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

For more than 20 years, I had the privilege of knowing and working with Walter. I always admired how he generously gave his time and contributed resources to help increase Latino civic engagement and voting in California. The fact that after growing up in a segregated community in the 1950s, Walter could go on to not only an extraordinarily successful career, but to help future Latino communities prosper time and time again is a testament to his character.

The life of Walter Ulloa is nothing less than the American dream come true, from his educational and economic success, his philanthropy, and his service to our country. He will be missed.

Angela and I send our love to his wife Alexandra Seros and son Bruno Seros-Ulloa and to all those whose lives were touched by his service.●

##### REMEMBERING DR. ROBERT COPE

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, today I would like to pay tribute to Dr. Robert Cope, a public servant and cattle veterinarian of Lemhi County, ID, who lost his battle to cancer last month. I had the great fortune of being friends and working with Dr. Cope through the many public and private roles he served. Those who knew Dr. Robert Cope affectionately called him "Cope."

Cope dedicated his whole life to serving agricultural families after he received his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Kansas State University in 1975. Shortly, thereafter, he moved to Idaho, where his clients became his extended family. Cope owned and operated the Blue Cross Vet Clinic in Salmon, ID, for 44 years. He loved children and the youth of his community, and he supported them through 4-H and his veterinarian practice. Idaho ranchers can share countless stories of Cope's service at all hours of the day and night. Even as his cancer progressed, Cope offered his advice and expertise to his loyal clients.

Cope served as Lemhi County Commissioner for 14 years and sat on many committees related to natural resources and environmental challenges. In March of 2002, he was inducted in the Eastern Idaho Agricultural Hall of Fame.

With wisdom, common-sense, and humor, Cope tackled life head-on and was never afraid to address tough issues and find collaborative solutions.

After having a particularly challenging experience with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife over a wolf-killed calf, Cope was tasked with writing a Memorandum of Understanding—MOU—to allow the State to allocate Federal funds to livestock owners who lost cattle due to predation.

When I served as Idaho's Governor, I led a collaborative effort to adopt the Idaho Roadless Rule. Cope assisted in that effort and served on the Idaho Roadless Commission. I trusted his opinion and judgement, and he provided invaluable insights from a local perspective in the development and implementation of that rule.

For Cope, his life was about serving people and sustaining the Western ranching and farming lifestyle. God broke the mold when he made Cope, and he will be missed by many in Lemhi County and the State of Idaho. Rest in Peace, Cope.●

#### RECOGNIZING PALOUSE ANIMAL WELLNESS AND SURGERY

● Mr. RISCH. Madam President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Palouse Animal Wellness and Surgery—"PAWS"—as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for January 2023.

PAWS, originally named Garfield Street Pet Clinic and located on its namesake in Moscow, was founded in 1995, by Dr. Don Kubasch and his wife, Jan. Dr. Kathy Miller and her husband Jim bought the practice in 2002 when Dr. Kubasch retired. Dr. Miller worked at the clinic as a technician while studying at the Washington State University School of Veterinary Medicine. The Millers built a new clinic on Main Street in Moscow in 2005, renaming the practice to Palouse Animal Wellness and Surgery, PAWS. Jim joined the practice full time in 2021 as the director of business operations.

PAWS has become an integral part of the local community; its owners and staff pride themselves on excellence in service, education, and enhancement. Along with providing educational and employment opportunities to veterinary students, for over a decade, PAWS has maintained accreditation with the American Animal Hospital Association. This voluntary accreditation, achieved by a mere 15 percent of businesses in the United States and Canada, means PAWS' patients receive the best care possible in state-of-the-art facilities, from a team that meets high standards in every aspect of veterinary medicine.

The Millers' high standards come from their love for their community. Both Jim and Kathy are Moscow natives, who graduated from Moscow High School and the University of

Idaho. Over the years, they raised four children in this close-knit community who have all worked at the clinic in some capacity.

Congratulations to the Miller family and all of the employees at PAWS on their selection as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for January 2023. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:42 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 159. An act to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring, and for other purposes.

H.R. 300. An act to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 159. An act to implement merit-based reforms to the civil service hiring system that replace degree-based hiring with skills- and competency-based hiring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills and joint resolution were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 4. Joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

H.R. 22. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 23. An act to rescind certain balances made available to the Internal Revenue Service.

H.R. 26. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

#### MEASURE HELD AT THE DESK

The following resolution was ordered held at the desk, by unanimous consent:

S. Res. 13. Resolution raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2023 as "National Stalking Awareness Month".

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 300. An act to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to require the publication of settlement agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 81. A bill to provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting gain-of-function research.

S. 82. A bill to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

#### 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-21. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor/Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indefinite Delivery and Indefinite Quantity Contracts for Federal-aid Construction" (RIN2125-AF83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-22. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Priorities List" (FRL No. 10435-01-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-23. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Oregon; Updates to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 10172-01-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-24. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 10031-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-25. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 10004-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-26. A communication from the 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: Site Remediation" (FRL No. 4866.1-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-27. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reconsideration of the 2020 National

Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing Residual Risk and Technology Review" (FRL No. 6494.1-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-28. 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; California; Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District; Stationary Source Permits" (FRL No. 10268-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-29. 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; Alaska; Updates to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 10023-01-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-30. 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 Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Washington" (FRL No. 9881-02-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-31. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Right-To-Know; Adopting 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Codes for Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Reporting; Correction" (FRL No. 10268-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-32. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'" (RIN2040-AC19) (FRL No. 6027.4-01-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-33. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (FRL No. 5906.7-01-OECA) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-34. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Second 10-Year Maintenance Plan for the Indian Wells Valley PM10 Planning Area; Claifornia" (FRL No. 8856-02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-35. 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; Arizona; Maricopa County; Power Plants" (FRL No. 9426-02-R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-36. 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; North Carolina; Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Area Limited Maintenance Plan for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone NAAQS" (FRL No. 9781-02-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-37. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Arkansas; Control of Emissions From Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills" (FRL No. 10189-02-R6) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-38. 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; North Carolina; Miscellaneous NSR Revisions and Updates; Updates to References to Appendix W Modeling Guideline" (FRL No. 10215-02-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-39. 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; North Carolina; Minor Revisions to Nitrogen Oxides Rule" (FRL No. 10402-02-R4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-40. 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; Endangered Status for the Dolphin and the Union Caribou" (RIN1018-BD03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-41. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for Whitebark Pine (*Pinus albicaulis*)" (RIN1018-BE23) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-42. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status and Designation of Critical Habitat for Tiehm's Buckwheat" (RIN1018-BF94) re-

ceived during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-43. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (FRL No. 5906.7-01-OECA) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-44. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District; South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 9304-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-45. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 9870-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-46. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Disapproval; Missouri; Control of Sulfur Dioxide Emissions" (FRL No. 9976-02-R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-47. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards" (FRL No. 7165-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-48. A communication from the Deputy Inspector General for Audit Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Mandated Analysis of Home Health Service Utilization From January 2016 Through March 2022"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-49. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure: procedures for determination letters and private letter rulings under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner, Tax Exempt and Government Entities Division, Employee Plans Rulings and Agreements" (Rev. Proc. 2023-4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-50. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "List of No-Rule Areas of IRC for Letter Rulings or Determination Letters" (Rev. Proc. 2023-3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-51. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations

Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treatment of Special Enforcement Matters" (RIN1545-BP01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-52. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TD: Information Reporting of Health Insurance Coverage and Other Issues under Sections 5000A, 6055, and 6056" (RIN1545-BQ11) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-53. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Wage and Apprenticeship Initial Guidance Under Section 45 (b) (6) (B) (ii) and Other Substantially Similar Provisions" (Notice 2022-61) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-54. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Calendar Year (CY) 2023 Home Health Prospective Payment System Rate Update; Home Health Quality Reporting Program Requirements; Home Health Value-Based Purchasing Expanded Model Requirements; and Home Infusion Therapy Services Requirements" (RIN0938-AU85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-55. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2023 Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment and Coverage Policies; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements; Implementing Requirements for Manufacturers of Certain Single-dose Container or Single-use Package Drugs to Provide Refunds with Respect to Discarded Amounts; and COVID-19 Interim Final Rule" (RIN0938-AU81) (RIN0938-AU95) (RIN0938-AU31) (RIN0938-AU32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-56. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor"; to the Committees on Foreign Relations; and the Judiciary.

EC-57. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the Republic of Korea in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22-049); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-58. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background state-

ments of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2022-0173-2022-0177); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-59. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exercise of Time-Limited Authority to Increase the Numerical Limitation for FY 2023 for the H-2B Temporary Nonagricultural Worker Program and Portability Flexibility for H-2B Workers Seeking To Change Employers" ((RIN1615-AC66) (RIN1205-AC14)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-60. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Bars and Processing; Delay of Effective Date" ((RIN1615-AC57) (RIN1205-AB08)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-61. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on applications for delayed-notice search warrants and extensions during fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-62. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a compilation and summary of reports received from chief district judges detailing each public event conducted in accordance with the Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018's requirements during the previous fiscal year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-63. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report relative to bankruptcy judgeship recommendations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-64. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Zipeprol in Schedule I" ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-477)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-65. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Mesocarb in Schedule I" ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-397)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-66. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Removal of [18F] FP-CIT From Control" ((21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-837)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-67. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4044) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on

January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-68. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Dairy Foods Association and Chobani, Inc.; Response to the Objections and Requests for a Public Hearing on the Final Rule To Revoke the Standards for Lowfat Yogurt and Nonfat Yogurt and To Amend the Standard for Yogurt" (RIN0910-AI40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-69. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations" (Docket No. FDA-2000-N-0011) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-70. A communication from the Supervisory Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Basic Health Program; Federal Funding Methodology for Program Year 2023 and Changes to Basic Health Program Regulations" (RIN0938-AU89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 21, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-71. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease: 2022 Update"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-72. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Health Profession Opportunity Grants Program Third Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-73. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on the Affordability of Insulin"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-1. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, supporting the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act and urging the United States Congress to fully fund and appropriate the necessary funding for the World Trade Center Health Program to pay for the current and future health care needs of 9/11 responders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## 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. WICKER (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. ERNST, Mr. PAUL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 62. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 63. A bill to adjust the effective date for application of certain amendments made with respect to the credit for new clean vehicles; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 64. A bill to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 65. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to give the Department of Education the authority to award competitive grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 66. A bill to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. LUJAN):

S. 67. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study on conduct related to oil and gas prices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 68. A bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 69. A bill to amend the SOAR Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 70. 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; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 71. A bill to extend the customs waters of the United States from 12 nautical miles to 24 nautical miles from the baselines of the United States, consistent with Presidential Proclamation 7219; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 72. A bill to prevent class-based loan forgiveness for Federal student loans under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 without the explicit appropriation of funds by Congress for such purpose; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 73. A bill to allow community supports to meet specific needs of families and children through an electronic care portal under the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 74. A bill to provide support and assistance to unborn children, pregnant women, parents, and families; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 75. A bill to ensure equal treatment for religious organizations in the Federal provision of social services programs, grantmaking, and contracting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 76. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to furnish tailored information to expecting mothers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 77. A bill to reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 78. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. COONS):

S. 79. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 80. A bill to establish an Inspector General of the National Institutes of Health; to

the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 81. A bill to provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting gain-of-function research; read the first time.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LEE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BUDD, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 82. A bill to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached; read the first time.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 83. A bill to assist States in, and pay for the Federal share of the cost of, defraying the cost of pre-apprenticeships or related instruction associated with qualified apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 84. A bill to prohibit Federal funding to EcoHealth Alliance, Inc., and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 85. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to TikTok, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 86. A bill to allow Members of Congress to opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System, and allow Members who opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System to continue to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 87. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the termination of certain retirement benefits for Members of Congress, except the right to continue participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 88. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BRITT, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 89. A bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 90. A bill to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. Res. 13. A resolution raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by designating January 2023 as "National Stalking Awareness Month"; ordered held at the desk.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. DAINES):

S. Res. 14. A resolution amending rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to include amendments of the House of Representatives in the requirements for identifying spending items, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. Con. Res. 1. A concurrent resolution requiring the Architect of the Capitol, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to contract with food service contractors and vending machine contractors for the Capitol Complex that accept cryptocurrency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 9

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 9, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes.

S. 27

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 27, a bill to prohibit the Department of Defense from requiring contractors to provide information relating to greenhouse gas emissions.

S. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 11, a resolution designating the week of January 22 through January 28, 2023, as "National School Choice Week".

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 65. A bill to amend the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 to give the Department of Education the authority to award competitive grants to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

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

S. 65

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

## SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mentoring to Succeed Act of 2023".

## SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to make assistance available for school-based mentoring programs for at-risk students in order to—

- (1) establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs;
- (2) assist at-risk students in middle school and high school in developing cognitive and social-emotional skills; and
- (3) prepare such at-risk students for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce.

## SEC. 3. SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING PROGRAM.

Part C of title I of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2351 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

## "SEC. 136. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING PROGRAMS.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

- "(1) AT-RISK STUDENT.—The term 'at-risk student' means a student who—
- "(A) is failing academically or at risk of dropping out of school;
- "(B) is pregnant or a parent;
- "(C) is a gang member;
- "(D) is a child or youth in foster care or a youth who has been emancipated from foster care, but is still enrolled in high school;
- "(E) is or has recently been a homeless child or youth;
- "(F) is chronically absent;
- "(G) has changed schools 3 or more times in the past 6 months;
- "(H) has come in contact with the juvenile justice system in the past;
- "(I) has a history of multiple suspensions or disciplinary actions;
- "(J) is an English learner;
- "(K) has one or both parents incarcerated;
- "(L) has experienced one or more adverse childhood experiences, traumatic events, or toxic stressors, as assessed through an evidence-based screening;
- "(M) lives in a high-poverty area with a high rate of community violence;
- "(N) has a disability; or
- "(O) shows signs of alcohol or drug misuse or abuse or has a parent or guardian who is struggling with substance abuse.

"(2) DISABILITY.—The term 'disability' has the meaning given the term for purposes of section 602(3) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401(3)).

"(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity'—

"(A) means a high-need local educational agency, high-need school, or local government entity; and

"(B) may include a partnership between an entity described in subparagraph (A) and a nonprofit, community-based, or faith-based organization, or institution of higher education.

"(4) ENGLISH LEARNER.—The term 'English learner' has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

"(5) FOSTER CARE.—The term 'foster care' has the meaning given the term in section 1355.20(a) of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

"(6) HIGH-NEED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term 'high-need local educational agency' means a local educational agency that serves at least one high-need school.

"(7) HIGH-NEED SCHOOL.—The term 'high-need school' has the meaning given the term in section 2211(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6631(b)).

"(8) HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.—The term 'homeless children and youths' has the meaning given the term in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a).

"(9) SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING.—The term 'school-based mentoring' means a structured, managed, evidenced-based program conducted in partnership with teachers, administrators, school psychologists, school social workers or counselors, and other school staff, in which at-risk students are appropriately matched with screened and trained professional or volunteer mentors who provide guidance, support, and encouragement, involving meetings, group-based sessions, and educational and workforce-related activities on a regular basis to prepare at-risk students for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce.

"(b) SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs that—

"(A) are designed to assist at-risk students in high-need schools in developing cognitive skills and promoting social-emotional learning to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce by linking them with mentors who—

"(i) have received mentor training, including on trauma-informed practices, youth engagement, cultural competency, and social-emotional learning; and

"(ii) have been screened using appropriate reference checks and criminal background checks, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (3)(B)(v)(ii);

"(B) provide coaching and technical assistance to mentors in each such mentoring program;

"(C) seek to—

"(i) improve the academic achievement of at-risk students;

"(ii) reduce dropout rates and absenteeism and improve school engagement of at-risk students and their families;

"(iii) reduce juvenile justice involvement of at-risk students;

"(iv) foster positive relationships between at-risk students and their peers, teachers, other adults, and family members;

"(v) develop the workforce readiness skills of at-risk students by exploring paths to employment, including encouraging students with disabilities to explore transition services; and

"(vi) increase the participation of at-risk students in community service activities; and



“(D) encourage at-risk students to set goals and plan for their futures, including making plans and identifying goals for postsecondary education and the workforce.

“(2) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section for a period not to exceed 5 years.

“(3) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application that includes—

“(A) a needs assessment that includes baseline data on the measures described in paragraph (6)(A)(ii); and

“(B) a plan to meet the requirements of paragraph (1), including—

“(i) the targeted outcomes, mentee age and eligibility, mentor type, and meeting frequency for the program;

“(ii) the number of mentor-student matches proposed to be established and maintained annually under the program;

“(iii) the capacity and expertise of the program to serve children and youth in a way that is responsive to children and youth of color, expectant and parenting youth, indigenous youth, youth who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or queer, and youth with disabilities;

“(iv) actions taken to ensure that the design of the program reflects input from youth;

“(v) an assurance that mentors supported under the program are appropriately screened and have demonstrated a willingness to comply with aspects of the mentoring program, including—

“(I) a written screening plan that includes all of the policies and procedures used to screen and select mentors, including eligibility requirements and preferences for such applicants;

“(II) a description of the methods to be used to conduct criminal background checks on all prospective mentors, and the methods in place to exclude mentors with convictions directly related to child safety that occur during the mentor's participation in the program or in the 10-year period preceding the mentor's participation; and

“(III) a description of the methods to be used to ensure that the mentors are willing and able to serve as a mentor on a long-term, consistent basis as defined in the application.

“(4) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients, the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that—

“(A) serve children and youth with the greatest need living in high-poverty, high-crime areas, or rural areas, or who attend schools with high rates of community violence;

“(B) provide at-risk students with opportunities for postsecondary education preparation and career development, including—

“(i) job training, professional development, work shadowing, internships, networking, resume writing and review, interview preparation, transition services for students with disabilities, application assistance and visits to institutions of higher education, and leadership development through community service; and

“(ii) partnerships with the private sector and local businesses to provide internship and career exploration activities and resources;

“(C) seek to provide match lengths between at-risk students and mentors for at least 1 academic year; and

“(D) consult and engage youth in the development, design, and implementation of the program.

“(5) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section may use such funds to—

“(A) develop and carry out regular training for mentors, including on—

“(i) the impact of adverse childhood experiences;

“(ii) trauma-informed practices and interventions;

“(iii) supporting homeless children and youths;

“(iv) supporting children and youth in foster care or youth who have been emancipated from foster care, but are still enrolled in high school;

“(v) cultural competency;

“(vi) meeting all appropriate privacy and confidentiality requirements for students, including students in foster care;

“(vii) working in coordination with a public school system;

“(viii) positive youth development and engagement practices; and

“(ix) disability inclusion practices to ensure access and participation by students with disabilities;

“(B) recruit, screen, match, train, and compensate mentors;

“(C) hire staff to perform or support the objectives of the school-based mentoring program;

“(D) provide inclusive and accessible youth engagement activities, such as—

“(i) enrichment field trips to cultural destinations; and

“(ii) career awareness activities, including job site visits, informational interviews, resume writing, interview preparation, and networking; and

“(iii) academic or postsecondary education preparation activities, including trade or vocational school visits, visits to institutions of higher education, and assistance in applying to institutions of higher education; and

“(E) conduct program evaluation, including by acquiring and analyzing the data described under paragraph (6).

“(6) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the end of each academic year during the grant period, an eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a report that includes—

“(i) the number of students and mentors, and the demographics of the students and mentors, who participated in the school-based mentoring program that was funded in whole or in part with the grant funds;

“(ii) data on the academic achievement, dropout rates, truancy, absenteeism, outcomes of arrests for violent crime, summer employment, and postsecondary education enrollment of students in the program;

“(iii) the number of group sessions and number of one-to-one contacts between students in the program and their mentors;

“(iv) the average attendance of students enrolled in the program;

“(v) the number of students with disabilities connected to transition services;

“(vi) data on social-emotional development of students as assessed with a validated social-emotional assessment tool; and

“(vii) any other information that the Secretary may require to evaluate the success of the school-based mentoring program.

“(B) STUDENT PRIVACY.—An eligible entity shall ensure that the report submitted under subparagraph (A) is prepared in a manner that protects the privacy rights of each student in accordance with section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g; commonly known as the ‘Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974’).

“(7) MENTORING RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATION.—

“(A) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall work with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to—

“(i) refer grantees under this section to the National Mentoring Resource Center to ob-

tain resources on best practices and research related to mentoring and to request no-cost training and technical assistance; and

“(ii) provide grantees under this section with information regarding transitional services for at-risk students returning from correctional facilities and transition services for students with disabilities.

“(B) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall, to the extent possible, coordinate with the Corporation for National and Community Service, including through entering into an interagency agreement or a memorandum of understanding, to support mentoring and community service-related activities for at-risk students.

“(C) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2028.”.

#### SEC. 4. INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION SCIENCES STUDY ON SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall conduct a study to—

(1) identify successful school-based mentoring programs and effective strategies for administering and monitoring such programs;

(2) evaluate the role of mentors in promoting cognitive development and social-emotional learning to enhance academic achievement and to improve workforce readiness; and

(3) evaluate the effectiveness of the grant program under section 136 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006, as added by section 3, on student academic outcomes and youth career development.

(b) TIMING.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education, acting through the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences, shall submit the results of the study described in subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 70. 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; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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

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

S. 70

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Tribal Trust Land Homeownership Act of 2023”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPLICABLE BUREAU OFFICE.—The term “applicable Bureau office” means—

(A) a Regional office of the Bureau;

(B) an Agency office of the Bureau; or

(C) a Land Titles and Records Office of the Bureau.

(2) BUREAU.—The term “Bureau” means the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Bureau.



(4) **FIRST CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORT.**—The term “first certified title status report” means the title status report needed to verify title status on Indian land.

(5) **INDIAN LAND.**—The term “Indian land” has the meaning given the term in section 162.003 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(6) **LAND MORTGAGE.**—The term “land mortgage” means a mortgage obtained by an individual Indian who owns a tract of trust land for the purpose of—

- (A) home acquisition;
- (B) home construction;
- (C) home improvements; or
- (D) economic development.

(7) **LEASEHOLD MORTGAGE.**—The term “leasehold mortgage” means a mortgage, deed of trust, or other instrument that pledges the leasehold interest of a lessee as security for a debt or other obligation owed by the lessee to a lender or other mortgagee.

(8) **MORTGAGE PACKAGE.**—The term “mortgage package” means a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document submitted to an applicable Bureau office under section 3(a)(1).

(9) **RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “relevant Federal agency” means any of the following Federal agencies that guarantee or make direct mortgage loans on Indian land:

- (A) The Department of Agriculture.
- (B) The Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- (C) The Department of Veterans Affairs.

(10) **RIGHT-OF-WAY DOCUMENT.**—The term “right-of-way document” means the meaning given the term in section 169.2 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(11) **SUBSEQUENT CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORT.**—The term “subsequent certified title status report” means the title status report needed to identify any liens against a residential, business, or land lease on Indian land.

### SEC. 3. MORTGAGE REVIEW AND PROCESSING.

#### (a) REVIEW AND PROCESSING DEADLINES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after receiving a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document, the applicable Bureau office shall notify the lender that the proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, or right-of-way document has been received.

#### (2) PRELIMINARY REVIEW.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 10 calendar days after receipt of a proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document, the applicable Bureau office shall conduct and complete a preliminary review of the residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document to verify that all required documents are included.

(B) **INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTS.**—As soon as practicable, but not more than 2 calendar days, after finding that any required documents are missing under subparagraph (A), the applicable Bureau office shall notify the lender of the missing documents.

#### (3) APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—

(A) **LEASEHOLD MORTGAGES.**—Not later than 20 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage.

(B) **RIGHT-OF-WAY DOCUMENTS.**—Not later than 30 calendar days after receipt of a com-

plete executed right-of-way document, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the right-of-way document.

(C) **LAND MORTGAGES.**—Not later than 30 calendar days after receipt of a complete executed land mortgage, proof of required consents, and other required documentation, the applicable Bureau office shall approve or disapprove the land mortgage.

(D) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The determination of whether to approve or disapprove a residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage under subparagraph (A), a right-of-way document under subparagraph (B), or a land mortgage under subparagraph (C)—

- (i) shall be in writing; and
- (ii) in the case of a determination to disapprove a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, right-of-way document, or land mortgage shall, state the basis for the determination.

(E) **APPLICATION.**—This paragraph shall not apply to a residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage with respect to Indian land in cases in which the applicant for the residential leasehold mortgage or business leasehold mortgage is an Indian tribe (as defined in subsection (d) of the first section of the Act of 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 126 Stat. 1150; 25 U.S.C. 415(d))) that has been approved for leasing under subsection (h) of that section (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 126 Stat. 1151; 25 U.S.C. 415(h)).

#### (4) CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.—

##### (A) COMPLETION OF REPORTS.—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 10 calendar days after the applicable Bureau office approves a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document under paragraph (3), the applicable Bureau office shall complete the processing of, as applicable—

(I) a first certified title status report, if a first certified title status report was not completed prior to the approval of the residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document; and

(II) a subsequent certified title status report.

(ii) **REQUESTS FOR FIRST CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.**—Notwithstanding clause (i), not later than 14 calendar days after the applicable Bureau office receives a request for a first certified title status report from an applicant for a residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, land mortgage, or right-of-way document under paragraph (1), the applicable Bureau office shall complete the processing of the first certified title status report.

##### (B) NOTICE.—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—As soon as practicable after completion of the processing of, as applicable, a first certified title status report or a subsequent certified title status report under subparagraph (A), but by not later than the applicable deadline described in that subparagraph, the applicable Bureau office shall give notice of the completion to the lender.

(ii) **FORM OF NOTICE.**—The applicable Bureau office shall give notice under clause (i)—

- (I) electronically through secure, encryption software; and
- (II) through the United States mail.

(iii) **OPTION TO OPT OUT.**—The lender may opt out of receiving notice electronically under clause (ii)(I).

##### (b) NOTICES.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If the applicable Bureau office does not complete the review and processing of mortgage packages under subsection (a) (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent

certified title status report under paragraph (4) of that subsection) by the applicable deadline described in that subsection, immediately after missing the deadline, the applicable Bureau office shall provide notice of the delay in review and processing to—

(A) the party that submitted the mortgage package or requested the first certified title status report; and

(B) the lender for which the mortgage package (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report) is being requested.

(2) **REQUESTS FOR UPDATES.**—In addition to providing the notices required under paragraph (1), not later than 2 calendar days after receiving a relevant inquiry with respect to a submitted mortgage package from the party that submitted the mortgage package or the lender for which the mortgage package (including any corresponding first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report) is being requested or an inquiry with respect to a requested first certified title status report from the party that requested the first certified title status report, the applicable Bureau office shall respond to the inquiry.

(c) **DELIVERY OF FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT CERTIFIED TITLE STATUS REPORTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any first certified title status report and any subsequent certified title status report, as applicable, shall be delivered directly to—

- (1) the lender;
- (2) any local or regional agency office of the Bureau that requests the first certified title status report or subsequent certified title status report;

(3) in the case of a proposed residential leasehold mortgage or land mortgage, the relevant Federal agency that insures or guarantees the loan; and

(4) if requested, any individual or entity described in section 150.303 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(d) **ACCESS TO TRUST ASSET AND ACCOUNTING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the relevant Federal agencies and Indian Tribes shall have read-only access to the Trust Asset and Accounting Management System maintained by the Bureau.

##### (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than March 1 of each calendar year, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(A) for the most recent calendar year, the number of requests received to complete residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages (including any requests for corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports), including a detailed description of—

- (i) requests that were and were not successfully completed by the applicable deadline described in subsection (a) by each applicable Bureau office; and

(ii) the reasons for each applicable Bureau office not meeting any applicable deadlines; and

(B) the length of time needed by each applicable Bureau office during the most recent calendar year to provide the notices required under subsection (b)(1).

(2) **REQUIREMENT.**—In submitting the report required under paragraph (1), the Director shall maintain the confidentiality of personally identifiable information of the parties involved in requesting the completion of residential leasehold mortgage packages,

business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages (including any corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports).

(f) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) an evaluation of the need for residential leasehold mortgage packages, business leasehold mortgage packages, land mortgage packages, and right-of-way document packages of each Indian Tribe to be digitized for the purpose of streamlining and expediting the completion of mortgage packages for residential mortgages on Indian land (including the corresponding first certified title status reports and subsequent certified title status reports); and

(2) an estimate of the time and total cost necessary for Indian Tribes to digitize the records described in paragraph (1), in conjunction with assistance in that digitization from the Bureau.

#### SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF REALTY OMBUDSMAN POSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish within the Division of Real Estate Services of the Bureau the position of Realty Ombudsman, who shall report directly to the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Realty Ombudsman shall—

(1) ensure that the applicable Bureau offices are meeting the mortgage review and processing deadlines established by section 3(a);

(2) ensure that the applicable Bureau offices comply with the notices required under subsections (a) and (b) of section 3;

(3) serve as a liaison to other Federal agencies, including by—

(A) ensuring the Bureau is responsive to all of the inquiries from the relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) helping to facilitate communications between the relevant Federal agencies and the Bureau on matters relating to mortgages on Indian land;

(4) receive inquiries, questions, and complaints directly from Indian Tribes, members of Indian Tribes, and lenders in regard to executed residential leasehold mortgages, business leasehold mortgages, land mortgages, or right-of-way documents; and

(5) serve as the intermediary between the Indian Tribes, members of Indian Tribes, and lenders and the Bureau in responding to inquiries and questions and resolving complaints.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. COONS):

S. 79. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 79

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Interagency Patent Coordination and Improvement Act of 2023”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Decisions by the United States Patent and Trademark Office relating to patents may implicate, or have relevance to, information housed at or involving other Federal agencies.

(2) Entities submitting patent applications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office may also submit information to, or share information with, other Federal agencies, necessitating accuracy and consistency in those representations.

(3) Research has shown that patent examiners may benefit from additional information that is housed at, or is available to, Federal agencies other than the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to assess prior art and the state of science and technology.

(4) The Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office is encouraged to work with other Federal agencies.

#### SEC. 3. REPORT BY UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

Not later than 4 years 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 shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

(1) a description of the frequency with which—

(A) information is provided by the Food and Drug Administration to the United States Patent and Trademark Office through the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15 of title 35, United States Code, as added by section 4(a) of this Act, or under processes established by that Task Force; and

(B) the information described in subparagraph (A) is used in patent examinations;

(2) an identification of which methods of providing information, as described in paragraph (1)(A), and types of information so shared, are most useful to patent examiners;

(3) any recommendations for changes to be made by Congress to the mandate, funding, or operations of the Task Force described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(4) an identification of other Federal agencies with which the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office should explore opportunities for coordination that are similar to those undertaken with the Food and Drug Administration through the activities of the Task Force described in paragraph (1)(A).

#### SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON PATENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2(c), by adding at the end the following:

“(6)(A) In exercising the Director’s powers and duties under this section relating to patents, and decisions or actions involving patents, for human drugs and biological products, the Director shall, through the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15, consult with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs in the manner described in that section.

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘decisions or actions involving patents’

means decisions or actions taken with respect to patents under this title.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

#### “§ 15. Interagency Task Force on Patents

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an interagency task force, to be known as the Interagency Task Force on Patents (referred to in this section as the ‘task force’), to coordinate efforts between the Director and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs (referred to in this section as the ‘Commissioner’) regarding communication about, evaluation of, and effective implementation of the activities of the Office and the Food and Drug Administration with respect to patents, and decisions or actions involving patents (as defined in section 2(c)(6)(B)), for human drugs and biological products.

“(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Director and the Commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of understanding, or update an existing memorandum of understanding, for the purposes of implementing and carrying out the duties of the task force.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The task force shall be comprised of employees of the Office, who shall be appointed by the Director, and employees of the Food and Drug Administration, who shall be appointed by the Commissioner, who have appropriate expertise and decision-making authority regarding operational, administrative, technical, medical, pharmacological, clinical, and scientific matters to carry out the functions of the task force.

“(d) ACTIVITIES.—The task force shall carry out the following functions regarding interagency coordination to promote reciprocal access of information:

“(1) Sharing information on the general processes of the Office and the Food and Drug Administration, what each such agency considers in its respective review of applications, and how each such agency evaluates those applications, which may be undertaken through routine and ongoing meetings, workshops, and training sessions.

“(2) Sharing information on new approvals of patents, human drugs and biological products, new technologies and prior art (as appropriate on a case-by-case basis), and scientific trends and developments.

“(3) Establishing a process that requires—

“(A) the Director to request from the Commissioner (and the Commissioner to provide to the Director, upon receiving such a request)—

“(i) appropriate information for use by employees of the Office with responsibility to examine patent applications under section 131 (referred to in this section as ‘patent examiners’) regarding when certain information relating to a human drug or biological product approval, which may include updates to a label or newly approved indications, is made publicly available, including when such information is posted online; and

“(ii) appropriate access for patent examiners to relevant sources of product application or communications between the Food and Drug Administration and the human drug or biological product sponsors that may not currently be subject to public disclosure, as appropriate and only to the extent necessary for the Office to carry out the responsibilities of the Office, such as ensuring accurate representations and access to information on whether the claimed invention that would be the subject of the patent was on sale before the effective filing date of the claimed invention, as described in section 102(a)(1); and

“(B) the Office to assist the Food and Drug Administration in its ministerial role of listing patents.

“(4) Establishing a process to ensure that, in appropriate circumstances, at the request

of the Director, the Commissioner shall consult with or otherwise furnish specific, available information to the Office with respect to certain applications, responses, or affidavits after rejections in order to assist patent examiners in carrying out the duties of those patent examiners.

“(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in subsection (d)(3)(B) shall be construed as—

“(1) directing the Office to interfere with, delay, or supersede the ministerial function of the Food and Drug Administration of listing patents;

“(2) indicating the position of the Office regarding the ability to assert a patent in infringement litigation; or

“(3) changing the ministerial function of the Food and Drug Administration of listing patents.

“(f) **CONFIDENTIALITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to any record or other information of the Food and Drug Administration or the Office that is confidential, either such agency may share any such information with the other agency in furtherance of the activities described in this section, which shall remain subject to such protections as if the information were held by the Food and Drug Administration.

“(2) **PROTOCOLS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The task force shall establish appropriate protocols to safeguard confidentiality and prevent the inappropriate disclosure of information when sharing information between the Office and the Food and Drug Administration.

“(B) **CONTENTS.**—The protocols established under subparagraph (A) shall provide that—

“(i) before sharing any information described in paragraph (1), the sponsor of the human drug or biological product to which that information relates shall be provided notice of that sharing by the applicable agency and with a period of 30 days to consult with the agency sharing that information; and

“(ii) the Director shall, in order to protect against the inadvertent disclosure of information, maintain any information shared with the Director by the Commissioner separate from pending patent applications and establish procedures for the identification of confidential information.

“(C) **POTENTIAL REMEDIES.**—In establishing protocols under this paragraph, the task force shall identify appropriate remedies for any potential injury suffered when confidential information is made available, including inadvertently, through the sharing of information described in this subsection.

“(3) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection may be construed as superseding any other remedy available for the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information.”

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“15. Interagency Task Force on Patents.”.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 13—RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING THE PREVENTION OF STALKING BY DESIGNATING JANUARY 2023 AS “NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the

following resolution; which was ordered held at the desk:

#### S. RES. 13

Whereas approximately 1 in 3 women in the United States, at some point during her lifetime, has experienced stalking victimization, causing her to feel very fearful or believe that she or someone close to her would be harmed or killed;

Whereas it is estimated that, each year, 13,400,000 individuals in the United States report that they have been victims of stalking;

Whereas more than 85 percent of victims of stalking report that they have been stalked by someone they know;

Whereas nearly 70 percent of intimate partner stalking victims are threatened with physical harm by stalkers;

Whereas stalking is a risk factor for intimate partner homicide;

Whereas 3 in 4 female victims of intimate partner homicides were stalked during the year preceding the homicide by their killers;

Whereas 11 percent of victims of stalking report having been stalked for 5 or more years;

Whereas ⅔ of stalkers pursue their victims at least once a week;

Whereas many victims of stalking are forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves, including relocating, changing jobs, or obtaining protection orders;

Whereas the prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among victims of stalking than the general population;

Whereas many victims of stalking do not report stalking to the police or contact a victim service provider, shelter, or hotline;

Whereas stalking is a crime under Federal law, the laws of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice;

Whereas stalking affects victims of every race, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, and economic status;

Whereas national organizations, local victim service organizations, campuses, prosecutor's offices, and police departments stand ready to assist victims of stalking and are working diligently to develop effective and innovative responses to stalking, including online stalking;

Whereas there is a need to improve the response of the criminal justice system to stalking through more aggressive investigation and prosecution;

Whereas there is a need for an increase in the availability of victim services across the United States, and those services must include programs tailored to meet the needs of victims of stalking;

Whereas individuals between 18 and 24 years old experience the highest rates of stalking victimization, and a majority of stalking victims report their victimization first occurred before the age of 25;

Whereas up to 75 percent of women in college who experience behavior relating to stalking also experience other forms of victimization, including sexual or physical victimization;

Whereas college students with disabilities are twice as likely as college students without disabilities to experience stalking;

Whereas there is a need for an effective response to stalking on each campus;

Whereas almost twice as many victims of stalking are stalked using technology, such as phone calls, text messages, social media platforms, internet posts, emails, and electronic tracking, as victims of stalking who are stalked without the use of technology; and

Whereas the Senate finds that “National Stalking Awareness Month” provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about stalking: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 2023 as “National Stalking Awareness Month”;

(2) applauds the efforts of service providers, police, prosecutors, national and community organizations, colleges and universities, and private sector entities that combat stalking, support victims, and bring awareness to this crime;

(3) encourages policymakers, criminal justice officials, victim service and human service agencies, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations to increase awareness of stalking and continue to support the availability of services for victims of stalking; and

(4) urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media to promote awareness of the crime of stalking through “National Stalking Awareness Month”.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 14—AMENDING RULE XLIV OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO INCLUDE AMENDMENTS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR IDENTIFYING SPENDING ITEMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. DAINES) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

#### S. RES. 14

*Resolved*, That rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended—

(1) in paragraph 2(a)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (1)—

(i) by striking “Senate”; and

(ii) by inserting “or a message from the House of Representatives” after “by committee”; and

(B) in clause (1)—

(i) by striking “or joint resolution” each place it appears and inserting “, joint resolution, or message”; and

(ii) by striking “Senator” and inserting “Member of Congress”;

(2) in paragraph 3(a)(1), by striking “Senator” and inserting “Member of Congress”;

(3) in paragraph 5(a), by striking “Senator” and inserting “Member of Congress”; and

(4) in paragraph 7, by striking “or conference report” and inserting “conference report, or message from the House”.

### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1—REQUIRING THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL, THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, AND THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONTRACT WITH FOOD SERVICE CONTRACTORS AND VENDING MACHINE CONTRACTORS FOR THE CAPITOL COMPLEX THAT ACCEPT CRYPTOCURRENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. CRUZ submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. CON. RES. 1

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This resolution may be cited as the “Adopting Cryptocurrency in Congress as an Exchange of Payment for Transactions Resolution” or the “ACCEPT Resolution”.

**SEC. 2. ACCEPTING OF CRYPTOCURRENCY AT RESTAURANTS, VENDING MACHINES, AND GIFT SHOPS IN THE CAPITOL COMPLEX.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “Capitol Buildings” means the Capitol Buildings described in section 5101 of title 40, United States Code; and

(2) the term “digital asset” means a native electronic asset that—

(A) is recorded on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger; and

(B) is designed to confer only economic or access rights.

(b) **ACCEPTANCE OF CRYPTOCURRENCY.**—The Architect of the Capitol, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives shall each, for the Capitol Buildings that are under their jurisdiction—

(1) subject to subsection (c), solicit and enter into contracts to provide food service and vending machines in such Capitol Buildings with persons that will accept digital assets as payment for goods; and

(2) encourage the gift shops in such Capitol Buildings to accept digital assets as payment for goods.

(c) **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.**—The Architect of the Capitol, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives may not enter into contracts described in subsection (b)(1) if the Architect of the Capitol, in con-

sultation with the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Administrative Officer of the House, reports to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives that entering into such contracts would preclude the selection of alternatives that are cost-effective and value-centered for patrons.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I have three requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

**ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 26, 2023**

Mr. MURPHY. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Thursday, January 26; 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 the consideration of the Klobuchar-Grassley resolution as provided under the previous order.

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

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW**

Mr. MURPHY. Madam 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 5:16 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 10 a.m.