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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Give us the wisdom, the strength, the faith to trust in You in all things and above all things.

And let all of us pray for the parents, the children, the innocent civilians in Ukraine who are suffering more than anybody should. Let us all hold them in our prayers. 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.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Hawaii.

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last Thursday, I decided to join with Senator SHAHEEN and set up a meeting with about 13 European Ambassadors to the United States. It was for the Democratic Senators. Afterward, we thought this should have been bipartisan, and the next one will be.

But the Ambassadors' meeting was nothing short of historic because these

14 Ambassadors, representing the obvious leaders in Europe, all spoke to the issue of Ukraine and what it has meant to them and what it has done to their nations.

Some of their statements were profound. The Ambassador from Germany talked about how her country had, in a matter of 2 weeks, dramatically changed its position on many issues: On the future of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, they have come to realize that dependence on Russia is risky business in the 21st century; whether or not Germany will step up and support the Ukrainian people. They decided they would, and they also decided that they would make a substantial investment in military spending as part of NATO.

Some of those things seem like very common decisions to Americans, but for them, it was many times a reversal of a party position. They have come to realize, as we have around the world, that the Ukrainian situation calls for emergency measures.

I first want to commend President Joe Biden. Though I may not agree with all his policies and approaches, I have to say that at the moment in history we find ourselves, thank goodness Joe Biden is our President. I cannot imagine his predecessor in a similar circumstance.

Joe Biden set out to first unify NATO. It sounds like an easy task. It is an alliance which we inspired back in the 1940s, after World War II, and have been an active leader in for decades. But our relationship with the nations of NATO and Europe and our relationship to the world as a NATO alliance

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



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had suffered greatly in the last few years. Joe Biden set out to change that, and he is the man to do it.

Throughout his career in the Senate and as Vice President to President Obama, he played a major role in foreign policy. He was no stranger to many of the people he sat down with in the NATO alliance. He brought them together and impressed upon them that, if Putin should decide to invade Ukraine, the NATO alliance had to be stronger than ever. He convinced them, and we should recognize that. Both parties should recognize that. His leadership brought NATO into the 21st century and brought it to the stage where it can confront this Putin threat in a responsible manner.

This is being felt across the world, but it is being felt particularly in the nations that are on the border of Ukraine or Belarus.

At this meeting of the Ambassadors, I called on the Ambassador from Poland. I will have to admit and concede that I have a bias there because I represent the second largest Polish city in the world, Chicago, IL, second only to Warsaw. There are many fine Polish people there, and there have been for many generations, who are following this closely, realizing that they are right on the edge, right next to Ukraine.

The Ambassador made some comments that I thought were worth repeating on the floor. At that time, about 1½ million refugees—1½ million refugees—had flown or come across the border into Poland, and they were being absorbed and accepted in that country—1½ million. He said something that was noteworthy.

He said: If you watch the TV of the people coming to the train stations and across the border, did you notice there are no refugee camps in Poland for the Ukrainians? Those people who come across the border are being brought into the homes of Polish families. They are taking the spare bedroom or finding a way to get by in homes of people who care for them—1½ million. Now, some go on to other countries, but many are staying in Poland.

Then he said something which has historic significance. He said: We are taking care of these people because in 1939, no one would take care of us.

He is, of course, referring to the invasion of Poland by the Nazis and the subjugation of the Polish population after a valiant effort to stop the Nazi advance and then the hardship and suffering of the Polish people under Nazi rule. They remember that. Few were personally alive to remember, but families have repeated the stories over and over again.

My hat is off to the Polish people for their kindness and caring and their leadership when it comes to accepting refugees. But what a lesson for us and for the rest of the world. Countries around Europe are each accepting responsibility.

This was a big weekend in Chicago. It is St. Patrick's Day weekend. We dyed

the river green—lots of parties, lots of fun, events at churches like Old St. Patrick's and others. It is a tradition which I am really fond to be part of each year.

I noticed when I spoke to the Irish American Partnership on Friday morning how many people were asking me about Ukraine. At a time when we usually just have a lot of fun and remember good times involving Irish parties and Irish families, there was a real concern about Ukraine—and not just in Chicago among the Irish but equally important in Ireland among the Irish, because several things have happened in the last few days in Ireland.

They have been gathering thousands of pounds of medical supplies and humanitarian aid and shipping them over to Ukraine through Poland and other countries. They really care. Then they made a commitment. Ireland—a nation of 5 million people—made a commitment to take 100,000 Ukrainian refugees.

I said to the group that I met with on Friday morning: A lesson for us all. This isn't the first time we have seen refugees in the world; it is the current refugee crisis, and it is ongoing in many other parts of the world. And what a lesson for us all—regardless of our religious affiliation, that if we do care for our fellow man, we should care for these refugees. They are the strangers, as often referred to in Christian teaching, whom we are asked to accept.

So I want to commend the Polish people, the Hungarians, the Romanians, the Moldovans for accepting refugees as they have from Ukraine. It is a tragedy that it is necessary, but thank goodness there are caring people in those countries who do open their homes and their lives to the refugees.

There was a conversation as well from other Ambassadors that day, but the message that came through dramatically was that we are now unified. The NATO alliance and other countries in Europe, like Sweden and Finland and Switzerland, although they are not part of the NATO alliance, really care and want to be part of the response to it. That is the strength of the force against Vladimir Putin. But the real strength is in Ukraine itself.

How can you watch the television and see the devastation that is taking place and not feel for the people who are still remaining there, the millions who each day wake up and wonder if that is the last day of their life because of a Russian missile or a Russian bomb or because Vladimir Putin has decided to engage in a scorched-earth policy?

When they bombed maternity hospitals, I thought they had reached the lowest possible point, but over the weekend, Vladimir Putin intensified his illegal, unprovoked war on Ukraine—shelling apartment buildings, hospitals, schools, creating an obscene body of evidence that Vladimir Putin should be charged and convicted of the worst possible war crimes.

That is why I had to hesitate for a moment and say, when I hear apolo-

gists for Putin in America, I wonder who they are and what they are made of. Tucker Carlson is one who even the Russians are recommending that their friends in the media listen to, making excuses on FOX for Vladimir Putin. There are no excuses—none acceptable—on the subject. Mr. Carlson should be ashamed of himself.

It is impossible to know how many innocent civilians have already died in Ukraine. Estimates run from hundreds to thousands. An estimated 2.8 million Ukrainians—almost all of them women, children, and the elderly—have fled in the bitter cold to other nations, carrying one or two suitcases and a backpack and a baby on their side. Millions more Ukrainian citizens are displaced inside Ukraine—we can't even count that number—and multitudes are trapped in places like Mariupol and other cities under siege by Russia. Many of them are without food and water and medicine and electricity.

These families are coming to shelters and saying: We have no food to give our children. That is how desperate the circumstances are because of Mr. Putin's invasion. His unprovoked war is a war of atrocities.

Yesterday, I attended a rally at the Ukrainian Center in Chicago. It had been chilly the day before, but it warmed up into the 50s—which is good news in Chicago in March—and we were outside. Quite a crowd showed up. There were more blue and gold Ukrainian flags than I had seen in any one place in America, but there were many other flags too. There were Polish flags; and I am proud to say there were Lithuanian flags—my mother's homeland—Estonian, Latvian, American flags, all gathered to show unity with the Ukrainian people.

Since this war started, they have been working to provide aid shipments and to reach family members in Ukraine. You can tell that it is taking its toll on them as they talk about members of their families that are still in Ukraine today.

But people came with a loud round of applause when I announced that we had, on the floor of the Senate last week on Thursday, passed a bill to provide \$13.6 billion to Ukraine—humanitarian aid, military aid. And President Biden, over the weekend, talked about another \$200 million worth of direct military aid. That makes it over \$1 billion that America has sent, and there is more to follow.

We talked about the sanctions against Russia, sanctions which will be felt by the common people of Russia. Unfortunately, some of them are innocent victims in this as well, but it will put pressure on Putin to finally stop this deadly invasion.

They said—and I believe—that this is not simply a war on Ukraine; it is a war on democracy. It is a war on civilization.

On Wednesday, we are going to have a historic moment here in the Capitol. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the

President of Ukraine, will address a joint session of Congress using the remote technology. We are all in awe of his courage and leadership, and we are anxious to hear his message, to think of what that man has achieved by staying on the scene, regularly broadcasting videos to show that he was still there. He inspires his people to get up and fight for Ukraine.

Our message to him on that day is "Slava Ukraini!"—that is, "Glory to Ukraine." And it is a phrase that was actually banished during Soviet times because it was so nationalistic that the Soviets didn't want the people of that country using it. They use it proudly today because they are an independent, free, and democratic nation.

America stands with Ukraine in its fight for democracy and civilization. I just hope that we will learn many lessons from this. Don't many of the things which we were arguing about in America seem so trivial in comparison to what we are talking about in Ukraine: truckers coming to protest social distancing and masks and vaccine mandates? I am sure those are important issues, but they pale in comparison to the life-and-death struggle which is going on in Ukraine.

These people understand that they must be ready to stand and die for their freedom. How many of us could rise to that level if challenged? It is something I think about a lot.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

Madam President, on another topic, 2 years ago—March 13, 2020—President Trump officially declared COVID a national emergency in America. We all remember the dark and uncertain days in the early spring of 2020. Overnight, schools, offices, and businesses closed their doors and opened their Zooms.

Today is also an important anniversary in America's recovery. One year ago today—1 year ago—Democrats in Congress passed the American Rescue Plan, our comprehensive plan to help American families, hospitals, and small businesses weather the economic hardship of the pandemic and to distribute vaccines and medical equipment so that we could get the pandemic behind us and return to normal life in America.

The pandemic has affected everybody: Republicans, Democrats, and people who don't care at all about politics. Sadly, however, the American Rescue Plan only passed with Democratic votes. Not a single Republican would vote for it, in the House or in the Senate.

And it worked. We were right. It was needed. The U.S. economy has recovered faster and stronger from this pandemic than any other G-7 nation in the world. America's economy added more than 6 million new jobs in the year since we passed the American Rescue Plan. That is a record.

Part of the reason our economy is strong today is because that plan made wise decisions that helped families, helped businesses, and helped commu-

nities through the worst time when the pandemic forced businesses and schools to close. The American Rescue Plan provided a critical lifeline to low-income families, stabilized middle-class families by providing enhanced child tax credits, and expanded unemployment insurance and housing relief. That plan also closed the holes to provide help for families with children, expanding the earned income tax credit and child tax credit.

In particular, the enhanced child tax credit gave working families a chance to breathe. They used it to buy the basics—groceries, diapers—pay the utility bills, pay the rent, pay the mortgage. Some of us just take that all for granted. For many people, it is a paycheck-to-paycheck challenge. Some families actually finally paid down their debts. Others put a few dollars away for the next emergency.

Now, they are feeling squeezed again, those same families. That doesn't mean we were mistaken when we passed the American Rescue Plan. It means we have more to do to lower the cost of living for families across the United States. This should be done on a bipartisan basis.

Inflation is a global problem, not simply an American problem. It is a reflection of the world labor market and a global supply chain basically disrupted by a pandemic and still in the process of recovery.

Now, we have made a decision as a nation to ban imports of Russian oil. Seventy-nine percent of the American people support that decision, even though they understand that it will drive up the price of gasoline. They don't want their hard-earned American dollars paying for Vladimir Putin's war, killing the innocent people of Ukraine. I salute them for their courage in joining our Nation together in that effort to stop it.

Yes, it will add more to the price of oil. It already has over the last week or two because of Putin's invasion, but we have got to face a reality. To stop the killing and death in Ukraine, we have to be prepared to make some sacrifice.

Inflation is a real problem. We need real solutions, not just complaints.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NGOZI EZIKE

Madam President, my remaining statement is a tribute to an extraordinary individual, a lady who is a doctor and was the head of the Illinois Department of Public Health during the worst part of the pandemic.

Her name is Dr. Ngozi Ezike. I saw her on TV every day when I was back home during the pandemic, and she was such an inspiring person, so talented. She was calm. She was wise. She was compassionate. And she was professional. She really made life bearable during an unbearable time. She saved lives.

A Harvard-trained, board-certified internist and pediatrician, she worked at all levels of public health. For the last 3 years, she has been our State's top doctor. She had been in that post for a

little over a year when COVID hit. We were lucky she was there.

Directors of State health departments usually work outside the public spotlight. She was in the spotlight every day. Appearing with Governor JB Pritzker in his daily briefings, she was the public face of Illinois' effort to contain the virus and save lives. What a reassuring presence. She dispensed daily doses of compassion and empathy along with the facts and statistics, the realities, pleas for mask wearing and handwashing. She delivered her message calmly, clearly, and then, without missing a beat, delivered it again in Spanish.

Her sincerity was obvious and never more so than at a news conference about 7 months into the pandemic when she broke down as she was delivering the day's grim statistics. She paused to regain her composure and then urged Illinois residents to fight the fatigue and keep doing what is needed to protect themselves and each other from the virus. After seeing that on television, I wrote her a fan letter, and many others did too. She really cared.

Two weeks ago, she was at another news conference with the Governor. With the number of Illinois residents hospitalized with COVID below 1,000 for 3 days for the first time since last August, the Governor said it was time to lift our mask mandate, time to move toward normal life in Illinois.

Dr. Ezike surprised everybody by announcing that she was going to return to normal life herself; she was leaving her position. In announcing her decision, she thanked her husband and four kids "for tolerating the absences, the last-minute changes in plans, the endless multitasking and the ever-present cellphones." And she added:

Now it's time—

She said to her family—

to make you my priority and give back a portion of the encouragement and support that you have lavished on me.

She thanked the people of Illinois "for their sacrifices" and asked we continue to show each other compassion and tolerance. She remembered the nearly 33,000 people in our State who have died of COVID since the beginning, and she said:

All of the people and all of their stories, I will carry always in my heart.

And she said:

I'm so blessed to have been able to bring some measure of comfort to Illinoisans, to quiet some of the chaos and to infuse some calm.

Dr. Ezike, I would say that the blessing was ours.

As the first Black woman ever to head the Illinois Department of Public Health in its 143-year history, Dr. Ezike added that she was also "glad that I served as a role model to young girls, girls of color, little Black girls, that they can be leaders in any field."

In addition to shepherding our State through the worst COVID crisis, I am

grateful for her tremendous leadership in one other area too: preventing pregnancy-related death. This is a preventable tragedy that affects women and babies of color especially hard.

I have been working with ROBIN KELLY, the Congresswoman from the Chicagoland area, on this issue; and last April, Illinois received a waiver from Medicaid, allowing us to become the first State in the Nation to expand healthcare coverage for new moms on Medicaid from 60 days after pregnancy to a full year, a change I am certain that will save lives.

In the American Rescue Plan, Congress expanded that option to all States for 5 years. We continue to fight to make this change permanent for all new moms on Medicaid. I thank Dr. Ezike for helping to make the case for that change; for her service, courage, and leadership; and for her caring heart at a time when Illinois and America needed her so much.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, 2 weeks ago, Russia initiated the largest land conflict in Europe since World War II. Millions of men, women, and children fled their homes to safety. Countless others have taken up arms in the name of freedom.

President Putin's unprovoked and brutal invasion of Ukraine did not happen overnight. The warning signs were very, very clear. The response from the Biden administration was anything but. The administration had false hope that strongly worded statements would be enough to deter an unprovoked war.

President Biden waited until after Russia invaded Ukraine to level any sanctions at all. And even then, sanctions came in waves, and they are still coming.

President Biden was slow to hit Putin where it hurts. He refused to penalize the Russian energy sector until roughly a week—1 week—after the invasion took place. The President refused to act, and the world now sees the heart-wrenching results.

President Biden has shown weakness on the world stage throughout his 40-plus years in politics—40 years. His foreign policy caves to adversaries, undermines our allies, and devalues the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform.

In his first year of office, he abandoned 20 years of effort in Afghanistan and emboldened Putin to attack his neighbor. As I speak, the White House is reviving Iran's hope of developing a nuclear weapon.

Originally brokered when Joe Biden was Vice President in 2015, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, more commonly known as the JCPOA or the Iran deal, was a deeply flawed agreement aimed at preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. In reality, it did the exact opposite.

Nuclear security can't be achieved with wishful thinking, watered-down

sanctions, or by sending our adversaries plane loads of cash, which we did. Years later, we all know the result. The Iran deal did not work.

President Biden wants to revive this disastrous deal, and this time it will be even worse. The Iranians don't even want to negotiate with America and President Biden's administration so we are allowing Russia to join at the negotiating table negotiating for the United States. It doesn't make any sense. Many Americans are likely asking why? The United States cannot trust the Russian Federation in any capacity. If working with and propping up Russia isn't bad enough, Iran is poised to receive billions of dollars from frozen assets in this new agreement, including funds from renewed oil exports.

Rather than unleashing the power of the American energy industry and allowing Americans to drill, drill, drill on our own soil, the Biden administration would rather do business with Venezuela and plead with Saudi Arabia to turn on the spigots.

The administration is, again, leading from behind, held back by their pledge to their false climate gods. Yes, the climate has changed, and it has been changing for decades, but we can't let the far-left extremist wing push us to buy oil from convicts and criminals just because they would rather hamstring our economy than unleash American energy.

The administration is letting Russia and Iran and China dictate the rules of the game, and they are letting an unelected bureaucrat who was not Senate confirmed, by the name of Rob Malley, conduct these talks through Russia. His now-former colleague resigned. Malley's former colleague resigned in protest over Mr. Malley in conceding to Iran.

The Russian negotiators are bragging about Iran's huge wins in this would-be deal. I have a long list of concerns about how these negotiations are unfolding, but at the top are the limited sanctions the administration appears to be open to in exchange for a short-term pause on the development of Tehran's nuclear program.

Let me be clear. These short-term sanctions are not the solution. They weren't a few years ago, and they are not today. The administration must not allow Tehran to obtain a nuclear weapon. The Iran deal was a bad deal in 2015, and it would be a worse deal today. The Biden administration should immediately—immediately—walk away from the negotiating table before these discussions lead to yet another Biden foreign policy disaster.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The majority leader is recognized.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, last week was an exceedingly productive week for the Senate. We funded the government, passed postal reform, kept our promise to the Ukrainian people, revived VAWA, and unanimously passed anti-lynching legislation. President Biden is going to be busy this week signing a lot of bipartisan bills into law that will impact the lives of millions of Americans, and I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their good work.

Today, we are picking up right where we left off—confirming more of the President's nominees, maintaining our laser focus on lowering costs for American families, and continuing to explore how we can help Ukraine in their war against the evil Mr. Putin.

First, on this last point, earlier today, the Speaker and I announced that President Zelenskyy will deliver a virtual address to Members of the House and Senate this Wednesday, March 16, at 9 a.m. As you know, it is one of the highest honors of any Congress to welcome remarks by foreign heads of state, but it is nearly unheard of in modern times that we hear from a leader fighting for his life, fighting for his country's survival, fighting to preserve the very idea of democracy.

Let me say that again. It is one of the highest honors of any Congress to welcome remarks by a foreign head of state, but it is nearly unheard of—unheard of—in modern times that we hear from a leader fighting for his life, fighting for his country's survival, and fighting to preserve the idea of democracy—something Americans cherish.

As war intensifies in Ukraine, we have all been inspired by the courage of President Zelenskyy and that of the Ukrainian people. President Zelenskyy can rest assured that he will always have friends in Congress ready to listen, to stand in his corner, and we are honored to have him speak to us later this week.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, now on nominations, as we continue exploring ways to help the people of Ukraine, the Senate will also move forward on nominations.

Later today, we are scheduled to vote to proceed on the nomination of Shalanda Young, President Biden's choice to lead the Office of Management and Budget.

For the last year, Ms. Young has already been doing the work leading OMB as Acting Director, and she has proved to be bipartisan, deeply experienced, and knows the budget and appropriation process like the back of her hand. She was an amazing—amazing—budget director for the Appropriations Committee in the House and has been an amazing Acting Director, and she will do great as Director of OMB.

It is time we make her appointment official here in the Senate, and I hope to see Members from both sides of the aisle rally behind her later this week.

If confirmed, Shalanda Young would make history as the very first Black woman confirmed by the Senate to lead the OMB—another glass ceiling shattered by a remarkable Member of the President's historic Cabinet.

It has been under Ms. Young's leadership that the OMB has notched some of the administration's biggest accomplishments, from securing billions in disaster relief funding and beefing up the Made in America Office to working with Congress on the bipartisan infrastructure law. Clinton, LA, can celebrate this week knowing that one of their own is bringing the administration's agenda to life.

I look forward to seeing this great nominee confirmed later this week.

INFLATION

Madam President, now on costs and inflation, off the floor, Senate Democrats will continue this week focusing on helping American families lower their cost of living and reap the full benefits of the historic job and wage growth under President Biden.

Later this week, my colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee will hold an especially important hearing on the rising cost of prescription drugs and hear expert testimony on what we can do to make medications more affordable. Lowering prescription drug prices should be absolutely one of the most bipartisan priorities in this Congress.

Few things ignite the same frustration as making trips to the pharmacy and seeing the price on your receipt go up and up and up for basic, often life-saving, medications. Insulin is a particularly egregious example. According to some sources, a 40-day supply can now climb north of \$600 a month. For millions of Americans who rely on insulin to manage their diabetes, this is a five-alarm fire that demands Senate action. I expect we will consider next steps soon on some proposals already presented by my colleagues.

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats will continue examining the disturbing trend of corporations reporting massive profits, even as Americans face higher costs. A headline from Yahoo News last month sums it up:

Corporate America's 2021 profits were higher than ever.

Let me repeat that.

Corporate America's 2021 profits were higher than ever.

It is deeply unfair and morally bankrupt for Americans to pay more for basics while many mega corporations are making a killing. Last week, I asked the head of the FTC to look into this trend in the area of energy prices, and corporations taking advantage of the American people should be on notice.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Madam President, on the Supreme Court, this week, Members from both sides of the aisle will continue meeting with President Biden's nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

When President Biden nominated Judge Jackson, I promised that we would have a fair and expeditious process, and that is exactly what we have had so far. Judge Jackson has now met with a broad range of Senators from both sides of the aisle, and she is expected to meet with all members of the Judiciary Committee before her hearings begin next week.

I am encouraged that, so far, the judge's meetings with Senators have been very constructive. From conversations with my colleagues, everyone seems to agree on one thing: The judge is more than qualified for the big job on the High Court. Her record bears that out. As a district judge for 8 years, Judge Jackson rendered more than 550 rulings and was rarely reversed by higher courts.

Once Judge Jackson's hearings begin next week, the American people will see for themselves precisely what Senators are seeing right now.

Judge Jackson is brilliant, she is beloved, and she belongs on the Supreme Court. The three b's I have given her: brilliant, beloved, belongs.

I thank my colleagues for moving forward in a constructive way on this historic nomination.

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Madam President, now on the omni, the omnibus budget, I want to revisit the groundbreaking omnibus package that the Senate passed last week with bipartisan support, which fully and robustly funds the government through the end of the 2022 fiscal year.

As I said on Thursday, this year's bipartisan budget bill is one of the boldest and most significant packages that we have seen passed through the Congress in a long, long time. It is a deal just overflowing with good news for American families looking to cut costs and make ends meet. Let me highlight just a few ways this bill will lower costs in the coming months.

For working Americans struggling with energy costs, this year's budget increases domestic investments that help people pay their heating and air-conditioning bills. Utility costs have always fallen hardest on those least able to bear them, and I am glad this year we are increasing the help we provide working families to pay for their utilities.

We are also boosting funding for child nutrition programs by 7 percent compared to 2021 so kids don't go to school on an empty stomach or go through summer school uncertain about what or if they are going to eat.

Working parents will also get a break. We are dramatically increasing the amount dedicated to childcare assistance, making it easier for parents to reenter the workplace and earn a paycheck without having to worry about paying to take care of their kids.

Head Start Programs will see more resources to help them prepare young kids to thrive in the classroom. Funding for title I-A grants, which help more than half our Nation's public

schools boost student performance, will receive the largest increase in a decade.

College students, meanwhile, will see the largest increase in Pell grant maximums since the 2009-2010 academic year—a desperately needed injection of funding.

These investments only scratch the surface. From housing assistance to help with energy costs, to aid for the elderly and our veterans and investments in child nutrition, this year's funding package will drive down costs for parents, students, the elderly, and small business. Because both sides were able to work in good faith, American families will see more help come their way through the annual funding bill than they have seen in a long, long time.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 656.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 656, Jacqueline Scott Corley, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Sherrod Brown, Patty Murray, Tammy Duckworth, Tim Kaine, Elizabeth Warren, Mazie Hirono, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Amy Klobuchar, Jon Tester, Patrick J. Leahy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 738.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 738, Fred W. Slaughter, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 682.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 682, Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider calendar No. 678.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DURBIN). The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Victoria Marie Calvert, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 678, Victoria Marie Calvert, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Charles E. Schumer, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Chris Van Hollen, Raphael G. Warnock, Jacky Rosen, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Mazie Hirono, Christopher A. Coons, Patrick J. Leahy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 683.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julie Rebecca Rubin, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 683, Julie Rebecca Rubin, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider calendar No. 737.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Hector Gonzalez, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 737, Hector Gonzalez, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 679.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John H. Chun, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the cloture motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 679, John H. Chun, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 680.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah Elisabeth Geraghty, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 680, Sarah Elisabeth Geraghty, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 681.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Georgette Castner, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 681, Georgette Castner, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 684.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cristina D. Silva, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 684, Cristina D. Silva, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 685.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anne Rachel Traum, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 685, Anne Rachel Traum, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 662.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrew M. Luger, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

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

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 662, Andrew M. Luger, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Jeff Merkley, Raphael G. Warnock, Mazie Hirono, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 677.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 677, Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Chris Van Hollen, Raphael G. Warnock, Jacky Rosen, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Mazie Hirono, Christopher A. Coons, Patrick J. Leahy.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I finally ask consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, March 14, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

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

TRIBUTE TO JANE LEE HAMMAN

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Jane Lee Hamman of Jefferson County as Montanan of the Month,

for her patriotism, her dedication to serving her community, our great State, and our great Nation.

Jane's selfless contributions began at a young age when she started volunteering for Meals on Wheels with her parents. Jane also joined her parents in supporting Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement as well, believing in equal opportunity and advancement for all people based on their character, not the color of their skin. In fact, her life mantra is "Living to advance freedom, knowledge, and justice for all." I think I can speak for all who know her when I say that she truly embraces these ideals.

Jane's love for her country is on full display in the monthly column she writes for the Boulder Monitor newspaper. The goal of Jane's column is to preserve liberty, to educate readers about America's vision of the Declaration of Independence, and to celebrate our Constitution.

She also shares her values of patriotism and volunteerism with others while serving as the lay leader of the Clancy United Methodist Church and as the Oro Fino Chapter Registrar of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Additionally, Jane has been appointed by Gov. Greg Gianforte to the Montana State Board of Education and is the chair for the North Jefferson County Public Library District Board of Trustees.

I have no doubt that her love for the great State of Montana and the United States of America influences every person she meets.

It is truly my honor to recognize Jane for her commitment to serving her community, her State, and her country while spreading Montana's values of service and patriotism.

Jane, keep up the great work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The Senator from Louisiana.

ENERGY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I have had many experiences presiding when you have gotten up to speak about energy and climate. So now the roles are reversed, and I will take a perspective somewhat similar to yours in the past but perhaps a little bit broader.

We are in a point in time where it is clear that there is a nexus between energy, climate, economic security for a family and for a nation, and national security. And if we ignore any one, if we overemphasize one and forget the rest, then we lose all four.

I will just share the example we have right now. The administration has clearly prioritized climate in such a way that they have attempted to decrease the amount of fossil fuel being produced in the United States of America and limit the exports of that fuel. Because of that singular emphasis, we are now at a point where we have endangered the economy of many—not "we" but circumstances around the

world have endangered the economies of the European countries dependent upon Russian oil. It has endangered the pocketbook of the families that cannot afford \$4- to \$6-a-gallon gasoline, depending upon where you live. And the climate globally is worse.

Because there are inadequate amounts of liquefied natural gas going to Europe, they are going to burn tremendous amounts of coal, and that coal, of course, will have a greenhouse gas profile that is far greater than that of natural gas.

So the question is, How do we achieve all of our goals: the climate, the national security, the pocketbook issues for families and for our nation, as well as our energy security? So that is what I wish to speak about today.

Now, of course, we know there is a tension here, and the tension here is between this kind of almost battle we have been having in our country: How do we develop America's resources, but how do we do it while at the same time lowering carbon intensity?

If one party is in charge of the regulatory state, then they will attempt to use regulatory power to choke off the amount of carbon coming from America's resources. I am speaking of fossil fuel resources at this point. But, as I mentioned, it seems that with this backdrop of a need globally to be free of Russian energy, we need to have a different approach—acknowledging totally those who are concerned about carbon intensity; acknowledging totally the Europeans who are now so vulnerable to Russian energy shortages; acknowledging totally the family at home with the 10-year-old pickup truck who can't afford to fill it up to get to work.

Mr. President, let's set the stage. Europe depends on Russia for 40 percent of its natural gas supplies. Some countries in Europe depend upon Russia for 90 percent of their natural gas supplies. In 2013, the EU imported 135 billion cubic meters of Russian natural gas and in 2019, 166 billion cubic meters. One reason we need to export liquefied natural gas is to decrease that reliance upon Russian natural gas.

By the way, one of the reasons that the EU is using more natural gas is that the carbon footprint of natural gas is so much less than that of coal. So using gas was a way to achieve that which the United States has achieved—an ability to decrease your carbon emissions by changing from coal to natural gas.

Our goal here is to help the Europeans continue not just that transition away from coal to lower their carbon intensity but also to help them decrease, lower their dependence upon Russia as regards overall their use of natural gas.

There is a way to get at this within the next 10 months—to lower global greenhouse gas emissions, to help the Europeans be freer from Russian gas—in a way which actually does not involve increased production here in the

United States. When I speak of our goals here, it isn't just to pump more out of the United States; it is to solve a global problem.

An Italian energy executive with whom I spoke mentioned how in North Africa, they are using natural gas. They ship a certain amount of it to Italy, and then it goes to the rest of the continent. But the tanks coming from North Africa are about 50 percent full, and there is a liquefied natural gas terminal in Egypt which is way below capacity. Why? Because the population growth in North Africa has been so great and the number of people getting electricity has increased so dramatically that the natural gas they used to ship to Europe is now being used domestically.

But the powerplants they are using to burn the natural gas are antiquated. They don't burn efficiently. The emission profile of these natural gas powerplants is much greater than that which is state of the art. So this gentleman in Italy had a great idea. He said: Why don't we build out in the near term a \$10 billion investment of solar panels in North Africa?

It would seem like there is no better place in the world to do solar panels than the Sahara Desert. So if you did solar panels in Africa and you are exchanging the electrons from the solar panels for the electrons being burned in antiquated natural gas facilities, that gas would then be freed up to be shipped to Africa. It doesn't increase—in fact, it decreases the net amount of natural gas being built, but it does it in a way that it delivers the gas where it is going to be burned in a more environmentally friendly way. But it has economic development, and it has the substitution of solar for gas in North Africa. This is a win and a win and a win.

What is the U.S. role here? Well, the U.S. role can take our DFC, which is our financing corporation for overseas development, and I am told that if we just put up 5 percent of the amount, that sends a message to other investors that this has the support of the U.S. Government and that they can step in here and make an investment too.

Solar panels of that magnitude is a big project. On the other hand, it is something which can be done in the near term. In that near term, we are able to increase the supply of natural gas to Europe, while decreasing global greenhouse gas emissions. That is something we can do now.

It does raise the question—someone said: Building that many solar panels, surely there would be some issues. It is my impression, at least, that there is far more open ground in the desert than there is in the cities but also that the regulatory burden in order to deploy solar panels is a lot less in Africa, which kind of takes me to my next issue.

We have the ability to increase our export of liquefied natural gas, to increase the deployment of renewables

here in the United States, to mine the uranium that would replace the Russian uranium we get for nuclear but also replace the Russian uranium the Europeans use. We have the ability to do that, but we are just locked up with regulations. I am not saying do away with the regulations; I am saying do something different in terms of how we regulate.

We actually have a model for this. We saw at the beginning of the COVID pandemic that we had multiple Federal Agencies responsible for approving a new vaccine. They would kind of get to each other's issue and request when they got to each other's issue and request. So it could take 2½ years to have a new vaccine approved by regulation in order to even begin testing, much less to show that it worked and to begin to deploy.

The previous administration, working with the different Agencies—I visualize it as bringing everybody in a room, and if somebody had a question, they would turn this question over to somebody else, and they had to sit there at that table until they resolved it, and then they gave it back, not “Hey, listen, send it over here, and we will have it back to you in 4 weeks.” No. “Send it over here, and we will have it back to you in 3 days.” They compressed the time so that a vaccine, which, optimistically, we were hoping would be ready in 3 years, ended up being ready in less than 1. There is always a concern that if you compress that timeframe, you have to sacrifice safety, but there is no evidence that occurred with the coronavirus vaccine.

In the same way, if we have multiple Agencies right now that are in charge of permitting some aspect of energy—whether it is renewable, whether it is mining, whether it is export—there can be an Operation Warp Speed for how they work together to bring our energy resources to bear and helping the Europeans become free of Russian energy.

It is not just lowering the price at the pump for us, because you can argue that is going to be very difficult to do in the near term. What it can be, though, is to keep the Europeans from going into a recession or a depression next winter because the demand for fuel is so great and they are unable to meet it. And if they don't have some substitute for Russian energy and if the Russians decide to cut them off, they end up freezing, going energy poor, or having their industries crater because of a lack of energy.

One more time, this is a nexus. We can do this in a way that is environmentally friendly, producing the energy and exporting it in such a way that lowers global greenhouse gas emissions, because what is driving us right now is the economy of countries and the economy of families.

If European families are energy poor, they will lose their political will to stand up to the Russians, and we will lose our ally. We have to support not just our families but theirs so that

they can get through this economically; so that, one, they can more afford life; but, secondly, so that we can maintain political will as we stand up against the Russians.

There are other aspects of this, as well. For those interested in battery technology, most of the critical minerals are coming from Russian or Chinese sources. If we are concerned about climate and we are concerned about the ability to be critical mineral independent in case of geopolitical tension, this is the exact same issue that we have been speaking about.

How do we proceed? One, we just have to recognize that we are at a time of extreme geopolitical tension where decisions we make in this country have ramifications worldwide. The Europeans are looking to us to help them with their energy crisis, and if we fail to help the Europeans with their energy crisis, the Europeans will pay as much as 6,000 euros more a year per family for their energy, and they will probably go into a deep recession.

On the other hand, if we are able to solve this for the Europeans, we will also solve it for our families, the ones who are paying \$4 to \$6 for a gallon of gasoline.

We know what we are speaking about. Just to show that this can be done, as the United States has substituted natural gas for coal, we have lowered our domestic emissions by 14 percent at a time when global emissions have risen 4 percent. In that time, since 2005, where we lowered our emissions by 14 percent, our economy is larger. We have millions more people and we are domestically producing much more oil and gas, and there has been a subsequent return of energy-related industry to the United States.

So despite an industrial profile and a mining profile and a population profile that would suggest that there would be greater emissions, we actually have 14 percent less than 2005. We did it by acknowledging that domestic production of energy was going to help with our economy, help with the economy of families, but also help our domestic security, and would also help climate and the carbon intensity of our society.

We have done this for our country. Now the question is, Can we do it for the world? I would argue that if we choose not to, the Russians will win. There is no way that Europe or Europeans are going to accept energy poverty with a crater economy due to the lack of affordable energy.

On the other hand, if we are able to make this commitment doing things such as financing for solar panels in North Africa, an Operation Warp Speed for energy to bring our energy resources to bear, the continued substitution of lower carbon intensity energy sources for that which currently is higher carbon intensity, then, we can accomplish worldwide that which we have accomplished here in the United States, which is to lower greenhouse gas emissions while making a more

prosperous society and increasing domestic and international security.

This is not theoretical. I have spoken with someone who could have an offshore LNG export facility completed in 12 months, if he had his permits from the Federal Government. I spoke to someone involved with drilling in the Outer Continental Shelf and learned that their company could be sending oil to the refineries in Louisiana within 12 months if they could get their permits done expeditiously. And I can give list after list of renewable, of fossil, and otherwise.

It is now the time for the United States to take leadership. If we don't, our families will continue to suffer at the pump, Europeans will enter a recession, and, most unfortunately, the cause of freedom worldwide will be harmed by Russia's continued economic hegemony over the rest of the world because of their energy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for 3 minutes.

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

NOMINATION OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG

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

Ms. Young has served with distinction as OMB's Acting Director for the past year, leading the administration's efforts to execute the American Rescue Plan, the bipartisan infrastructure bill, and numerous Federal cybersecurity priorities.

Over the past year, she has been a true partner to Congress, working closely with Members on both sides of the aisle to find bipartisan paths forward.

In addition to her proven leadership at OMB this past year, Ms. Young brings nearly two decades of public service experience to her role, including as a senior staff Member on the House Appropriations Committee where she led challenging bipartisan negotiations around the debt limit, government funding, and budget reform.

OMB will continue to be central to the administration's efforts to tackle the Nation's ongoing challenges, and Ms. Young will be instrumental in leading that work.

I have every confidence in Ms. Young's ability to continue to rise to the challenges facing OMB, both now and in the future.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the confirmation of Shalanda Young as director of the Office of Management and Budget.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 726, Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Charles E. Schumer, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 79 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blunt	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shelby
Cardin	Kelly	Sinema
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Leahy	Stabenow
Cassidy	Lujan	Sullivan
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cramer	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Warren
Graham	Murphy	Whitehouse
Grassley	Murray	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—31

Barrasso	Cornyn	Ernst
Blackburn	Cotton	Fischer
Boozman	Crapo	Hawley
Braun	Cruz	Inhofe
Capito	Daines	Johnson

Lankford	Risch	Thune
Lee	Rounds	Tillis
Lummis	Rubio	Tuberville
Marshall	Sasse	Young
McConnell	Scott (FL)	
Paul	Scott (SC)	

NOT VOTING—16

Blumenthal	Kennedy	Schatz
Burr	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Moran	Toomey
Duckworth	Ossoff	Wicker
Feinstein	Portman	
Hagerty	Romney	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 31.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Indiana.

REMEMBERING MARK RAPP

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, at 5:30 p.m. on September 11, 2001, members of Indiana Task Force One left Indianapolis to head to New York City. Task Force One is our State's search and rescue squad, made up of our bravest and most selfless first responders who deploy around the country in times of emergency.

In the caravan to Ground Zero that day was Mark Rapp. Mark was a founding member of Task Force One. He was a hero's hero, a rescuer's rescuer. On March 4, 2022, Chief Mark Rapp died after a courageous battle with lung cancer.

Mark, who was known by the nickname "Bum"—that is right, "Bum Rapp"—served the city of Indianapolis as a firefighter for 37 years. He retired as a battalion chief of training in 2017.

In 1993, Mark received the Medal of Bravery for the risky rescue of a small child from a dangerous apartment fire. He is also a recipient of the American Red Cross Heroism Award, the Operations Firefighter of the Year Award, and the Peer Leadership Award for his work as a role model for the force.

For 10 years, he led the Indianapolis Fire Department's Clothe-A-Child Program, wherein young people in need shop for clothing alongside a firefighter; and Mark was a deeply involved father. He built a log cabin in the Outdoor Lab at Indian Creek Elementary School. For over 20 years, he worked on the "chain gang" at Lawrence North High School football games. His sons, Mark, Jr., and Greg, eventually worked alongside him as firefighters.

As a member of Task Force One, Mark was deployed to assist in the aftermath of several natural disasters, including Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008. He was also a certified rescue diver.

In September 2001, Mark spent 10 days at Ground Zero, leading Indiana Task Force One through the night shift during nonstop search and rescue efforts. It is believed that the lung cancer that ultimately claimed Mark's life could be traced to the toxins he inhaled in 2001. Nearly half of the 65 Task Force One members who were deployed to the World Trade Center in 2001 have reported illnesses related to their work. Mark was the fifth to have died from those illnesses.

On behalf of the people of Indianapolis, the Hoosiers, and the American people, we thank Mark Rapp, Sr., for his courage, bravery, and leadership; and our prayers are with Nancy, his wife, his three children, and all of those who love him.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

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

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

ENERGY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, the American people—the world—is watching a really horrendous, barbaric, horrible situation in Ukraine; and we are all praying for the people there, trying to do as much as we can to support them. And this barbarism we are seeing from Vladimir Putin is something I don't think anyone is ever going to forget.

We can't let it stand. We need to use all instruments of American power—with our allies—to work to address this long term because this is a long-term problem—the new era of authoritarian aggression led by Putin, led by Xi Jinping—and we need to be able to address it.

One of these instruments of American power that we have had until recently, in a bipartisan way—every President has supported being an energy producer, being an energy superpower, being a country that is energy independent.

And I don't have to tell the Presiding Officer, but this has been highlighted by the current crisis. What has happened is the American people—really, the world—have awoken to the fact that the Biden administration came into office and, instead of building on what they inherited from the Trump administration, which, again, was a bipartisan goal of American foreign policy, American energy policy, American domestic policy—for decades, every President—every President—wanted America to be energy independent.

President Obama used to talk about this, all-of-the-above energy: oil, gas, renewables; Jimmy Carter, of course; Donald Trump; George W. Bush. I mean, it dates back for decades, until the Biden administration.

And, of course, they came in and on day one said: We are going to start shutting down the production of American energy. That is a fact. I am going to go through a lot of the facts. I am going to go through some detailed memos that are still in existence that show that this is exactly their policy.

Now, what has happened in the last 2 weeks? The American people have started to realize: Oh, my gosh, my own government is trying to make it

harder for us to produce American energy. How does that make sense? In what world does that make sense?

And the average American—always very smart, by the way, much smarter than the people in DC—is raising the alarm bells, saying: Wait a minute. Why would we do that? It hurts us at home. It drives up energy prices.

The President is calling it Putin's energy increases. That is ridiculous. Energy prices have been going up since this administration got into office because of this administration's policies.

Good try, Mr. President. That is not going to work.

So the American people are saying: It is hurting us at home. It is raising costs on my family.

But they are now realizing: Whoa, this is really bad for our foreign policy and national security too, when you have a war like what is going on in Ukraine.

So all of a sudden, you see the Biden administration—from the President on down and his whole team—starting to scramble. They are starting to hide their policy that has been driven by a far-left radical agenda and is really hurtful to everybody. By the way, it doesn't help the environment one bit, not one bit. I will come down here in another speech and talk about how it hurts the environment.

And it is almost funny to watch this happen if this weren't such a serious topic. It is almost funny. As a matter of fact, to one Cabinet official, it was funny. Go Google the Secretary Granholm interview—I forget which news station—when she was asked, "Hey, are you going to help produce more oil for America?" She literally starts cracking up, laughing. She is laughing.

It is not funny, Madam Secretary. So now, the White House is scrambling with made-up stories, made-up rationales. You see the Press Secretary kind of trying to talk about this issue. No offense to her. She is pretty talented, but she doesn't know anything about energy.

But they are scrambling because no one is laughing. No one is laughing. The Secretary of Energy might be laughing about this topic, but no one is laughing. Working families in America aren't laughing. The energy workers that this administration has moved to hand pink slips to aren't laughing. Our allies in Europe aren't laughing. Ukrainians aren't laughing.

The only ones who might be laughing are the Venezuelans and the Iranians who this administration is now going and begging for oil from. They might be laughing.

So it is a really serious topic. And, as I mentioned, the energy price rise that we have seen across the last year—gas prices were almost up 50 percent prior to the invasion of Ukraine by Putin. So we know what is going on because it is no secret.

When the President was campaigning—again, I don't think these

were really his views but driven by the far-left that he had to get their vote on—he vowed that he would do exactly what he did on day one. Here is the President in a debate in 2019: I have argued against any more drilling. No more drilling—oil or gas drilling on Federal lands. I will not allow it anymore.

That is the President of the United States.

Now, on day one, he did just that. He did just that. He started out to keep these campaign promises. We know he canceled the Keystone Pipeline. They put a “pause”—I am going to talk about that—on Federal leasing and permitting, something that really impacted my State. He signed an Executive order to crack down on oil and gas production. He canceled the legally acquired leases that my State has in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge because this body voted for it, signed it into law. The President, in a blatantly illegal move, said: I am not going to allow these leases, even though the Congress of the United States and the President of the United States previously passed a law saying they had to be executed.

And just 2 weeks ago, the administration froze new drilling permits and stopped issuing new leases on Federal lands because they continue to be driven by a far-left agenda that nobody in the United States is supporting right now.

(Ms. SMITH assumed the Chair.)

Well, Madam President, I want to dig a little deeper into what happened on day one.

So what happened here—I have an order. This is an order—order No. 3395 from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, a guy by the name of Scott de la Vega. I have never heard of him. Never heard of him. Who in the heck is that?

It was dated January 20, 2021, so that is day one. That is day one. Some guy named Scott de la Vega—I don’t know who he is, but I guess he was Acting Secretary of the Interior—and he lays out in this memo everything that should be suspended, everything in America, to stop producing any natural resources for 60 days. OK?

That is your government at work, America, right here: Scott de la Vega hereby temporarily suspends—and then they have a whole list of things that deal with oil, gas, minerals, rights of way—anything on Federal lands—all stopped. If that is not a far-left radical agenda, I don’t know what is.

It says that people above him—the Secretary, Deputy Secretary—they can rescind that after 60 days. But there is no one above him. This is day one. There is nobody even confirmed. That is why Scott de la Vega was Acting Secretary of the Interior. Don’t be fooled. This is an order on day one from the Biden administration to shut down the production of American energy. Your government at work, America.

What happened across the country? I can tell you what happened in my

State. This set up a mad scramble in Alaska. I was getting phone calls, literally, from this memo. I didn’t know anything about it.

Why?

What was happening here?

In my State, because we have the highest environmental standards in the world on oil and gas development, on mineral development, we do our exploration only in the winter—only in the winter. About a 3-month period—January, February, March, April—4 months, because we create ice roads and ice paths. These are giant roads of ice and giant paths of ice that can take out giant drill rigs on the tundra. We do our exploration then, and then we bring it off in 4 months. The ice roads melt, and there is zero impact. It is called zero impact exploration. OK? It is expensive, but we do that in Alaska because we really care about our environment. We know how to do both: protect our environment and develop our resources. We only have about 3 to 4 months to even do this work every winter.

So I had a bunch of Alaskans—hundreds, thousands—out doing the work of America—oil and gas development. Old Mr. de la Vega comes out day one of the Biden administration and says, We are going to suspend any lease or permit.

When you are in the oil and gas industry, you are constantly having to get additional permits—what they call ATDs, applications to drill—to build an ice road, to do other things that are way beyond leases—Jen Psaki—way beyond leases. You have to get these permits reviewed and updated very frequently.

They said: No issuing of anything.

I get a call—I will give you one example—from a company that almost 300 people do an exploration for. They were just told: You are not going to get anything else for 60 days. They couldn’t do anything. They are going to fire all 300 people.

We scrambled. We made phone calls. We tried to get this order lifted—tried to get an exception. This was happening all across America. The Federal Government came in—the Biden administration. That was day one, and Mr. de la Vega—again, don’t know who he is—issued this order: 60 days and stopped everything.

Joe Biden is out there saying: Oh, no, we really care about energy production.

No, you don’t. You are trying to kill it. That was the mad scramble. Many people were laid off. This is way beyond Keystone—10,000 laid off.

Let me go into a little more detail. After 60 days, what happened? This is really important. I really want our friends in the media to dig into this. Again, you have these things called applications to drill on Federal leases. OK? All of that was stalled for 60 days. You couldn’t do a thing. This is just a year ago, right—just a year ago from this administration that is now telling

the American people: Oh, no, we are fully for energy development.

They were trying to kill it.

OK. Normally, when you have a lease on a Federal land, you have Federal managers. I will give you the example in Alaska. In the Bureau of Land Management, they will have a field manager, right? So let’s say there is a field manager for BLM in Fairbanks, AL. That man or woman has a fair amount of authority. They can issue these applications to drill, to move forward. This is a government that is not centralized, right? You want the decision-makers—who, by the way, are almost all professional career staff—to make science-based decisions—not political decisions—on these applications to drill. That is the way it works. That is the way it has always worked.

So you have a field manager, say, in Fairbanks. You will have a district level manager in the interior part of Alaska. Then you will have one State director, the BLM State director, OK? So they usually—not even the State director. The lower-level Federal officials can issue these permits to keep the country moving, producing oil, gas.

What happened after 60 days? After 60 days in 2021—so you have the Biden administration—Mr. de la Vega shutting down all energy production for 60 days in America. That is this order. So after 60 days, what happened? Well, there was another order issued. This was issued by a woman, an official named Laura Daniel-Davis. She is the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Land and Mineral Management. OK. Sounds kind of important. Actually, it is really important. That is the Assistant Secretary of the Interior in charge of all oil and gas and mineral development for America. It is a pretty important job.

In the Trump administration, we had a really great Alaskan, Joe Balash. He had that job. Did a great job, by the way. So after 60 days, Acting Assistant Secretary for the Land and Mineral Management—oil and gas, mining—she issues a memo. I have it right here. I will quote from some of it. She issues a memo. What her memo says was: Hey, you have that Executive order—60-day delay by Mr. de la Vega. OK, that is running out in 2 days. This is March 19, 2021. It is not even a year old.

What she says in her order is that: You know how you guys in the Federal agencies—a field manager, the district level manager, the State director, all across America—I am giving you one example in Alaska. You know how you all have authority to issue permits to drill, things like that? That is the way it has been going on for decades and decades. Well, I, Acting Assistant Secretary Laura Daniel-Davis, I am taking that away from you. I am taking that away.

Her memo says every decision—she lists a bunch—a bunch—OK? Every decision—now, remember, nobody was able to do anything for 60 days. Now, we are saying the 60-day delay is over,

but any decision you lower-level people—BLM and others—had to make on applications to drill and permits like that—hundreds and hundreds across the country—she says—I am going to quote from her:

For those matters that have been submitted in accordance with S.O. 3395—

She is referencing the Executive order that says stop everything. She now says: If you haven't received any kind of approval for that stuff—"If you have not received the final ASLM"—that is her decision—"you may not proceed [on any of these permits] without approval from ASLM," meaning her.

Think about that. This is an administration saying they really care about moving oil and gas on Federal lands forward. In the first 60 days, they say everything stopped. Then they say: All right. You are going to move forward the way it used to work—field managers, district level managers, State directors, in every State in America—no, no, no, you don't have that authority. Me, Assistant Secretary Acting—by the way, she is still not confirmed by the Senate—every one of those has to come to me for my approval—every one. Every one in Alaska, every one in New Mexico, every one in North Dakota—anywhere—by the way, all on the offshore, Gulf of Mexico—anywhere that at the lower levels in the Federal Government you had professional staff who had the authority to grant these applications to drill and other Federal permits, this memo says: No. That will be centralized under me—for America—for America—every darn decision for oil and gas production and mineral production in the country has to be approved by this Acting Assistant Secretary.

Guess what? This memo is still in operation right now—right now. When the President of the United States looks at the American people and Jen Psaki: Oh, we are doing everything.

No, you are not. You have one person and this order. I am not going to go into her background much, but let's just face it. If you look at it, she spent her whole career trying to take out the oil and gas industry. Now, she is in charge of every decision for every permit on every Federal lease for the production of American energy in the country, and she is still in charge. You have one person.

By the way, this is a political appointee. I don't think she is going to get confirmed because I am going to block her; that is for sure. But even some of my Democratic colleagues are like, this is going on right now, OK? My friends in the media, I hope you take a look at this.

What is really interesting here is you have someone who is a political appointee—a career trying to take out the oil and gas industry—and none of this is based on science. This is all political. They are removing the career staff, the scientists, saying: Hey, it has to be up to me. One political appointee

is in charge of issuing all permits in the United States in the energy sector. It is still going on.

This would be like if you wanted to get a loan—right—and you went to your local bank in your hometown. Let's say it was Bank of America. There was a local bank, Bank of America in your hometown. This would be like having to go to headquarters on Wall Street to get approval for your loan. Think about it. That is going on right now.

And the President has the audacity to look the American people in the eye saying: Oh, we are trying to do all we can.

No, you are not. Why don't you rescind this order? This is part of the Biden administration's obsession from day one with stopping the production of American energy and politicizing it with a political appointee—who, by the way, doesn't know much about the industry either.

But there is more to this memo. It gets quite interesting because there is this kind of doublespeak in it. I am going to read from a little bit of it. She says that for matters that have been submitted in accordance with the shutdown—60-day shutdown—but for which you have not received approval from me, you are still not allowed to move forward. You have to come through me, the one political appointee who doesn't like the energy sector.

But here is the interesting thing. She says: "Please [also] provide early notification." So flag it if it is an item coming up to me that is part of the administration's priorities. I am quoting right now: "For example, renewable energy projects [those will go to the front of the line] or other climate related milestones, '30 by 30' initiatives"—that is shutting down 30 percent of all Federal lands.

That is not a law by the way; just another radical thing they are doing—"or actions related to racial equity, environmental justice."

OK. This is in her memo. She is saying: Hey, I get to approve everything—all applications, drill, any permits on any Federal land, anything—one person. But if it is part of a far-left radical agenda, by the way, that has nothing to do with energy production, give me a heads-up.

Then she says:

As well as early notification on items that are of high local, state, or regional interest.

What does that mean, "early notification"? Make sure she knows items that are of "high local, state, or regional interest." What does that mean? I don't know. It is kind of code for something.

Let me give you one example of what I think it is code for. Remember, she is in charge of issuing all these permits, and there have been a flood of oil and gas production permits. Guess which State in America in the first year of the Biden administration has had close to half of all oil and gas drilling permits issued by the Department of Inte-

rior approved? Remember, she is approving them all. She doesn't really like oil and gas, but if she has to approve some, it might be related to items that are of "high local, state, or regional interest." I wonder who that is.

Who is it? Is it Alaska? No, I don't think so. Trust me. They are delaying us as much as they can. They don't like us. Twenty-two Executive orders and Executive actions solely focused on Alaska by this administration, they really don't like us.

Is it Texas, North Dakota? The State that has got close to half of all oil and gas drilling permits that this Acting Assistant Secretary, who is in charge of granting—because, remember, she centralized everything—is New Mexico. New Mexico. Whoa. New Mexico? New Mexico.

Do you think New Mexico would be a high State or regional interest if you are her and your boss is from New Mexico? Probably. How about if you have a Senator from New Mexico calling all the time? Probably.

All right. So I really wish the media would look into this, right? Because right now you have the President of the United States, Jen Psaki, and others, saying: Oh, we are trying to do everything we can here. You have got this memo that is still in effect by an Acting Assistant Secretary, saying: I am going to control every permit issued in America on Federal lands. It is right here. Read it. And you can't move, you regional directors in BLM, you know, in Fairbanks, AK, you State directors—no, no, no. I am in charge, and I am going to approve them. You can't move without me. But give me a heads-up. If it is regional interest, Deb Haaland might care about the New Mexico ones or climate change or racial equity or whatever else she listed.

So if this administration really wanted to do all it could to produce energy—which is what every American knows we need to do and what our allies know we need to do and what Putin hopes we don't do—I think one thing they could do is to get Acting Assistant Secretary Laura Daniel-Davis's boot off the neck of the American energy sector because, right now, she is in charge.

Every permit on Federal lands listed in her memo of March 21—I am sorry, March 19, 2021, she is in charge of: final resource management plans, records of decisions, coal leasing, mining operations, R.S. 2477, land sales, exchanges—what else do we have here—applications for permits to drill, oil and gas leases, applications for royalty relief. She is in charge of all of that right now.

In this administration, the President, Jen Psaki, and others have the audacity to look the American people in the eye and say: We are trying to do everything we can in our power to produce more. If you were, you would rescind this memo—rescind this memo.

So the next time the President or some of his staff or Secretary of Energy or Secretary of Interior try to spin the American people and tell them they are trying to help, I hope my friends in the media go, well, what about this memo? Come on, that is like basic Federal Government 101. If you are telling everybody, stop, halt, and everything in the country has to be approved by her, that is not the way it works normally. But because of their anti-energy agenda, she is making the calls—but make sure that you give her a heads-up, if it is related to some of the far-left agenda that she literally lays out in the memo.

I hope my friends in the media ask some questions. I hope they ask the question: Is it related to this memo that New Mexico is getting all the drilling permits? It would be a good question to ask, I think. Don't you think? I think so. Alaska's not getting a lot, but New Mexico is. I wonder why. Maybe that is related to making sure she gets, "early notification of items that are of high local, State or regional interest."

This is not a laughing matter. There is so much that we have to focus on in the world today, in America today, and one of the things this administration needs to do is they need a major course correction on their energy policy.

You can't let energy be dictated by the far left of the Democratic Party. You can't let national security of America be dictated by the "woke" elements of the Democratic Party. And if you really are serious, Mr. President of the United States, you need to call Deb Haaland and say: Rescind that memo. Let the officials, the professional staff of the Federal Agencies, which the President has charged to do their job that they have done with every other administration—rescind this memo and start helping our country produce American energy again.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR THE INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, this explanation reflects the status of negotiations and disposition of issues reached between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

The explanation shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of this act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the Joint Explanatory Statement for the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 be printed into the RECORD.

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

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT—INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

The following is the Joint Explanatory Statement (the "Explanatory Statement") to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 ("the Act"), which has been included as Division X of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022. The Explanatory Statement reflects the result of negotiations and disposition of issues reached between the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence ("SSCI") and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence ("HPSCI") (together, the "Committees"). The Explanatory Statement shall have the same effect with respect to the implementation of the Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a conference committee.

The Explanatory Statement comprises three parts: an overview of the application of the annex to accompany this statement; a statement on anomalous health incidents; and unclassified congressional direction.

PART I: APPLICATION OF THE CLASSIFIED ANNEX AND SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS

The classified nature of U.S. intelligence activities prevents the Committees from publicly disclosing many details concerning their final decisions regarding funding levels and policy direction. Therefore, in addition to the Schedule of Authorizations, a classified annex to the Act—referred to here and within the annex itself as the "Agreement"—has been prepared to describe in detail the scope and intent of the Committees' actions.

The Agreement supersedes the classified annexes that accompanied H.R. 5412 and S. 2610; and reconciles differences between the Committees, with respect to the National Intelligence Program (NIP). The Agreement also makes recommendations for the Military Intelligence Program (MIP) and the Information Systems Security Program (ISSP). The Agreement authorizes the Intelligence Community (IC) to obligate and expend funds not altered or modified by the classified Schedule of Authorizations as requested in the President's budget, subject to modification under applicable reprogramming procedures.

The classified Schedule of Authorizations is incorporated into the bill pursuant to Section 102. It has the status of law. The Agreement supplements and adds detail to clarify the authorization levels found in the bill and the classified Schedule of Authorizations.

The Committees view direction and recommendations, whether contained in the Explanatory Statement or in the Agreement, as requiring compliance by the Executive Branch.

PART II: STATEMENT REGARDING ANOMALOUS HEALTH INCIDENT

From the time the Committees received the first "Havana Syndrome" reports, the Committees have focused intently on the anomalous health incidents ("AHIs") that have afflicted United States Government personnel, including many in the Intelligence Community (IC) and other United

States Government personnel. Provisions of the Act reflect that continuing, bicameral and bipartisan effort.

The Biden Administration also has pursued its own initiatives. As directed by Congress, it earlier this year appointed a senior official, within the National Security Council, to oversee the government's response to AHIs. Additionally, in recent months, a widely-discussed assessment concluded that a majority of reported AHIs can be explained by medical conditions or environmental or technical factors, and that it is unlikely that a foreign actor—including Russia—is engaged in a sustained, global campaign involving hundreds of incidents without detection. But the assessment left other cases unexplained, including a small subset that the IC continues to scrutinize most closely.

Around the same time, an IC panel of experts determined that certain AHIs cannot be explained by environmental or medical conditions, but could be due to external stimuli. While acknowledging important information gaps, the panel further determined that pulsed electromagnetic energy—and, in some cases, ultrasound—plausibly might explain AHIs' core characteristics; and that psychosocial factors alone could not account for those characteristics, though they might cause some other incidents or contribute to long-term symptoms.

These findings advance the United States' understanding of AHIs. But these findings are also heavily qualified, tentative, and based on a developing and incomplete body of evidence and scientific and medical knowledge. Most important, as the Committees wish to stress, these recent developments do not justify shifting the Executive Branch's AHI-related activities into a lower gear, or discrediting the reports of AHI victims.

The core work on AHIs—to include examination of a potential role by one or more foreign actors—must continue apace. As with prior inquiries into complex and murky intelligence problems, unraveling the AHI mystery fully may take time. It might be years before the United States reaches definitive conclusions about exactly who, or what, is behind AHIs.

The Administration has acknowledged that a great deal remains to be done. Indeed, much more evidence will have to be gathered. Plausible theories regarding responsibility for AHIs will have to be weighed against a record that will grow and change over time, and potentially may have to be revisited if circumstances warrant. And no plausible theory should be ruled out or downplayed prematurely.

Success will depend on many factors. Among other things, it will be important to have a well-resourced cadre of "cross-cleared" individuals, at all relevant IC elements and other Executive Branch organizations, who can readily review and analyze all relevant intelligence and information, and without hindrances. The Committees long have emphasized this, with respect to AHI and many other priority intelligence matters. However, the Executive Branch has yet to take all necessary steps, to do away with excessive compartmentation and unnecessary bureaucracy; and to ensure that, for AHI and for other vital missions, the right people consistently and easily can access necessary information. That will have to change.

Treatment also must remain a matter of highest priority. All AHI victims must be encouraged to file prompt reports of their experiences, and without fear of being disbelieved or dismissed. They and their families must receive the highest quality medical and

other care and must receive that care immediately. Thus far, some bureaucratic roadblocks to the provision of care have been removed—but there is no excuse for any to remain. They must be dismantled. And new ones must not be erected.

Above all, there can be no slowing down, in the investigation into AHIs and in the treatment of AHI victims and their families. To do so would risk signaling—to those individuals, to the broader IC workforce, and to the wider world—that, though it prioritized the issue most highly for a discrete time, the United States is “moving on” from AHIs.

That cannot be allowed to happen. And the Committees will continue to conduct vigorous oversight, to prevent it from happening.

PART III: UNCLASSIFIED CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION

This Joint Explanatory Statement incorporates by reference, and the Executive Branch shall comply with, all direction contained in the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (S. Rept. 117-37) and in the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Report to accompany the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (H. Rept. 117-156).

The Executive Branch is further directed as follows:

Assessment of Intelligence Community Counternarcotics Capabilities

The Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with such other Federal Government entities as the Director determines appropriate, to submit an assessment to the congressional intelligence committees within 120 days of enactment of this Act, on the status of the Intelligence Community's (1) counternarcotics capabilities and resourcing with regard to intelligence collection and analysis; (2) operational support to foreign liaison partners; and (3) operational capacity to support the counteractions mission of the Federal Government. The assessment shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Assessment of Intelligence Community's Intelligence-Sharing Relationships with Latin American Partners in Counternarcotics.

The Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with such other Federal Government entities as the Director determines appropriate, to submit an assessment to the congressional intelligence committees within 120 days of enactment of this Act, on the intelligence-sharing relationships of the Intelligence Community with foreign partners in Latin America on counternarcotics matters. The assessment shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Report on Intelligence Community Support to Visas Mantis Program

The Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with such other Federal Government entities as the Director determines appropriate, to submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees within 120 days of enactment of this Act, on intelligence matters relating to the Visas Mantis program, including efforts by (1) the Intelligence Community to provide and plan for effective intelligence support to such program; and (2) hostile intelligence services to exploit such program or any other program by which visas for admission to the United States are issued. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex, as necessary.

Assessment and Report on Interagency Communication Relating to Efforts to Address Anomalous Health Incidents

The Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence to (1) conduct an assessment of how the various elements of the Intelligence Community are coordinating or collaborating with each other and with elements of the Federal Government that are not part of the Intelligence Community in their efforts to address anomalous health incidents, and (2) submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees within 180 days of enactment of this Act on the findings of the Director with respect to the assessment. The report submitted pursuant to subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Reporting on Occurrence of Anomalous Health Incidents

The Committees direct that, whenever the head of an element of the Intelligence Community becomes aware of a report of an anomalous health incident occurring among the employees or contractors of the element, no later than 90 days after each incident, the head of the element shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a brief report on the reported incident. The Committees further direct that this reporting requirement shall cease upon joint notice from the congressional intelligence committees to the Director of National Intelligence.

Report on Cooperation by Intelligence Agencies of Key Democratic Countries Regarding Technological Competition with China

The Committees direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit a report to the congressional intelligence committees within 180 days of enactment of this Act, on the status of current cooperation among the intelligence agencies of key democratic countries and key partners and allies of the United States in order to track and analyze the following:

1. Technology capabilities and gaps among allied and partner countries of the United States;
2. Current capabilities of China in critical technologies and components;
3. The efforts of China to buy startups, conduct joint ventures, and invest in specific technologies globally;
4. The technology development of China in key technology sectors;
5. The efforts of China relating to standard-setting forums; and
6. Supply chain vulnerabilities for key technology sectors;

The Committees further direct that the report shall include a plan to address any deficiencies identified in the report with respect to the cooperation described in such subsection and suggested areas for increased cooperation.

STEM Technology Fellowship

The Committees direct the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and any other relevant Intelligence Community elements, to conduct and present to the congressional intelligence committees, within 180 days after enactment of this Act, a feasibility study examining the benefits of creating a Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) fellowship for the Intelligence Community, and whether such a fellowship would help alleviate the Intelligence Community's workforce shortages and retention challenges in STEM fields. The study shall include:

1. A comprehensive assessment of the IC's current and future workforce needs in high

demand STEM fields, such as data science, cybersecurity, computer network exploitation, software development, and artificial intelligence/machine learning, including:

- a. An assessment of whether the Intelligence Community's current positions and career categories are sufficient to track and retain high demand STEM employees, and
 - b. An assessment of workforce needs by grade, category, and position descriptions.
2. An overview of Intelligence Community programs aimed at developing and recruiting new and mid-career hires in STEM fields;
 3. Proposed timelines for converting fellows and interns to permanent employees;
 4. Mechanisms by which the Intelligence Community could use such a fellowship or internship to address shortfalls in diversity among the workforce; and
 5. An assessment of the authorities and resources required to establish an Intelligence Community-wide STEM technology fellowship.

CYBER INCIDENT REPORTING FOR CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I rise today in support of the Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act of 2022, which is included as division Y in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2471, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022. Cyber attacks and ransomware attacks are a serious national security threat that have affected everything from our energy sector to the Federal Government and Americans' own sensitive information. The SolarWinds breach demonstrated how broad the ripple effects of these attacks can be, affecting hundreds or even thousands of entities connected to the initial target. As cyber and ransomware attacks continue to increase, the Federal Government must be able to quickly coordinate a response and hold bad actors accountable.

Especially now, as the threat of Russian cyber attacks looms in light of Putin's horrific invasion of Ukraine, we shouldn't be relying on voluntary reporting to protect our crucial infrastructure. The Federal Government needs to know when vital sectors of our economy are affected by a breach so that the full resources of the Federal Government can be mobilized to respond and mitigate their impacts.

This bipartisan bill will take significant steps to strengthen cybersecurity protections, ensure that CISA is at the forefront of our Nation's response to serious breaches, and most importantly, require timely reporting of these attacks to the Federal Government so that we can better prevent future incidents and hold attackers accountable.

The plain text of the statute makes Congress' intent clear: although the reports themselves—and any “communication[s], document[s], material[s], or other record[s] created for the sole purpose of preparing, drafting or submitting” those reports—may not be received in evidence, the FBI and other law enforcement entities nevertheless may, as appropriate,

make use of reported information in their investigations of a cyber incident. In other words, the FBI cannot attach the report filed with CISA in a warrant application or submit it in evidence in a trial but, if provided information from reports under the process outlined in the statute, may as appropriate use information contained in the reports and derived from them for a range of purposes, including getting a warrant and prosecuting bad actors. Further, this statute also is not intended to prohibit or discourage entities from reporting to CISA and law enforcement concurrently.

The language of this bill makes clear that the information may be used for cybersecurity or investigative purposes. Section 2245 clearly states that reports submitted to CISA under this provision can be used for “the purpose of preventing, investigating, disrupting, or prosecuting an offense arising out of a cyber incident reported pursuant to [the bill’s requirements or voluntary provisions].” Nor are facts developed during an FBI investigation of the relevant cyber incident using other authorities, including similar facts that may also have been disclosed to the Federal Government in the report to CISA, “communication[s], document[s], material[s], or other record[s]” subject to the evidentiary restrictions in 2245(c)(3).

Such actions by the FBI to hold accountable, disrupt, or deter perpetrators of cyber attacks are consistent with our goal of encouraging entities to disclose cyber incidents to CISA, which will share the information appropriately with other Federal agencies. As stakeholders work through the rulemaking process, we look forward to working with them to ensure that congressional intent is not misinterpreted and that this legislation is implemented as intended.

This balance ensures both that entities are encouraged to and feel protected in disclosing cyber incidents and that law enforcement agencies may make full use of evidence, gathered through a variety of means, needed to detect, disrupt, and deter perpetrators of attacks.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 776, Peter J. Beshar, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, since 2010, I have sponsored a State of the Union essay contest for Vermont high school students. This contest

gives students in my State the opportunity to articulate what issues they would prioritize if they were President of the United States.

This is the contest’s 12th year, and I would like to congratulate the 409 students who participated. It is truly heartening to see so many young people engaged in finding solutions for the problems that face our country. To my mind, this is what democracy is all about.

I am very proud to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the essays submitted by these Vermont high school students.

The material follows:

WINNER, SASHA LANN, BRATTLEBORO UNION
HIGH SCHOOL, SOPHOMORE

Citizens’ rights to vote may be the most fundamental aspect of our democracy, but there is a growing effort to limit it. Increasing voter suppression and restrictive voting laws is an issue that must be addressed, as it has grown from a gradual build to a rush of constant new legislation that could do permanent damage if ignored. Voter suppression is one of the United States’ biggest threats to democracy, and the way to address it may be to enact legislation that ensures all Americans have equal access to voting and have their votes counted.

Recently, the United States has seen a massive uptick in legislation restricting voting in large sections of the country. In 2021 alone, 99 bills were introduced in 31 states to restrict voting. 34 were passed into law. The laws strengthen ID requirements, limit drop boxes and mail voting, increase opportunities for voter purges, and introduce criminal penalties for election officers who help voters return mail ballots. These laws excessively target BIPOC communities. Young voters are also made vulnerable by this legislation. This attack on our voting system, though disproportionately affecting communities of color, will harm the entire country and make us vulnerable to authoritarianism and the collapse of our democracy altogether.

Enacting effective voting rights legislation can be a lengthy and difficult process. There are already bills in progress that have passed the House, but are being blocked by Republicans via the filibuster. As soon as the filibuster can be changed, we can continue to make progress. In the meantime, the best solution may be to do what we can to prevent lawmakers from signing more restrictive legislation into law. Part of this solution relies on companies ending support and campaign contributions for lawmakers responsible for this legislation. Companies and businesses could play an essential role in standing up to these efforts. However, community and business support will not be enough to prevent suppressive legislation for long.

There are several solutions that could stop the onslaught of voter restriction laws long term, starting with federal legislation to protect voting rights and remove obstacles for those facing difficulty casting votes. There should be laws to enforce automatic registration, restore voter rights for former prisoners, and increase resources for election boards to ensure security. Election Day could also be made a holiday so citizens have free time to vote, and each state should set up independent redistricting commissions to avoid gerrymandering. If used together, these methods will greatly improve access to voting. Voter suppression and restrictive voting laws are threatening the integrity of our democracy, and we can counteract them

by passing legislation that protects citizens’ say in the course of the country through their votes. If nothing is done, we may see the fall of our democracy as we know it. These are the steps needed to be taken to preserve this cornerstone of our country.

SECOND PLACE, EVA FRAZIER, CHAMPLAIN
VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR

In the past few months, millions of people have lost rights over their bodies, their health, and their futures. As countless states across the country move to almost totally limit abortion, I fear for all people who may become pregnant in these affected areas. I fear for those without money to travel to obtain a safe abortion, for those expectant mothers experiencing a medical condition forced to choose between their life or their child’s, and for the youth without proper education, suddenly finding themselves with no choice over their lives.

Two things happen when politicians ban or block abortions: unsafe abortions or children being born to people who can’t take care of them. Many will die, and it is almost always poor, BIPOC, and marginalized people. The state of reproductive rights in this country is an aggressive violation of human rights.

To combat the alarming issues affecting reproductive rights locally, nationally, and internationally, I would propose a three-tiered approach to provide reproductive services to all who need them. First, at the state level, Vermont needs to amend our state Constitution, and protect the right to abortion, without barrier, forever. If Vermont state legislators succeed in passing this amendment, currently known as Prop 5, Vermont will become the first state to protect the right to reproductive health care access. In addition to legally protecting the right to abortion, Vermont state legislators must increase the budget for health care centers that perform abortions.

Nationally, Congress must pass two pieces of legislation. First, Congress must repeal the Hyde Amendment. As the ACLU states, “Passed by Congress in 1976, the Hyde Amendment excludes abortion from the comprehensive health care services provided to low-income people by the Federal Government through Medicaid.” Low-income people are the least likely to have transportation and funds to obtain an abortion, and the Hyde amendment keeps low income people from having equal access to determine their futures.

Reproductive rights are not only at stake nationally, but internationally. Currently, the U.S. will not fund any international health care centers that provide abortions, which often then prohibits them from providing lifesaving treatments for malaria, HIV/AIDS, and other medical care. This draconian policy, known as the Global Gag Rule, was first introduced by President Reagan, and recently reinstated by President Trump. U.S. congressional representatives have a duty to pass legislation, known as the Global HER Act, that would overturn the Global Gag Rule, and cement the U.S. as a country that provides necessary foreign aid, instead of risking millions of lives.

As people turn to illegal abortions, it is crucial that lawmakers work to protect their citizens by passing federal law and upholding the International Human Rights declaration, giving humans freedom over their bodies and health care choices.

THIRD PLACE, SAMUEL LEGGETT, WOODSTOCK
UNION HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

Throughout history, America has been plagued with the complex issue of food insecurity. Moreover, the children of our nation—the ambassadors to our future—seem to experience it more severely. According to Feeding America, one in every eight adults

currently faces hunger, and the same can be said for one in six children. Furthermore, hunger in our youth has only festered with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Compared to 10 million previously, the number of food-insecure children in America has increased to approximately 12 million. Notwithstanding our nation's immense prosperity and value for education, our students experience inaccessibility to affordable, nutritious food, and are seldom provided with the assistance they need.

Though the discussion of universal free meals has long existed, the pandemic proved to be the catalyst for its execution. Through action on behalf of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, our government will provide free breakfast and lunch to schools nationwide throughout the 2021–2022 school year. Students now have the opportunity to be created equal in their education and wellbeing. Recent studies from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation have concluded that the initiative has even improved both student behavior and performance. Though abundant are the benefits of this Covid-mitigation strategy, the implementation of universal school meals is still seen as a temporary measure. Even long after these challenging times, however, the pandemic's repercussions will persist, if not worsen, if not addressed. Though they may initially seem like a significant financial hurdle, universal school meals are a progressive, bipartisan, and necessary first effort in resolving the issue of food insecurity.

One significant advantage to implementing universal free meals is that it would permanently eliminate the nation's preexisting free and reduced lunch system—an inequitable, stigma-inducing program designed to assist students facing hunger. With strict eligibility requirements, free and reduced meals were rarely provided to all those who needed them, and the income-based aid system couldn't accurately account for criteria-meeting households that were nevertheless food insecure for other reasons. Additionally, applications for the program were not required, which excluded many more who potentially qualified, yet didn't apply. The program offered no way to adequately gauge whether or not one needed assistance.

Nonetheless, there remains one primary barrier to the support of universal free meals: their funding. Taxpayers fear they would wholly assume the burden of a potentially expensive feat. However, only 0.3 percent of the federal budget is currently reserved for child nutrition programs, and this cost is distributed nationwide among taxpayers. Evidently, reapportionment of the budget to increase this expenditure would neither reduce spending allocated to other departments nor increase local tax rates greatly.

We must allow ourselves to imagine an America where a free meal, despite the traditional adage, is indeed possible; an America that ensures our youth's prosperity, during and following times of crisis. We must consider the future, and pass sustainable, logical legislation; legislation providing every student with the baseline liberty of a satisfied stomach in their daily pursuit of knowledge.

FINALISTS

JACKSON BENNETT, VERGENNES UNION HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

We have all seen the images; sea turtles with straws jammed in their noses, fish entrapped within plastic six-pack yokes, even whales with bellies full of plastic trash. There is no doubt that our plastic pollution is not just a problem, it is a calamity. According to USA Today, "Different kinds of plastic take anywhere between 400 and 1,000 years to degrade in a landfill . . . So much

plastic is thrown away every year that it's enough to circle the Earth four times." That means at least 6.3 billion metric tons of plastic waste is being added by the day. Something must be done, but what? I believe that there should be a national ban on plastic, or some other government-controlled incentive to switch to plastic alternatives.

There are many existing plastic alternatives already available, but extensive use of and investment in them has not yet been seen. On Eartheasy, a site that lists plastic alternatives, they note that, "finding alternatives to common items like plastic bottles and plastic packaging is becoming increasingly easier—and not a moment too soon for our plastic-choked planet." Examples of these plastic alternatives include, but are not limited to, bamboo, seaweed, wood, cloth for bags, and for multi-use but non-biodegradable substances, glass and stainless steel for replacing one-use items. The possibilities are limitless on what ways we can replace plastic, and our technology and innovation provide us with new, sustainable options, but how do we convince the world to use these alternatives?

If we really want to make progress against our plastic pandemonium, we cannot leave it up to individual people to consider plastic alternatives. This is a collective issue we need to address first as a nation, and then the world. Many solutions to this problem have been given, including taxation on plastic products, and even total bans, but no clear decision has been reached. Taxes would mean a smoother transition, and the money made off of plastic usage would go towards discouraging that same occurrence, as well as cleaning up plastic pollution. A ban would outright prevent companies and individuals from consuming plastic, which may negatively impact people's lives. I believe that a nationwide ban is the best solution. Taxation would slow the problem, and raise money for the government, but the problem would still exist. Banning plastic, though tough, would force ourselves to use alternatives, and without the incoming waste, we could focus on cleaning the ocean.

Though plastic bans would offer one solution, there is no one right answer to this issue. As long as we continue the conversation and look for ways to prevail and take action, we still have the devotion to overcome this problem. With our advances in science and technology, and the combined help of our government and fellow citizens, we can conquer our carelessness and restore this beautiful planet we inhabit to its former glory.

PENELOPE DEROSSET, BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, FRESHMAN

Some people in this country see no need for feminism. They say: "Men and women are equal. They have the same rights under law." But that isn't true. The only right the Constitution explicitly grants to both men and women is the right to vote. And the few rights women have, the right to abortion for one, are constantly called into question. The solution? An amendment introduced in 1923. Ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which explicitly grants all rights equally to all genders, would grant a layer of legal protection to women's rights which are so often under threat.

Laws protecting women's rights are constantly limited in their ability to protect women at all. By mid-2021, a record amount of anti-abortion legislation had already been enacted by states. Limitations requiring parental consent or banning abortion past a certain point in pregnancy make it impossible for many women to get an abortion. This may endanger the pregnant person's life. If a woman chooses to stay pregnant,

she may face challenges such as pay discrimination, employers refusing to accommodate her temporary disability, or being fired. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA), the only federal law against workplace pregnancy discrimination, is consistently interpreted too narrowly to be adequate protection. A report by the Center for Employment Equity at UMass Amherst says: "Activists and politicians have argued that by only providing a comparative, rather than absolute, right to accommodation, current laws stop short of guaranteeing protection for all pregnant workers." While women may appear to be protected by law against workplace pregnancy discrimination the truth is many are not. This leaves large numbers of people vulnerable. We must work to defend these rights or risk them disappearing.

The ERA would solve this issue by explicitly stating a constitutional position against gender discrimination. Some states have already passed equal rights amendments or have ERA-like language in their state constitutions, and using these, Connecticut and New Mexico have found laws restricting Medicaid coverage of abortion unconstitutional. With regards to pregnancy discrimination, an article by Robin Bleuweiss published by the Center for American Progress states: "The ERA could provide additional reasoning, grounded in constitutional protections, to challenge policies that effectively exclude individuals seeking pregnancy accommodations from the protection of the law, as well as to ensure equitable treatment and better conditions for pregnant workers." With the added support of constitutional protection, policies currently legal under the PDA could change and finally grant pregnant women equality.

There is no doubt adding the ERA to the Constitution would have a big impact on the essential rights of women. Implementing this solution would be simple. All the states required to ratify this amendment have. The only obstacle is the time limit. Congress has already exercised its power to extend the time limit once before, so why couldn't it do so again? To quote Alice Paul, revolutionary suffragist and the first to propose the ERA, "To me, there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality."

JOCELYN DUNN, ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

On September 1, 2021, a law banning abortion from as early as six weeks into pregnancy went into effect in Texas. The Supreme Court's failure to stop Texas Senate Bill 8 has paved the way for other states to mimic actions with similar bills that directly challenge *Roe v. Wade*. In December, the state of Mississippi asked the Supreme Court to uphold its outlaw on abortion at 15 weeks of pregnancy in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The new reality of abortion access is a terrifyingly imperative issue, and the nation's highest court has never been so close to upholding a ban that so blatantly ignores the precedent set by *Roe v. Wade*. Political shifts that threaten to undermine *Roe v. Wade* will harm many, and simply should be unacceptable to anyone who cares about the health of women.

Since 1973, *Roe v. Wade* has provided safe, accessible abortion services to women throughout the country. The precedent set by *Roe v. Wade* affirms that it is a woman's right to have an abortion under the Fourteenth Amendment without excessive government restriction. Since the case decision, the Supreme Court has been continuously called upon to decide whether specific abortion statutes violate a woman's right to privacy. However, under the current process of examination, many abortion restrictions have been upheld and the lasting constraints

of these harmful laws have opened the door to limits on the ability of women to make the personal decision of ending a pregnancy. The Supreme Court's upcoming decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* has left the future of *Roe v. Wade* at risk. According to Planned Parenthood, if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, 26 states in the country could immediately act on banning abortion through existing policies. This means that 36 million women could soon live in a state that criminalizes almost all abortion services.

With the increasingly likely overturning of *Roe v. Wade* on the horizon, Speaker Nancy Pelosi has announced that the Senate will soon hold a vote on legislation that would ensure a nationwide right to abortion. In September 2021, the House of Representatives passed the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA). If the WHPA becomes a federal law, abortion access would be protected from not only bans but also medically unnecessary restrictions such as mandatory ultrasounds, biased counseling, and waiting periods. The WHPA would create a statutory right for health care providers to perform abortion services, and a corresponding right for their patients to receive those services, free from invasive restrictions.

The United States is on the brink of an unprecedented crisis regarding women's health. Restrictions on *Roe v. Wade* have plagued American women for decades and the right to make private decisions free from barriers is more crucial than ever to the personal dignity and autonomy of women. Eliminating health care restrictions is imperative to reproductive justice and passing the WHPA is an essential step toward safeguarding access to abortion.

SAMANTHA HASELMAN, BELLOWS FREE
ACADEMY FAIRFAX, SENIOR

The opioid crisis and incarceration for non-violent offenders isn't the solution for these addicts. It has an emotional, physical, and economical struggle many are facing and have been facing. People need to have compassion and understand that addiction is a disease, not a choice. Children, youth, and families are affected by opioid use. No one chooses drugs over their own children, no one chooses to steal from their loved ones, no one chooses to physically harm themselves, no one chooses to have their children taken from them.

There are many issues and concerns that exist within this topic. I can relate to this very well. In 2009 my mother developed her relationship with heroin, what most call the "devil". My mother was a kind, hard-working, funny, determined, confident woman. But since this disease has taken over her, she's not as present. Watching my mother struggling on a daily basis from being sick to running out of the home scrounging for the next "fix". It affected not only her, but it affected her family who were a witness to this. Many legal systems knew about her addiction but didn't support her nor did they provide her with the necessary resources. They focused more on removing things from her life and punishing her for something that was controlling every part of her.

There is a story that stands out to me called "Hooked". It was about a vulnerable woman who was prescribed opioids, she instantly became an addict. She was clean for a while, but relapsed multiple times. She was incarcerated, denied medical attention, and then died. Incarceration for these addicts is not helping them. Incarceration does not prepare them for sobriety when released. They need affordable treatment and support from a substance abuse counselor, and resources that will set them up for success.

There needs to be more resources and affordable treatment for individuals struggling

to beat opioid addiction. I will continue to speak on this until there's a significant change our government takes far beyond what's been done. I know that Senator Sanders introduced amendments to strengthen the opioid crisis response in 2018. In addition to your amendments to the opioid bill, I believe Congress should also continue to provide additional funding like the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016. The law focuses on treating people rather than incarcerating people. Congress passed the bill giving only \$181 million in funds for opioid programs. The federal government was expecting \$920 million to help expand their treatment capacity with each state receiving money depending on the severity of the epidemic. Having funding would strengthen and support prevention, treatment, and medication access. We must continue to help those who are like my mom and we must honor these families who are waking up daily facing the nightmare of opioid addiction. This disease does not discriminate, it can be the lawyer, the doctor, the son, the daughter, the mother, and/or the father. This is all the more reason to stay focused on this and make a change.

ANNA PRINGLE, ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

Not only is America experiencing a Covid pandemic, but America is also experiencing a loneliness epidemic. While loneliness is not diagnoseable medically or psychologically, it's associated with a variety of disorders and health issues such as depression, anxiety, and concurrently, increased suicide rates. As said in the Harvard Graduate School of Education Report, 61 percent of young adults feel serious loneliness after the pandemic.

As Covid continues, people all over the U.S. are accepting isolation. There are simple solutions to this loneliness epidemic, for example, a simple phone call or Facetime to a friend. There are also more complex solutions; an example being in the grocery store. According to Vice, the Netherlands is introducing chat registers; registers where employees will be trained to create small talk with customers who aren't in a rush. This is an effort sponsored by the Netherlands government in hopes to help battle loneliness. The Netherlands government also created a 24/7 loneliness hotline, both the registers and hotline are a part of the "one against loneliness" program. This is a great example of a country doing more to help people in need.

In America, mental health is not a top priority, but the impacts of mental health are astronomical. American citizens are suffering at an increasing rate because they are so isolated due to Covid. Since being lonely can be chronic, the U.S. needs to do more to help. It is not possible for one solution to single-handedly end the epidemic of loneliness; instead many solutions will have to come together. Some examples of solutions are following what the Netherlands did, creating a hotline or chat registers. Another solution is bringing awareness to this topic of how quarantining from Covid has impacted mental health. This could inspire people to call a loved one; especially the ones that live alone. Simple actions like calling a loved one could have a huge impact, this could remind a lonely person that they have people to talk to and therefore it can make someone feel less secluded. Social media is a huge part of everyone's life, putting information out there on the impact that loneliness has on people could one hundred percent make a difference.

Mental health issues are substantial in America today. There are many ways that America can do more for the loneliness crisis, creating a healthier, happier country.

ISABELLE TUPPER, BRATTLEBORO UNION HIGH
SCHOOL, SOPHOMORE

As James Earl Jones reveals, "One of the hardest things in life is having words in your heart that you can't utter". Nowadays, black Americans (nationwide) are suffering from declining mental health; one in every three black people seek assistance when struggling, and roughly 1.4 million black people are experiencing crises. As a result, suicide rates are increasing and citizens are silently suffering. Therefore, black mental health must become a priority.

In predominantly black communities, mental health is overlooked—despite its damaging impacts. Injustices are amplified by unforeseen circumstances that deplete one's quality of life. For instance, "Anxiety and depression symptoms have more than tripled since 2019, [. . .]" and pandemic-related homelessness and unemployment left "[. . .] black Americans shouldering the heaviest burden" (Fowers and Wan). Additionally, the murder of George Floyd resurfaced trauma for countless black Americans and caused mental health issues to spike five percent. Lastly, black people with mental health issues struggle to gain relief due to stigma and insufficient BIPOC medical professionals. Consequently, this urgent matter generates despondency, leading black individuals to isolate themselves.

Provisionally, this country must fulfill black individuals' needs whilst identifying propitious resources. Through survey, the public shall expunge injurious practices and distribute assets alongside governmental advisors. Parties must consider privileges of non-black people and prioritize equality. Schools must incorporate free courses—run by qualified educators—to help young people identify mental illness. Classes must be accessible and non-discriminatory, and identity must not prevent admittance. School-based clinicians will best ensure students' access to counseling; psychiatrist David Henderson, reports "about 25 percent of African Americans seek mental health care, compared to 40 percent of whites" because of impediments regarding accessibility (McLean Harvard Medical School Affiliate). Progressively, the government must accommodate affordable healthcare. Mental health must be covered by insurance and funds shall be supplied by the one percent of taxpayers. All remaining funds must go towards mental health facilities in need. Assuming that demands are met, progress will ensue.

Over time, it will be crucial to break the stigma surrounding black mental health. Once honest conversations commence, politically-correct terminology must be applied and blatant irreverence shall be condemned. Publicly, black mental health advocates shall assemble and enlighten uninformed individuals, and mental health care providers must advertise openly. Simultaneously, the mental health field must employ more people of color. BIPOC positions will be filled when salaries are livable, staff is receptive, and job openings have renowned availability. Hired professionals must have ample training, prior to or upon their employment. Finally, if employees of color exit, all businesses must hire new BIPOC staff to diversify America's perspectives.

Black mental health is a nationwide concern and all people must fight to restore it. Due to Covid losses and natural disasters, this country is facing a level of despair that only multiplies when considering mental health. In black communities, conditions are abysmal and there is dire need for improvement. If circumstances do not ameliorate, tragedy will only continue. Nevertheless, this country shall work diligently together and utilize its power to create immense change.

LUNA WOOD, CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL, SENIOR

The single most threatening issue our world must deal with today is climate change. It is crucial that our government doesn't ignore climate change and its impacts that will affect everybody. Climate change is going to become much worse in the upcoming years and we have already started to face devastating effects. Extreme weather has destroyed communities and will not stop any time soon. Tropical storms and sea levels rising on the coasts will soon make towns and cities uninhabitable. Health risks will become worse and worse such as deaths from extreme weather storms, air pollution, water and food supply impacts. The downfall of countless communities will affect economic prosperity. Extreme weather such as hurricanes and flooding will wipe out entire communities, leaving them in poverty. Droughts have a negative impact on harvests and will increase food insecurity. As migration increases due to the adaptation of sea levels rising, resources will become more and more limited. As a nation, we cannot ignore climate change anymore.

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders' Green New Deal would give our nation the step in the right direction of taking an action that will sustain our planet for generations to come. Our federal government has not allowed the passage of this deal despite its immense benefits for our country. It is stated to create 20 million jobs, which would improve our country's unemployment issue greatly.

The deal suggests using solutions such as only renewable energy will catapult our progress. We need to stop sending our nation's tax dollars to fossil fuel companies in the form of subsidies. Instead, we can invest that money into clean forms of energy such as solar. Fossil fuels are the reason why our earth has been increasingly warming up. The carbon in the air needs to be taken out of our atmosphere and put back into the ground where it came from.

We can help this process in our own state of Vermont by stopping the overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on our farmland. This use of chemicals is killing habitats in our soils and causing pollution. If we adopt more organic methods of farming and take care of our soil, the crops, plants and organisms living in the soil can help sequester carbon from the air. Another simple solution to drawing carbon from the air is planting many, many trees. Other countries have already implemented this solution and there is no reason why we can't as well.

Yes, applying these solutions will take time, money, and resources. But the positive outcomes from this deal are necessary and worth it. This should be the main focus of our government right now because it is a global emergency and soon it will be too late.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 11, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE) had signed the following enrolled bill and joint resolution:

H.R. 2545. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 75. Joint Resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the enrolled bill and joint resolution were signed on March 11, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2471. An act making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance for the situation in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

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. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3823. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to modify the eligibility requirements for a debtor under chapter 13, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3824. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a grant program for screening, assessment, and treatment services for maternal mental health and substance use disorders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3825. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3903 Melear Drive in Arlington, Texas, as the "Ron Wright Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 3826. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, as the "Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 3827. A bill to increase the amount of loan forgiveness available to teachers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3828. A bill to provide student loan forgiveness to health care workers who are on the front line in response to COVID-19; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 3829. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to make publicly available informa-

tion regarding the calculation of premiums under the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3830. A bill to require original equipment manufacturers of digital electronic equipment to make available certain documentation, diagnostic, and repair information to independent repair providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 3831. A bill to require the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study relating to COVID-19 immunity resulting from a prior infection, vaccination, or both, and the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3832. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and any applicable agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, to make public information relating to the origin of COVID-19; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 3833. A bill to end the antitrust safe harbor for baseball cartels; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3834. A bill to strengthen medical device supply chains; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 3835. A bill to develop and disseminate accurate, relevant, and accessible resources to promote understanding about Native American and Tribal histories; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 544. A resolution recognizing the importance of maple syrup production to Maine and designating March 27, 2022, as "Maine Maple Sunday"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. MORAN):

S. Res. 545. A resolution designating the week beginning March 13, 2022, as "National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 68

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 68, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a

joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to expand online benefit redemption options under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 623

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 623, a bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to enable certain hospitals that were participating in or applied for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency to temporarily maintain eligibility for such program, and for other purposes.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a grant program to support efforts to provide fare-free transit service, and for other purposes.

S. 1217

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1217, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require certain disclosures relating to climate change, and for other purposes.

S. 1450

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1450, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expanded coverage of services furnished by genetic counselors under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1596

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1596, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, and for other purposes.

S. 1734

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1734, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Ag-

riculture to encourage and expand the use of prescribed fire on land managed by the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, with an emphasis on units of the National Forest System in the western United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1848

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1848, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), and marital status in the administration and provision of child welfare services, to improve safety, well-being, and permanency for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning foster youth, and for other purposes.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to provide for the coverage of medically necessary food and vitamins and individual amino acids for digestive and inherited metabolic disorder under Federal health programs and private health insurance, to ensure State and Federal protection for existing coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 2050

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2050, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove silencers from the definition of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 2607

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

S. 2743

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2743, a bill to make companies that support venues and events eligible for grants under the shuttered venue operators grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 3230

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3230, a bill to require the establishment of a working group to evaluate the food safety threat posed by beef imported from Brazil, and for other purposes.

S. 3479

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3479, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to awards to support community health workers and community health.

S. 3545

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3545, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

S. 3595

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3595, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides, and for other purposes.

S. 3737

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3737, a bill to establish the Public Health Information and Communications Advisory Committee for purposes of providing recommendations and reports, and to support educational initiatives on communication and dissemination of information during public health emergencies.

S. 3754

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3754, a bill to prohibit the importation of crude oil and petroleum products from the Russian Federation, to impose sanctions with respect to persons involved in the importation of such crude oil and petroleum products who have engaged in acts of corruption or who are responsible for serious human rights abuses, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 32

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 32, a concurrent resolution expressing support for the recognition of March 10, 2022, as “Abortion Provider Appreciation Day”.

S. RES. 377

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 377, a resolution urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 544—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION TO MAINE AND DESIGNATING MARCH 27, 2022, AS “MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY”

Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 544

Whereas the art of making sugar and syrup from the sap of the maple tree (also known as *acer saccharinum*) was developed by Native Americans of the Northeastern United States;

Whereas the production of maple syrup in Maine has a seasonal window between January and May, which is when temperatures drop below freezing at night and rise above freezing during the day;

Whereas Maine accounts for 17 percent of United States production of maple syrup and is the third largest producer among the States;

Whereas Maine maple syrup producers make more than 575,000 gallons of syrup annually, generating more than \$27,000,000 for the Maine economy;

Whereas maple syrup production in Maine supports more than 560 full-time and part-time jobs that generate more than \$17,300,000 in wages;

Whereas Maine Maple Sunday has been observed for nearly 40 years, with more than 100 sugarhouses participating from Aroostook to York County, Maine, and attracting thousands of visitors annually;

Whereas Maine Maple Sunday is always observed the fourth Sunday in March; and

Whereas on March 27, 2022, Maine maple syrup producers will host the 39th annual Maine Maple Sunday: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 27, 2022, as “Maine Maple Sunday”; and

(2) recognizes the contribution and importance of maple syrup producers and their families in the State of Maine.

SENATE RESOLUTION 545—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING MARCH 13, 2022, AS “NATIONAL TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK”

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. DAINES, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 545

Whereas there are 35 accredited Tribal Colleges and Universities operating on more than 75 campuses in 15 States;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities are tribally chartered or federally chartered institutions of higher education and therefore have a unique relationship with the Federal Government;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities serve students from more than 230 federally recognized Indian tribes;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities offer students access to knowledge and skills

grounded in cultural traditions and values, including indigenous languages, which—

(1) enhances Indian communities; and

(2) enriches the United States as a Nation;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities provide access to high-quality postsecondary educational opportunities for—

(1) American Indians;

(2) Alaska Natives; and

(3) other individuals that live in some of the most isolated and economically depressed areas in the United States;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities are accredited institutions of higher education that prepare students to succeed in the global and highly competitive workforce;

Whereas Tribal Colleges and Universities have open enrollment policies, and approximately 15 percent of the students at Tribal Colleges and Universities are non-Indian individuals; and

Whereas the collective mission and the considerable achievements of Tribal Colleges and Universities deserve national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning March 13, 2022, as “National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe “National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week” with appropriate activities and programs to demonstrate support for Tribal Colleges and Universities.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Stephen Lewerenz, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges until March 17, 2022.

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

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCTION TO MAINE AND DESIGNATING MARCH 27, 2022, AS “MAINE MAPLE SUNDAY”

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 544 submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 544) recognizing the importance of maple syrup production to Maine and designating March 27, 2022, as “Maine Maple Sunday”.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 544) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

NATIONAL TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 545 submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 545) designating the week beginning March 13, 2022, as “National Tribal Colleges and Universities Week”.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 545) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 15; and that following the prayer and the pledge the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Young nomination postclosure; that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for weekly caucus meetings; further, that all postclosure time on the Young nomination expire at 4 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of Senators, Members should expect up to three rollcall votes at 4 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:32 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 10 a.m.