



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023

No. 185

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, by whose providence our forebears brought forth this Nation, give to our Senators a passion to protect those liberties for which so many have given their lives to defend.

Lord, give them also the wisdom to trust You with all their hearts and to passionately and humbly pursue Your purposes, knowing that You have promised to direct their steps.

Today, may each lawmaker experience the constancy of Your presence that will enable him or her to cleave to the sunnier side of his or her doubts. Guide our Senators with Your higher wisdom and bring them to the end of this day with their hearts at peace with You.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 8, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ramon Ernesto Reyes, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

ELECTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, another election night in America, another win for women's choice, another win for democracy, another win for the Democratic agenda of jobs, infrastruc-

ture, and lowering costs for the middle class.

Another terrible defeat for the MAGA agenda. Americans don't want hard-right extremists to govern this country. At stake last night was a woman's right to choose in Ohio, the Governorship in Kentucky, cannabis reform in Ohio, control of the legislature in Virginia, State Supreme Court seats, and so much more.

In almost every major election, Democratic candidates and Democratic issues prevailed. This continued and strengthened the trend of Democratic victories last year. There is no possible takeaway from last night other than this: Americans fiercely oppose MAGA extremism, fiercely oppose total abortion bans, and want bipartisan leaders who can put America's needs first.

After last night's results, I have a message to my Republican colleagues: When the MAGA agenda can't win in deep red Kentucky or in Ohio or help you in Virginia, it is time to recognize MAGA extremism is the wrong answer, not just for the country, but even for the GOP.

I hope Republicans in Congress see that after last night, extremism must be rejected and bipartisanship embraced. Time will tell if House Republicans choose the right path.

I want to say one more thing about the results in Ohio. With strong support, the people of Ohio have voted to legalize the recreational use of marijuana. Americans think it is long past time to enact cannabis reform. So here in the Senate, I will continue to work with colleagues on both sides and my good friend Senator BROWN to keep moving on bipartisan cannabis legislation as soon as we can.

Last night shows just how precious and vital and sacrosanct our system of elections is. It shows how much work we have to do to preserve democracy so that it can survive in the 21st century.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Today, Senators from both sides of the aisle will take the next step in

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



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keeping our elections secure—this time from the powerful changes wrought by artificial intelligence, AI.

This morning, I will join with colleagues from both sides and with experts from across the country for our AI Insight Forum on elections and democracy. It is one of the most important forums that we will hold this year, because of all the ways AI will shape our lives, and few are as immediate and stark as the impact it could have on elections.

This is the problem we now face: If left unchecked, AI has the potential to erode our democracy from within and from abroad.

Political ads have already been released this year using AI-generated images and text-to-voice converters to depict certain candidates in a negative light. Uncensored chatbots can already be deployed in a massive scale to target millions of individual voters for political persuasion. And, unfortunately, once damaging information is sent to 100 million homes, it is hard—and at times impossible—to put the genie back in the bottle.

If we don't enact the right guardrails soon, we could soon live in a world where political campaigns regularly deploy totally fabricated yet totally believable images and footage of Democratic or Republican candidates, distorting their statements and greatly harming their election chances.

Protecting our elections from AI's risks isn't just an issue for Democrats or just Republicans. Everyone—everyone—will be affected. Time is of the essence, as Americans prepare to go to the polls in 2024. So I encourage all my colleagues to come to this AI forum this morning.

GLOBAL ISSUES

Mr. President, now on global issues and challenges. The global community is facing a great number of challenges these days: Israel and Hamas are at war, with Iran itching to join the fray; Russian aggression in Ukraine challenges the stability of the Western alliance; the Chinese government threatens Taiwan's independence.

The United States is uniquely positioned and, I would argue, needed to play a role in ensuring the peaceful existence of the people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, and Taiwan. I believe that most Members of this body would agree with me. However, some Members on the other side of the aisle—not all—seem to prefer that the United States sit on the sidelines or, in other words, put their heads in the sand as we face these global battles.

Some Members on the other side of the aisle seem to prefer that Putin, Xi, and Hamas pursue their ambitions unthwarted.

I state right here and now that I do not agree with those Republican colleagues. I believe that the United States of America must make a stand against totalitarianism and terrorism. I would hope that everyone would agree with me. But here in the Senate,

it seems that some of my Republican colleagues are siding with Putin and placing unrealistic conditions on aid to Ukraine.

But we are not giving up. We are going to keep pushing, and we will succeed. Whether it is aid to Israel or aid to Ukraine or aid for Taiwan or humanitarian aid for the people of Gaza or keeping the government open or avoiding default, Republicans must shun doing the thing that some hard-right Republicans want them to do: take issues that, on their own, have strong bipartisan support and inject them with toxic provisions that make it impossible to get anything done. That is what happened last week with the House Israel bill. It is what is happening this week with a Senate GOP immigration proposal.

At a moment when the world is in crisis, when our friends abroad need our help, when our troops face increased attacks in Iraq and Syria, and with a government shutdown looming over us, this moment calls for bipartisanship. This moment calls for Republicans and Democrats to be realistic and clear-eyed about what we can pass through both Chambers on immigration, border, and all other issues.

Israel, Ukraine, civilians in Gaza, the Indo-Pacific, all of these things have bipartisan support in both Chambers. All of them deal with our national security. None of them should be turned into bargaining chips for hard-right policies. We must win on all of them.

Now, it has been over a month since Israel endured the deadliest terrorist attack in her entire history. There are still over 250 hostages held by Hamas, including American hostages and women and children. We promised to send Israel aid as soon as we could, and we will work hard—hopefully, in a bipartisan way—to get this done.

In the last 2 days, I have spoken with senior officials in the Israeli government—including President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Netanyahu, Defense Minister Gallant, Minister Gantz, and Opposition Leader Lapid—and reiterated that the United States has Israel's back in this dark hour. I made clear that 1 month after Hamas' attack, America's commitment to Israel and to the Israeli people is ironclad, and America will always be Israel's strongest ally. I assured them that I am doing everything to pass the President's assistance package ASAP.

In my conversations, I stressed to Israeli leaders that as Israel works to radically reduce the threat of Hamas, which they must do, they also have a responsibility to protect innocent Palestinian civilian life. We know this is not easy, but it must be done. We must likewise work together to send critical humanitarian aid to innocent civilians in Gaza who have nothing to do with Hamas.

I also strongly urged the Israeli government to quickly clamp down on settler violence against and displacement of Palestinian civilians in the West

Bank. Violence and displacement against these Palestinian civilians are not just wrong, it risks spreading the current crisis beyond Gaza at a time when Israel and America are working hard to deter other actors from taking advantage of the situation. In the long run, it also makes it much harder to achieve a two-state solution, which I support and which the vast majority of Americans support, and which Hamas does not.

We also talked about my meetings with the families of the hostages. I shared how I was moved by the stories of families of hostages held by Hamas whom I met in Israel and in the United States, and I discussed the need to locate and secure the release of all hostages held by Hamas through all means possible.

Finally, I encouraged Israeli leaders to do all they can to support the Senate's comprehensive package, including robust humanitarian assistance for Gaza, so that innocent civilians, who have nothing to do with Hamas, can get the food, water, and necessities they need.

At every point during my conversation with Israeli leaders, one idea remained constant: We will stand strong with Israel. We will support Israel's right to defend themselves, and we will work hard to pass emergency assistance for Israel and Ukraine and humanitarian assistance for Gaza and the Indo-Pacific as soon as we can.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, finally, on judges, last night, the Senate reached a major milestone. We confirmed our 100th woman and our 150th judge overall to the Federal bench since Democrats took the majority. It is not only double the amount confirmed by President Trump in all his 4 years, it is significantly more women than any full term of any President.

We are going to hold more votes today. We will begin by confirming Ramon Reyes, Jr., as district judge for the Eastern District of New York, who will become only the second Hispanic man to sit on the Eastern District. We will also advance highly qualified judges and nominees—other ones—in the afternoon.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the challenges facing America and our allies today are not an a la carte menu of projects we can address at our leisure.

No. The most dangerous threats we face are all linked together—all linked together.

Take it from the author of the last administration's National Security Strategy. Russia, Iran, and China "see the U.S. as weak and in decline" and are willing "to put aside their differences to collude against American interests." They are extraordinarily willing.

Finland is investigating a case of suspected sabotage by a Chinese ship against an undersea communications cable and gas line connecting the newest member of NATO to Estonia—one of the alliance's most stalwart backers of Ukraine.

Putin's Russia is reportedly helping Iran develop a space launch vehicle—a critical step toward building intercontinental ballistic missiles. In return, Iran isn't just sending Russia kamikaze drones to kill Ukrainians; it is helping build an entire drone factory—a drone factory—on Russian soil.

A Russia state energy company is reportedly providing China with highly enriched uranium. China is swarming social media platforms with pro-Hamas propaganda and protecting both Iran and Russia in the U.N. Security Council.

America doesn't have the luxury of facing these threats individually. Our ability to contend with complex, simultaneous threats is exactly what our adversaries are testing: a Russian war in Europe, Chinese aggression in Asia, Iran-backed terror in the Middle East, and a southern border that is dangerously lacking in credible enforcement. This is the reality we face right now. The Biden administration's supplemental request falls short of adequately addressing all of these linked threats.

Let me explain again what this moment actually requires.

In Europe, the administration needs to provide a clear strategy for a Ukrainian victory. That means prioritizing the lethal military capabilities Ukraine needs right now—no more half measures, no more hesitation.

As former Secretary of State Pompeo put it last week, Americans should be "accelerating the flow of weapons and ammunition to Kyiv" because abandoning Ukraine would bolster our adversaries.

We should be empowering Agency inspectors general to continue the unprecedented oversight and accountability work we have built into U.S. assistance since the beginning of Putin's escalation last year. We should continue to invest in expanding America's defense industrial base both to replace capabilities Ukraine is using with newer for our own use and to ramp up production of the ones Israel, Taiwan, and our Indo-Pacific allies and partners need.

In Israel's case, it is especially important that we take stringent measures to ensure no humanitarian assist-

ance bound for the people of Gaza can be intercepted by Hamas terrorists.

I have said before, for any of this supplemental security funding to pass the Senate, we will also need to implement serious policy changes at the southern border. Senate Republicans will not rubberstamp the Biden administration's bailout for a problem it created. We are focused on policies to slow the flow—slow the flow—of illegal migration and secure the border.

America's strategic goals are crystal clear: degrade Russian military strength and prevent major war in Europe; reestablish credible deterrence against Iran and its terrorist networks; grow our defense industrial base to equip our military and our allies in the Indo-Pacific to raise the costs of Chinese aggression; and restore real border security right here at home. That is exactly what the Senate should be focused on.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Now, Mr. President, on another matter, since October 7, a nationwide reckoning with the ancient scourge of anti-Semitism has centered on America's most elite academic institutions, and the eye of the storm has been a cadre of the country's most radical leftist faculty.

Recently, the University of California's Ethnic Studies Faculty Council released a letter condemning Israel as a "globally acknowledged apartheid." The council called the UC system's official response, which correctly identified the butchery committed by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic jihad as terrorism, irresponsible, and it claimed for itself the mantle of moral—moral—authority.

Well, of course, tenured Marxists do not have to worry much about real-world consequences, but university administrators, recruiters, fundraisers, and students—well, they do.

So, in response to this faculty group's terrorist propaganda, one member of the University of California's Board of Regents published a strongly worded letter of his own. Here is what he said:

Let me be crystal clear with no ifs, ands, or buts—I . . . will do everything in my power to protect our Jewish students, and for that matter, everyone . . . from your inflammatory and out of touch rhetoric.

Unfortunately, too many other administrators have been unable or unwilling to speak with such moral clarity, and the consequences for their institutions are actually piling up.

The billionaire philanthropist who just a few years ago made the biggest donation in the history of Penn's Wharton School is now leading a revolt among influential donors that stretches across the Ivy League. He has pledged to close his checkbook, and by one account, he is talking to "half of Wall Street," urging them to do likewise. One prominent national law firm has gone as far as setting up a legal assistance hotline for students experiencing anti-Semitism on campus.

Apparently, the most successful alumni of the most elite schools in America want nothing—nothing—to do with institutions that aid or abet anti-Semitism. Well, good for them. Good for them.

And it is not just private funding on the line. This week, the Secretary of Education called a play from his Republican predecessor's playbook and told major universities that he was willing to use title VI of the Civil Rights Act to withhold Federal funds if they permit anti-Semitic discrimination on their campuses. Of course, the Secretary couldn't help but couch his warning in "both sides" rhetoric about Islamophobia, as has been the Biden administration's practice in the past month.

Well, tomorrow, our colleagues on the HELP Committee will convene a roundtable discussion addressing the topic at hand: a glaring rise in anti-Semitic hate on campuses. I am very grateful to Ranking Member CASSIDY for leading this effort to highlight the legal responsibility universities have to protect Jewish students.

As our former colleague, the president of the University of Florida, put it without hesitation after October 7, "our Constitution protects the rights of people to make abject idiots of themselves."

Fortunately, the Constitution also protects our right to condemn these people in the strongest possible terms.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, over the past 2 years, something profound has taken place on this Senate floor. We have been building one of the most important accomplishments of the Biden era's administration: the confirmation of highly qualified, independent, even-handed judges to the Federal bench.

This week, the Senate will confirm the 150th lifetime judge since President Biden took office. This is a historic slate of judges who I believe will rule with reason and restraint. These judges respect the rule of law, adhere to precedent, and, above all, answer only to the U.S. Constitution.

Some Senate Republicans, including their leader, have not been shy in criticizing these nominees. According to the minority leader's retelling of history, under the former President, Senate Republicans "spent 4 years confirming staggeringly qualified and incredibly brilliant men and women to the courts." I would like to set the record straight.

For each judicial nominee who comes before the Senate, the American Bar Association conducts a nonpartisan peer review and ranks their qualifications. Those rankings are based on integrity, professional competence, and judicial temperament.

During the Trump administration, Senate Republicans confirmed eight—eight—Trump nominees who were

found unqualified to serve on the Federal bench by the American Bar Association. Compare that to President Biden's record.

During the Biden administration, not one—not one—of the 150 judges we have confirmed had an unqualified rating—not one. So when I hear some Senate Republicans waxing about the glory days of judicial nominees under President Trump, I can't help but wonder what they are talking about.

Are they talking about that district court nominee who had never tried a case but had instead worked as a ghost hunter and written blog posts defending the Ku Klux Klan?

What about another Trump trial court nominee who had never tried a case, never examined a witness, never taken a deposition, never argued a motion?

Or the Sixth Circuit nominee who likened abortion to slavery?

How about the Ninth Circuit nominee whose colleagues called him "arrogant, lazy, an ideologue, and lacking in knowledge of the day-to-day practice" of law?

In addition, Senate Republicans relied on increasingly absurd criticism in an attempt to undermine President Biden's nominees. Some Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee criticized one of Biden's nominees as soft on crime because she had dedicated her career to exonerating wrongfully imprisoned individuals, mainly using DNA evidence. That is right. Senate Republicans argued that releasing people from prison who did not actually commit the crime is somehow dangerous for society.

Just last week, one of my Republican colleagues criticized a nominee who had served as a Federal prosecutor for 16 years because he did not ask a judge to impose a sentence that was higher than the maximum sentence allowed by law in one case.

Let me be clear. This nominee would have been asking a Federal judge to violate the law if he had made such a request. Those types of attacks are simply not credible.

President Biden's nominees are qualified, and they have demonstrated impeccable temperament.

Something that stands out about these nominees, aside from their exceptional qualifications and loyalty to the rule of law, is the professional and demographic diversity they bring to the bench. When you go into a Federal courthouse today and look at the judges who are likely to be trying or deciding a case, you are going to find more diversity than ever before.

Under President Biden, in fact, we have made history, confirming more Black women to the Federal circuit courts than all prior Presidents combined. Of course, we also confirmed the first-ever Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, and we have confirmed historic numbers of Asian-American judges, Latino judges, and LGBTQ judges.

It is not just demographic diversity that we have seen under President Biden. It is also professional diversity. In the past 2 years, we have confirmed more circuit judges with experience as public defenders than all prior Presidents combined.

For the record, I voted over and over again for former prosecutors—White males. The bench is made up of a lot of people whom I have voted for in the past, and I believe that they were ready for the job and competent to handle it. But we believe now that there should be more diversity, and this President is making sure the nominees sent our way meet that standard.

We have confirmed State court judges, Federal magistrates, bankruptcy judges, and prosecutors who have made significant and critical contributions to this country's justice system. One of President Biden's nominees served as a special prosecutor in the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd. And we have confirmed jurists with experience protecting the rights of voters, the rights of workers, civil rights, women's rights, and LGBTQ rights.

Another notable aspect of this record—and this, I am very happy to report—is that the vast majority, nearly 90 percent, of all these judicial confirmations have been bipartisan. Even on the appellate courts, over three-quarters of President Biden's nominees have received support from both sides of the aisle. This focus on qualified, consensus nominees goes a long way toward restoring trust and faith in our judiciary.

Let me also remind you that, in the first 2 years of the Biden administration, we had a 50–50 Senate and a 50–50 Judiciary Committee. We needed bipartisanship for anything to work.

The American people deserve Federal judges who not only look like America but understand what it means to be an American. That is an important part of our work that we began under President Biden. It is a work we must finish.

We celebrate these 150 judges, and we will continue elevating jurists who are qualified, principled, and committed, above all, to protecting our constitutional rights. The American people deserve nothing less.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VETERANS DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, engraved on a wall at the Korean Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, are these words: "Freedom is not free."

"Freedom is not free."

It is a stark reminder that our freedom has come at a cost; that it has been bought and paid for in blood, in dark days and terrifying nights of battle, in fear and loneliness, in Christmases and holidays and birthdays spent far from home, in visible wounds and in invisible wounds.

And on Veterans Day, above all, we remember this. We remember that we live in peace and freedom because men and women have answered our country's call, have stepped up and said, "I will serve," and have paid a price for that service.

One of my greatest honors as a U.S. Senator is having the opportunity to interact with military veterans. And in addition to meeting veterans around South Dakota, I have had the immense privilege of visiting with veterans who come to Washington, DC, on Honor Flights.

For anyone not familiar with the organization, Honor Flight is a nonprofit that exists to bring military veterans to Washington, DC, to visit the memorials that have been created in their honor.

At its inception, it focused on bringing World War II veterans to DC, but now, with members of the "greatest generation" few and far between, Honor Flights have been filling up with veterans of Korea and Vietnam as well as critically ill veterans from all eras.

I have been lucky enough to participate in three Honor Flight visits so far this year, organized by Midwest Honor Flight, which is our local Honor Flight hub in South Dakota. And the chance to interact with these heroes who have sacrificed to defend and preserve American freedoms is not something I take for granted. Seeing the look in their eyes as they visit the memorials—knowing that for some it will be the last opportunity they have to visit—is a profound privilege and a reminder of all these men and women have given for our country.

It is also deeply moving to hear from the family members who accompany these veterans, a number of whom have told me how cathartic these visits have been for their loved ones—sometimes marking the first time they really talked about their wartime experience.

On multiple occasions when I have been down at the memorials visiting with Honor Flight veterans, I have seen students with school groups come up to these veterans and thank them. It is really an amazing thing to witness. And it has made me reflect on just how important it is that children have these opportunities to see and thank our veterans and to understand what they have given us.

Ronald Reagan once said that freedom is always only one generation removed from extinction. It can't be passed on in the bloodstream. It has to be fought for and defended and handed down for our children to do the same or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children's children what it was once like to live in the United States of America where men are free.

Freedom is, indeed, a fragile thing. It is easy to take it for granted when you have it. But it is not a guarantee, and it must, indeed, be fought for and defended constantly by each generation.

Seeing those schoolchildren interact with veterans who have helped secure our freedom reminded me of the importance of handing down an understanding of that freedom to our children, of teaching them just what our military men and women have fought and died for, and of reminding them that it will be their responsibility to preserve it.

Seeing those schoolchildren and veterans interact also reminded me that we should hold up our veterans to young people, not just as examples to revere but as examples to imitate. We should make sure that young people know that serving their country in the U.S. military is one of the noblest paths that they could take and that while military life is a life of sacrifice, it is also a life of meaning and purpose, one that offers pride and brotherhood and the lasting knowledge that your labor has made a difference.

On Veterans Day and every day, I am grateful to those who have answered our Nation's call and taken up arms in defense of liberty. May God bless all the men and women who serve or have served in the U.S. military and may He help us to live lives worthy of their sacrifice.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about this dangerous rise that we are seeing in anti-Semitism. We are seeing it in this country, and we are seeing it all around the world.

One of the most important vows that our Nation made to the Jewish people is the vow of "never again." I have a simple question. Are we doing everything that we can to keep that vow in the wake of October 7 and the Hamas terrorist attack against Israel? A month ago, Hamas killed more Jews in a single day than at any time since the Holocaust. Yet some students, professors, and public officials in our country are indulging and even endorsing this act, which to me is torture and mass murder, and anyone who has witnessed the videos could say nothing but torture and mass murder.

Once again, the Jewish people are being threatened simply for who they are and for what they believe. It is happening to individuals all around the country and around the world. There are those who are praising the horrific

mass murder, torture, and kidnapping of Jews by Hamas terrorists. Some of that praise is even coming from right here in Washington, DC, and across our country.

Anti-Semitic incidents of vandalism, harassment, and assault are up almost 400 percent compared to this time a year ago. In October of 2022, there were 64 total anti-Semitic incidents reported in America. October 7, 2023—the day Hamas attacked Israel—since that day to today, over 300 reported incidents. That is a 400-percent increase compared to last year, and that is in America alone.

Anti-Semitism is festering on college campuses. You probably heard about several of these incidents. Fifty-one student groups, including at Berkeley, the University of Michigan, and UCLA, signed a letter in support of Hamas's brutal terrorist, murderous attacks. Students at George Washington University, right here, located in our Nation's Capital, held a vigil that they described as a "Vigil for the Martyrs of Palestine." And they projected "Glory to our Martyrs" right on the library wall. It is disturbing and it is hateful.

A pro-Hamas mob at Cooper Union University in New York City stormed the library. The mob started banging on doors and windows. Jewish students were trapped. They feared for their lives. Eventually, they had to be escorted to safety. No one has been punished.

A Cornell student was arrested last week for posting anti-Semitic death threats on the school's messaging boards. Weeks earlier, a Cornell professor said he was exhilarated by Hamas's brutality. Students at Tulane University, which is 40 percent Jewish, were also attacked. Pro-Hamas protesters tried to burn an Israeli flag. One speaker at Princeton University went so far as to equate Israel with Nazi Germany. After a mass murder of innocent Jewish mothers, fathers, children, and Holocaust survivors, radical students and professors in this country have the gall to compare the Jews to those who sought to systemically kill them during the Holocaust.

Let's imagine that we are Jewish students who go to these schools and live in these communities. Here is how one Jewish student describes her situation on campus. This young lady said:

It is terrifying to see classmates call for violence against Jews so confidently and so publicly.

In other words, for many Jewish students, "never again" has turned into "nowhere is safe."

The University of Wyoming, rightly, has called out the evil in the wake of the terrorist attack against Israel. Our University President, Ed Seidel, and our Provost, Kevin Carman, condemned the "heinous . . . acts of terrorism" against Israel. Every university should do the same.

America can't turn its back on the Jewish people of Israel or on Israel. That is exactly what I fear we are seeing right now.

Hamas's brutality is front page news every single day. Israel is clear-eyed in its mission to destroy Hamas. Instead of standing shoulder to shoulder with our closest ally in the Middle East, the Biden administration is currently calling for a "pause." The United Nations' 120 members recently voted in favor of a resolution calling for a cease-fire. In the House of Representatives right down the hall, a group of Members known as the Squad are also demanding a cease-fire. I didn't hear them call for a cease-fire when Hamas attacked Israel. They only want Israel to stop defending itself. That is the role of the Squad.

There already was a cease-fire before October 7. Hamas broke that cease-fire. More than 1,400 innocent Israelis and Americans are now dead. A pause or a cease-fire now would only help Hamas dig in and rearm. I am against a pause. I am against a cease-fire. America should never take action that could help terrorists prevail. To me, that is what a cease-fire would do.

Instead of a cease-fire, we need to cease paying Hamas; we need to cease paying Iran; and we need to cease being silent in the face of anti-Semitism.

Moments like this are very concerning and also moments like this are very clarifying. America has existed from the very beginning to protect our freedom of religion. As President George Washington wrote in a letter to a Newport synagogue in 1790—he said America promises to give "bigotry no sanction."

America stands on the values of respect and toleration.

When we vowed "never again," we meant it and continue to mean it today. As we confront the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, our entire Nation must do everything we can to keep our word.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to a problem that is plaguing our great country.

Americans and the rest of the world woke up on October 7 to horrific scenes in Israel, and the ensuing news reports of Hamas's terrorist attack brought to light even more gruesome details—thousands of innocent Israelis slaughtered, babies decapitated, people burned alive, horrific scenes of brutality and brazen disregard for humanity by Hamas terrorists. Israel and American hostages are still awaiting rescue.

These past few weeks following the terrorist attack, there has been a frightening rise of anti-Semitism, particularly on college campuses and from

younger generations in America's major cities.

Jewish students at Cooper Union in New York City had to shelter in a library while pro-Palestinian students banged on windows and doors in a frightening incident. Anonymous posters on a Cornell message board threatened violence, all while a Cornell professor proclaimed Hamas terrorist attacks to be "exhilarating" and "energizing." Countless videos show students and even teachers tearing down missing posters for Israeli hostages. The list goes on and on.

Some may be surprised by these incidents, but for those who have been paying attention, it is anything but shocking. For years, the American left has embraced identity politics—DEI and critical race theory. For years, students at some of this country's most elite colleges have had this race essentialism, this oppressor-versus-oppressed ideology, hammered into their heads.

They have tried to make moral equivalence between Israel and Hamas. Every single situation or issue is viewed through the lens of race or other immutable characteristics.

If you don't rank high enough on the totem pole of grievances or score well on the oppression matrix, well, then your views aren't as important. Being right has taken a back seat to your skin color.

DEI and CRT are fruit of the poisonous tree of cultural Marxism, and it is playing out right now in our streets. The proof is in the numbers as well. A Harvard CAPS/Harris poll states that when voters were asked whom they sided with in the Israeli-Hamas conflict, 95 percent of voters age 65 or older said Israel, while only 5 percent said Hamas. In the 18-to-24 age range, 52 percent said Israel, while 48 percent said Hamas. That is a startling generational divide and shows just how entrenched this divisive ideology is.

This ideology completely strips people of their individuality. Ideas don't really matter as much as what the person speaking looks like. It is completely antithetical to the core tenets of our Constitution and the American experiment. It places an unhealthy emphasis on race. It strips people of their dignity and the many layers that define us. It rips away the ties that bind us, and that is exactly the point for these cultural Marxists.

We need to return to the American idea—equality of opportunity, not certainty of outcome or so-called equity. We need to prioritize merit over characteristics that people have no control over. We need to push back against the poisonous DEI and CRT ideology—an ideology that has even made its way into grade schools, where school-age kids are being forced to participate in things called a privilege walk. Until we do that, we will continue to see more race essentialism from groups like Black Lives Matter and more chants of "from the river to the sea." That is not

what America is about, but we better get real about the problem before it is too late to fix it.

NOMINATION OF RAMON ERNESTO REYES, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote to confirm Ramon Reyes to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Judge Reyes received his B.S. from Cornell University, his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, and his LL.M. from NYU Law School.

Judge Reyes began his legal career with the New York City Council as a legislative attorney. After taking a year to clerk for Judge David Trager on the Eastern District, he spent 3 years in private practice before joining the U.S. attorney's office in the Southern District of New York as an assistant U.S. attorney. While in the U.S. attorney's office, Judge Reyes handled a wide range of civil and criminal matters, including cases involving civil rights violations, healthcare fraud, false claims, and environmental issues. In 2004, he was appointed deputy chief of appeals.

In recognition of his broad experience and legal acumen, including three jury trials and three bench trials as an AUSA, Judge Reyes was appointed in 2006 to serve as a Federal magistrate judge in the Eastern District of New York. Since taking the bench, he has presided over 33 trials that cover a range of issues including criminal matters, employment suits, and civil rights cases.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Reyes as "well qualified," and he has the strong support of Senators SCHUMER and GILLIBRAND.

I will be supporting his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do so, as well.

Mr. SCHMITT. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would request that the scheduled vote be initiated.

VOTE ON REYES NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 299 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—1

Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 373, Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2028. (Reappointment)

Bernard Sanders, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Lujan, Peter Welch, Alex Padilla, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Duckworth.

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 Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2028 (Reappointment), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 300 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—2

Ernst	Scott (SC)
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2028 (Reappointment).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

BIDENOMICS

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today, really, to speak on behalf of the American people that I represent—and those are my great West Virginians—but Americans all across the country—many, many of whom have been left behind in President Biden's pursuit of Bidenomics and who are directly feeling the scars that his administrative policies have left on the American dream.

American families are experiencing ever-increasing financial pressure due to the state of our Nation's economy, which is jeopardizing our ability to succeed. And it is jeopardizing our ability to feel confident.

It is simply unfair that Americans are compromised at every turn due to inflation—increased interest rates, costly regulations, and tax hikes on essential items that we all need to live.

But not only is this unfair, but for a country as strong and resourceful as our country is, it is unacceptable.

So let's just take a quick refresher on what exactly Bidenomics means. What began as sort of an ambiguous term to recognize the economic policies of this administration has quickly come to mean one thing: You are spending more and getting less.

It means that we see inflation reach a 40-year high and remain persistently above the Fed's target rate and pre-Biden administration levels. It also means that mortgage rates would reach and remain at a 30-year record and that interest rates would rise at the fastest pace over the last four decades.

It is just truly astounding that the difference in interest that Americans are paying now, compared to what they were paying just last year. Look at some of your statements, and you will see it. The Fed aggressively raised interest rates 11 times between early 2022 and now, from nearly zero to 5.5 percent in less than 2 years.

The historic increase comes at a cost. It comes at a cost that Americans have to pay and is making that dream of affording a home, buying a new car, or building a business seemingly impossible.

Bidenomics means that consumer prices are skyrocketing, and it means that everything from groceries to energy to gasoline will stay at nearly unaffordable levels.

Well, we just saw it last week with the Halloween candy. I saw several comparisons of how much more Halloween candy was this year than last. And you know what? We are going to see it again when we all gather at Thanksgiving and we look at the cost of providing a family meal.

President Biden refers to Bidenomics as an "investment in America." But the reality is Bidenomics is making sure that Americans have nothing left to invest. Nor do they have anything in their savings accounts. We see lots of studies on this. We can't invest in our small businesses, not investing in repairing and replacing your home, and, certainly, not investing in the future of our families.

I hear about this from West Virginians every single time I go home, which is every weekend. I had the opportunity to hear the story of a gentleman who owns a bus company that operates in West Virginia.

The challenges his business is facing come from all levels. He owns 38 buses, but not all of them are operational. In addition to elevated fuel costs, he cannot find enough drivers. So workforce shortages are everywhere, and lingering supply chain issues have hampered his ability to conduct much needed maintenance. He said that even

when he gets a bus rolling and the group asks: Let's stop for some food—I think often, when we see a bus stopping for food and we are wanting to get some food at the same restaurant, we keep going because we know what that means—but he says, often he as the driver of the bus is often met by restaurant owners in the parking lot who say that their staffing shortages are preventing them from being able to provide service to the passengers.

And that is just one interaction, but it proves the multifaceted challenges created by Bidenomics, the growing negative impact that these policies have made, and the handcuffs that are being placed on business owners that prevent them from doing their jobs.

Sustained high inflation and interest rates mean that operating costs are at levels where, even if prices are raised, business owners can't reinvest into their business or hire to maintain a good workforce.

And because they are forced to raise prices, those costs are passed on to the consumer who continues to make difficult choices about how they will spend their money.

Additionally, I hear from West Virginians who are facing difficulties as they are beginning to start their adult lives. They have graduated from school; they have got a job; maybe gotten married, thinking about maybe starting a family and a life together. But due to rising interest rates, high inflation, and stagnated wages, they are unable to do so. It is unaffordable.

These are children who came of age in the time of economic success, who saw how their parents were able to provide for them, but they are unable to use that blueprint now because of Bidenomics.

This shows the direct damage, I think, that the President and his policies have inflicted on the American people and the American dream and the disadvantages that some of our children will continue to grapple with if we do not change course soon.

For reasons I do not understand, President Biden continues to travel the country to try to claim credit and convince people that the state of the economy is good for them. The President has the right, certainly, to take that credit. But my question is, Why would he want to do it? I don't think he has done his own grocery shopping lately. And anytime you are in the grocery store, you can see what is going on.

So truth be told, I think he is selling us—he is trying to sell us a false bill of goods, one that the American people are not buying because, you know what? There again, they can't afford to. They can't afford to.

Recent polls show that 76 percent of Americans think that our country is on the wrong track, and 66 percent—that is two-thirds of all Americans—rate our Nation's economy as bad. These numbers shouldn't surprise any of us, as Americans are continuing to feel the squeeze.

American workers are continually becoming increasingly concerned that they won't have enough to retire as they had originally planned. The optimism of our small business owners is continuing to decline and the credit card debt is rising, and it is being carried by Americans as it hits a new record of over \$1 trillion.

On top of all of this, the disappointing October jobs report saw unemployment rise and manufacturing decline. So Americans are concerned—deservedly so.

One thing is clear: Our country cannot continue on the path that Bidenomics has led us. It makes no sense to continue to focus Federal time and resources to push burdensome ESG government policies—that is environment, social, and corporate government policies—instead of promoting pro-growth policies to help bring the United States out of the difficult reality that our people are finding themselves in. Americans remember times of past economic success. The progress that was generated by lowering taxes, supporting small businesses, and investing in American energy and technology.

Our Republican colleagues and I continue to craft solutions that we believe will promote fiscal responsibility, cut redtape, cut Executive overreach, and unleash the American energy that we have right here at home. Each of these areas is of vital importance to our economy and would provide the relief that American families need at a time when they need it the most.

I encourage President Biden and my colleagues to heed the calls of the American people who face challenges in their pocketbooks every single day, every single trip they make to the grocery store, every time they fill up their gas tank, every time they look at their checkbook. The focus should be on them, not on the President and the empty pursuit of Bidenomics.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, last winter a restaurant and a bakery near Omaha NE, well, they both closed their doors. The restaurant owner said: We have to close. There is no way around it. The owner simply couldn't keep up with food and labor costs that were going through the roof, costs that have been catapulting higher and higher ever since President Biden implemented his so-called Bidenomics agenda.

The bakery owner, well, she had a similar story as she closed her doors. She said that rising costs made it impossible to continue. Inflation took a sledgehammer to those small businesses as well as the livelihoods of their owners and their employees. That is Bidenomics in Nebraska.

Starting and sustaining a family business is already a massive undertaking. That work, combined with the burden of oppressive inflation, becomes

too heavy for some families to carry. And the coming months may add even more to that heavy load.

As we close in on the winter season, days are getting colder; days are getting darker; and that means that many family-owned shops—well, they are going to lose significant business. Fewer customers are going to venture out to shop at small businesses and they will do it for fewer hours during the day and that is going to cut down on the amount of profit that these businesses make.

But not only that, while profit decreases, costs will go up. Because it is colder, small businesses will spend more of their money on energy bills to heat the buildings. Winter in Nebraska, well, it can pose challenges for family-owned businesses every year. And this year, that is especially the case.

Since President Biden took office, energy prices have risen by 44 percent. The burden of a higher energy bill during the winter months is 44 percent heavier. Fuel oil is 51 percent more expensive. That is an astounding number. Electricity has gotten 26 percent more expensive, and natural gas, well, it is 22 percent more expensive.

This winter, there may be Nebraska businesses that follow in the footsteps of that Omaha restaurant and that Omaha bakery, losing so much money to inflation that they are going to be forced to close up shop.

Spending hundreds more dollars on basic business necessities is unsustainable for a family-owned business, and that is Bidenomics in Nebraska.

Inflation burdens businesses, but that is not where it stops. Inflation is costing the average Nebraska household \$988 a month. That is almost \$12,000 more a year. Families are paying more for everything, from eggs to gas to their mortgage payments, and this October—for the second year in a row—candy. Candy inflation hit double digits. When buying Halloween candy contributes to a middle-class family's financial struggle, we have got a serious problem. And that is Bidenomics in Nebraska.

Nebraskans know Bidenomics isn't working and so do the American people. In a New York Times poll this weekend, 81 percent of respondents said that the economy is less than good. Over half said that economic conditions are poor. Our economy is sick, and this administration is making it sicker with every reckless financial decision.

Since January 2021, this administration has been trigger-happy with heavy-handed regulations, instead of listening to people and putting a stop to these outrageous levels of inflation.

We know how to heal the economy. It is just a matter of getting it done. The administration has got to stop with its reckless spending. The President needs to reverse course on damaging regulations like his ineffective Inflation Reduction Act, and he certainly needs to refrain from passing more of it.

We need to unleash American energy so our economy can breathe again. Bidenomics means sky-high prices, hollowed-out savings, and costly interest rates. We can combat it with less spending, less regulation, and more American energy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, the Biden administration is constantly trying to sell Americans that the economy is improving. They offer miniscule morsels of improvement. The big picture shows an economy that is struggling mightily, and Americans are struggling along with it.

The Biden administration wants to tout Bidenomics as a success. Young Americans, families, elderly Americans, and everyone in between are being crushed under the weight of economic stagnation. According to the New York Times, 81 percent of Americans rated economic conditions as "fair" or "poor." CBS News states that 66 percent of Americans rate the national economy as "bad." ABC News has a poll that says 76 percent of Americans say the country is headed in the wrong direction. About two in three Americans say their household expenses have risen in the last year, but only one in four says their income has increased in the same period, according to an AP poll.

Higher prices, stagnant wages, and skyrocketing interest rates are hammering the American people across all demographics.

Typically, young Americans are looking to buy a house, condo, or property, and build some equity. It is a staple of building a fiscally healthy future and the foundation of the American dream. Not only can young people not afford homes with the current obscene interest rates, they can barely afford to keep their heads above water.

While Biden tries to distract young voters with his climate alarmism and that the Earth is going to boil, it is actually Biden's woeful mismanagement of the economy that is the real existential threat to the economy, the real existential threat to the American dream, the real existential threat to their future. Furthermore, it is Biden's insane energy policies that have stifled domestic energy production and made everything more expensive.

For families, it is even tougher in this economy. Household goods and food costs are more expensive now. Families are dipping into their savings and incurring more expenses and credit card debt, which is now at record levels.

Overall prices have risen 17 percent and are costing the average American household \$940 more per month. For elderly Americans who are retired or who are about to retire, this economy poses a dire threat. Higher prices on everything doesn't bode well for those on a fixed income, and with people dipping into their retirement savings just

to cover the costs, it doesn't bode well for those hoping to retire soon either.

It turns out that, when you spend trillions and trillions and trillions of dollars you don't have and declare war on domestic energy production, inflation runs rampant. The cost of everything goes up. That is what Americans are living through. They don't need slogans. They are not buying it. No matter how many times he says Bidenomics is working, the American people are struggling with higher costs, and they know it is not.

The antidote to the Bidenomics' poison is clear: Stop deficit spending. Become energy dominant to ease the burden on working families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Nebraska.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND BORDER SECURITY

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, our Nation is facing many challenges at this point. Yet, this week, the majority leader doesn't have us addressing them. Look around this room. There is nobody here.

We should be voting Monday through Friday until we get our work done. We have a national debt that is almost \$34 trillion. That is \$256,000 per household. That is about equal to a second mortgage for homeowners in Nebraska.

We also have a humanitarian and security crisis at our southern border. I was just down there for the fourth time. What I saw was a humanitarian disgrace. Record numbers of illegal immigrants are crossing the border. Children are being trafficked. People are dying. Cartels are profiting. The Biden administration is directly responsible for this humanitarian crisis. They should be ashamed of themselves.

The Biden administration's policies are also creating a major security crisis. A record number of encounters with individuals on the Terror Watchlist has gone on when that number used to be in the single digits just in the past few years.

Washington has an important role in dealing with these challenges. The ideal time to address them is through the appropriations process. As we all know, Congress must pass 12 appropriations bills every year, and this would avoid a government shutdown. This year, for the first time in 5 years, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed out all 12 of those appropriations bills. The first 2 came out on June 22, and the other 10 came in July.

For months, the majority leader has refused to bring those bills to the floor for votes. We could have been amending those bills, debating those bills, and then voting on those bills. Instead, he has played games with the Senate's calendar to try and force a false choice between a shutdown and more Big Government spending.

As a result, we have missed the deadline for regular order. The short-term bill that we passed, which funds the government, runs out on November 17. That is just a little over a week from

today. Once again, we are on the brink of another government shutdown, and the majority leader is still playing the same games.

We should be debating. We should be amending. We should be voting on legislation to fund the government and secure our border right now. Instead, we have spent the entire week voting on nominations for a few blue State judges and the employment for someone to the National Institutes of Health.

If that weren't bad enough, once again, the majority leader will be sending us home on Thursday afternoon for the weekend. The majority leader should have kept us in session Monday through Friday every week until all appropriations bills had passed. Instead, he chose to recess early or start voting late, week after week after week. He could have canceled our October State work period, like the House did. Many of my colleagues joined me in asking him to do so. He did not. The September shutdown face-off proved that there is no time to waste.

Most Americans work Monday through Friday. In Nebraska, many of my constituents work longer hours than that. The U.S. Senate should work Monday through Friday. I know it is a crazy idea, but we could be here all week like normal Americans. We could work 8 a.m. until 5 or 6 p.m. like most Americans do. We should remain in DC until we complete our work of funding the government and securing the border. It is not a radical idea to suggest that we should have an open government and a closed border.

So I will close with this: Let's vote. Let's do what it takes to get the job done for our constituents. I am committed to working with my colleagues to deliver meaningful results. Nebraskans and Americans across the country deserve no less.

NOMINATION OF CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I support the nomination of Charlotte Burrows to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, EEOC. Charlotte Burrows has been a member of the EEOC since 2015. She was first confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 93–2. When she was renominated in 2019, the Senate confirmed her by voice vote. I look forward to her being confirmed a third time.

Charlotte Burrows is dedicated to ensuring that the EEOC plays a critical role in addressing systemic discrimination and advancing equal opportunity. Her priorities include advancing pay equity, preventing unlawful retaliation and harassment, addressing the use of artificial intelligence and other tech tools in employment decisions, and protecting vulnerable workers, including people with disabilities, older workers, temporary workers, and low-wage workers.

During her tenure as Chair, Ms. Burrows has helped rebuild the EEOC and its capacity to enforce Federal anti-discrimination laws—restoring staffing

levels to meet the public demand for agency services. Under Ms. Burrows' leadership, the EEOC has secured more than \$500 million in monetary relief for some 38,000 victims of employment discrimination, and the EEOC has filed over 140 employment discrimination lawsuits in fiscal year 2023, a 50-percent increase over fiscal year 2022.

Chair Burrows is committed to ensuring that workers are aware of their rights and employers are aware of their responsibilities. To help accomplish this goal, in fiscal year 2022, EEOC conducted over 3,300 outreach and training events and provided more than 225,000 people nationwide with information about their rights and responsibilities in the workplace. In order to reach more vulnerable workers, the EEOC conducted 1,000 outreach events for vulnerable workers that reached nearly 80,000 individuals. Often, these events were in partnership with local organizations that know these vulnerable and underserved communities the best.

During her time as Chair, she has overseen the implementation of the Pregnant Worker's Fairness Act, including advancing a bipartisan proposed rule to implement this important and much-needed law. She has also advanced a much-needed proposal to update harassment guidance and issued technical assistance on practices to prevent harassment in the Federal workplace. She has updated EEOC resources related to individuals with visual disabilities and employment protections for Americans with disabilities.

Further, she launched the Artificial Intelligence and Algorithmic Fairness Initiative in 2021 to ensure that these systems are used in ways that reflect values of fairness and equality. The main goal of the Chair's initiative is to assist applicants, workers, employers, and vendors to understand how Federal equal employment opportunity laws apply to these new technologies. Under her leadership, the EEOC is working to address potentially harmful uses of this technology in the workforce.

Chair Burrows' dedication to improving the lives of working families and making sure they receive the wages and benefits they deserve make her the right person to lead this agency. I thank her for her service, and I strongly support her nomination to continue as Chair of the EEOC.

Mr. RICKETTS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

VOTE ON BURROWS NOMINATION

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote occur immediately.

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

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

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 301 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—2

Ernst Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 310, Brandy R. McMillion, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch.

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 Brandy R. McMillion, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 302 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Ernst Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Brandy R. McMillion, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION RELATING TO "WAIVER OF BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session and proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 38, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A Joint resolution (S.J. Res. 38) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF BRANDY R. MCMILLION

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first, I will speak more tomorrow about Brandy McMillion, whom we just forwarded to a final confirmation vote tomorrow. She is an extraordinary nominee for the district court in Michigan, and I so appreciate the bipartisan support today.

S.J. RES. 38

At this moment, Madam President, I rise in opposition to S.J. Res. 38.

The result of passing this resolution is actually the opposite of what the sponsor is going to say. It reminds me a lot of last week when we were debating school meals and when what was argued was exactly the opposite of what it would do. This is one of those similar kinds of situations. So let me just explain this.

Last Congress, we worked hard to pass the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act despite the opposition from the senior Senator from Florida, who is authoring this resolution, by the way. From fixing our roads and bridges and airports and railways to expanding high-speed internet and creating jobs, this was a great bill with a great bipartisan effort. We are now seeing the profound effects of this historic law in every corner of the country.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act included my Make It in America Act, which created, for the first time, a Made in America Office. This office is charged with reviewing waivers that have been around for a long time, toughening them up, requiring more transparency, in that any waiver be put on a website for businesses and workers and taxpayers to be able to see, and it ensured complying with other "Buy America" laws.

So, as we are going forward on electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging, we have the administration now looking at waivers. We have a long-standing waiver called the Manufactured Products General Waiver. This

blanket waiver has been in effect since 1983, and it has allowed foreign manufactured products to be used by the Federal Highway Administration.

Our administration, the Biden administration, doesn't want to see that continue. So it put in place a short-term waiver. It took EV chargers out of that and put in place a short-term waiver until next July and said: We will give you a little bit of time, but then you are going to have to have American companies that are making EV chargers if we are going to buy them with Federal taxpayer dollars.

So it was very significant in expanding "Buy America" policies. Now, you will somehow hear the opposite. This is expanding "Buy America" policies by basically saying: Instead of a permanent waiver, we will give you until July 1, 2024, to ensure that new chargers can meet "Buy America" requirements, and we can move forward with American-made products. So the key is temporary. This is temporary.

Therefore, this resolution would actually weaken "Buy America" requirements. The resolution would result in EV chargers not needing to meet any U.S. manufacturing or any "Buy America" content requirements far in the future. This would significantly set back American jobs and American manufacturing. If you want American taxpayer dollars to be required to purchase American-made products, including EV chargers, you need to vote no on this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do that.

I am so pleased to be here with another wonderful champion on this issue, Senator TAMMY BALDWIN from Wisconsin, who has really championed this effort in a very, very effective way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise today to speak on the resolution submitted by Senator RUBIO of Florida. I wanted to also start with sort of an explanation of where we find ourselves.

You hear the expression "Made in America" and "Buy America" policies. What are those? That is the simple proposition that when we are spending Federal tax dollars, your tax dollars, we want to see those ultimately benefit U.S. workers and U.S. small businesses and medium-size businesses. That is what "Make it in America" or "Buy America" policies accomplish.

But I want to start also with what this Congressional Review Act resolution would do. This resolution would prohibit the Federal Highway Administration's February 2023 rule, which, as you heard from Senator STABENOW, removes electric vehicle chargers from the Agency's blanket "Buy America" waiver from taking effect.

The Federal Highway Administration's rule implements what we would call a phase-in policy or an onramp policy that increases "Buy America" requirements for electric vehicle chargers.

By July 2024, all EV chargers purchased with Federal Highway Administration dollars, your taxpayer dollars, must be in full compliance with the "Build America," "Buy America" rules.

If you eliminate this rule, as the Rubio resolution would do, it would remove all "Buy America" restrictions for EV charger purchases, allowing Federal taxpayer dollars, your dollars, to buy chargers from China, which is rapidly scaling up their charger manufacturing in order to offer the lowest cost product.

Because of this FHA rule, manufacturers are locating their facilities in the United States. For example, Ingeteam, the European market leader, has built a facility in Milwaukee, WI, where hundreds of union workers will make half a million EV chargers. This is because this rule requires EV chargers to be assembled in the United States when they are funded with Federal taxpayer dollars.

Under the Rubio resolution, those requirements go away. They vanish. The requirements go away because chargers will once again become subject to the Federal Highway Administration's blanket waiver for manufactured products, which has been in place since 1983.

I am no fan of this blanket waiver. Since I got to the Senate, I have been pushing to get rid of it. Frustration with this waiver is one of the reasons I worked with my colleagues—Senators BROWN, PORTMAN, STABENOW, BRAUN, and PETERS—to get "Buy America" requirements into the infrastructure law. Because of our work, that law requires the Federal Highway Administration to request public notice and comment on its blanket waiver—something it did in May of this year.

If you are a Senator who opposes the Federal Highway Administration's blanket waiver, like me, you might, say, submit a comment during the open comment period—something I did—or ask the Secretary of Transportation to commit to rescinding the blanket waiver in a committee hearing—something I did—or maybe even vote for the legislation that requires the Agency to review the waiver—something I did, along with 19 of my Republican colleagues. But the sponsor of this resolution, Senator RUBIO, did not do any of the things I just mentioned. It makes me think and the resolution itself suggests that he is more interested in scoring political points rather than doing the hard work of increasing the number of products and the number of programs that are subject to "Buy America" requirements.

That is why United Steelworkers, who represent thousands of workers in Wisconsin and in Florida and who actually make things—that is why they oppose this resolution, and that is why I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Am I fully satisfied with the job this administration has done to implement

"Buy America"? The answer is no, I am not. But this resolution makes things worse, not better. If we want to improve the administration's implementation of "Buy America," we need to give Agencies the resources they need to do outreach to industry.

I have supported "Buy America" for as long as I have been in the U.S. Congress. It used to be a lonely battle, and it has been at times. So I am very pleased that I have many new allies on the Republican side of the aisle who claim to support "Buy America."

Welcome to the team. I look forward to working with you and to getting this administration the resources it needs to successfully implement "Buy America" instead of supporting this resolution that would make things worse.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, good afternoon.

I rise to join my two colleagues who just spoke in opposition to S.J. Res. 38, a Congressional Review Act resolution to disapprove of the Biden administration's temporary waiver of the "Buy American" requirements for the electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

Why is this important? Why should Americans care about this issue? Well, we continue to see, on almost a daily basis, daily reminders that our planet is on fire. Scientists tell us that we are running out of time to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to avoid the worst of the climate crisis. The rest of the world is looking at us. The rest of the world is looking at us, the United States, for leadership right now on this issue. Instead, we are voting on a resolution that President Biden will certainly veto. That means it will not go into effect.

Having said all of that, let me explain why I oppose the resolution offered by our colleague from Florida. The way this resolution works is more than a little bit confusing, so let's take a couple of minutes to try to make clear what it would actually do. My colleagues have already referred to this. To better understand that, it is important to understand how we got to this point.

As I mentioned, addressing the existential threat of climate change is one of the most challenging events we currently face as a planet. We also know that our transportation sector, including the cars, trucks, and vans on our roads, is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. economy. In fact, the cars, trucks, and vans we drive create nearly 30 percent of our greenhouse gas emissions in America.

To that end, we included \$7.5 billion—billion with a "b"—in the bipartisan infrastructure law to help build out a national network of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, supporting our climate goals and creating jobs—lots of jobs—right here in America.

We are already seeing the impact of our investment. Since enacting the bipartisan infrastructure law nearly 2

years ago, the electric vehicle charging industry has announced investments of over \$500 million in more than 40 plants for assembling American-made EV chargers. Let me say that again. The electric vehicle charging industry has announced investments of over \$500 million in more than 40 plants for assembling American-made EV chargers. These plants in States like Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and North Carolina are bringing more manufacturing jobs back to the United States—back to the United States. That means relying less on countries like China to enable our clean energy transition.

If enacted, Senator RUBIO's resolution would undermine this progress. His resolution would create greater uncertainty for our domestic EV charging industry, directly contradicting our goal of having this equipment made and assembled right here in the U.S. of A. That is why groups like the AFL-CIO and, as we have just heard, the United Steelworkers oppose the Rubio resolution. They oppose it. The reason why they oppose it is because its adoption would mean shipping jobs overseas instead of building our supply chain right here at home.

So, in reality, this resolution would actually weaken "Buy American" requirements. It would result in more EV charging products being built overseas, not here. It would undermine American workers and our Nation's ability to be global leaders in electric vehicles.

Put simply, a vote for this resolution is a vote against American manufacturing of EV chargers. That is why I oppose this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

With that, I yield the floor.

I am looking to see if there is anyone else to speak. I don't see anyone, so I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING NESTOR R. WEIGAND, JR.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, today, I join many who mourn the passing and I honor the life of a Kansan I had the privilege of knowing and working with: Nestor R. Weigand, Jr.

Mr. Weigand was a blessing to all who knew him, and he improved the lives of many around him each and every day of his life.

He was raised in Wichita. Nestor's family later moved to Minnesota, where he attended St. Thomas Academy school, and later graduated with a degree in finance from the University of Notre Dame in 1960. Nestor then went on to serve his country in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Following his time in the Reserve, Nestor devoted much of his adult life to the real estate business. It was a tremendous passion of his. It wasn't

just a job; it was something he enjoyed and loved doing, something he found satisfaction in, in putting a buyer and a seller together, in making a project work.

He originally joined the family real estate business in Kansas in 1961. His hard work led him to become the president and CEO of J.P. Weigand & Sons in 1983. Through this role, he succeeded in building one of Kansas's most respected businesses.

Continuing his passion for real estate, Nestor was elected to be the president of the Kansas Association of Realtors in 1978 and eventually became the president of the National Association of Realtors 10 years later. Nestor worked tirelessly in his role to improve the lives of Kansans and Americans by fighting for fair housing laws throughout the country.

Weigand real estate agent Alissa Unruh said:

One of the most impressive of his personal attributes was that Nestor would call every employee and agent on their birthday like clockwork. [He] never missed my birthday in 20 years.

Nestor cared about details, and he cared about people. In 1990, with no prior political experience, Nestor made the decision to run for Governor of the State of Kansas, and while he ended up, by a very small margin, on the short end, his expertise and knowledge was something I truly admired and have learned from during my time in public service. His race for Governor earned him an appreciation by many Kansans who might not otherwise have met him.

Before running for public office, one of the first people I sought out was Nestor Weigand, for some advice. I enjoyed conversations with Nestor over breakfast and lunch and greatly benefited from those conversations and his wisdom.

Often in Washington, DC, here in the Nation's Capital, or in my travels across the country and certainly across Kansas, when I would tell somebody outside the State of Kansas that I am from Kansas, they would say: Well, do you know Nestor Weigand?

He had many, many friends in many places. He was a giant in the real estate industry and made a huge difference in people's lives.

Not only was he an expert in real estate, but he was also a leader of the Wichita community and understood the people of the State of Kansas. Nestor was a booster for Wichita, for Sedgwick County, and for our State.

Nestor took his commitment to his community seriously. He sat on so many boards, including being a board member and chairman of Wesley Hospital for over 40 years.

Nestor's life truly reflected the love for business, for real estate, his passion for public service, and his dedication to people. He knew lots of people, but he knew them well, and they knew him and they respected him.

You meet Nestor Weigand, and you decided this was the real deal, a person

who cared about you and who wanted to see good things happen in your life.

His legacy will not be forgotten. He is already dearly missed. Robba joins me in our prayers for his children, his grandchildren, and the entire Weigand family.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 85

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, on October 7, Hamas terrorists crossed the border of Israel and committed atrocities, the full extent of which we are only just now coming to understand.

Thousands of innocent Israelis have lost their lives. Israeli babies were beheaded—literally beheaded—put into ovens, according to news reports. Innocent civilians were shot in their homes when they answered their front doors. Soldiers who were asleep in their beds were executed. And the terrorist attacks have continued.

Amazingly, in the United States—even as this terrible attack was unfolding in Israel—in the United States, hundreds and thousands of students and others took to America's campuses to express solidarity, not with innocent Israelis who had lost their lives but with Hamas, and to voice support for the genocidal campaign that Hamas has sought to carry out and continues to advance and advocate even as we stand here today.

Take a look at just some of the things that have been said by students on America's college campuses. Students at Harvard University said they held the Israeli regime "entirely responsible"—entirely responsible—"for all the unfolding violence." You had students at the University of North Carolina who said they believed it was their "moral obligation to be in solidarity with the dispossessed, no matter the pathway to liberation they choose to take. This includes violence."

Oh, and Hamas is violent. There is no doubt we have seen extraordinary violence, unbelievable violence, in the most brutal attack on Israel and the Jewish people in 50 years.

Students at New York University School of Law wrote that they expressed first and foremost their unwavering and absolute solidarity with Palestinians and their resistance against oppression toward liberation and self-determination. "Israel," they said, "bears full responsibility for this tremendous loss of life."

I could go on. And I am happy to say that this body has unanimously condemned these statements—this progenocidal rhetoric—by students in this country.

I wish that it had stopped at rhetoric, but it hasn't. We have seen the assaults

on Jewish students right on our campuses. We have seen Jews barricaded in university libraries, unable to leave, as pro-Hamas demonstrators shout and scream outside calling for the destruction of Israel. We have seen Jewish students physically assaulted—if you don't believe me, just go look on the internet—physically assaulted on American campuses by pro-Hamas demonstrators.

We have even seen it in high schools, where students are chanting:

From the river to the sea, Palestine must be free.

What does that mean? It is a call for the destruction of the State of Israel. It is a call for the execution of Jews in the Middle East, in this country, everywhere. That is the Hamas agenda.

And so many Americans, including me, have been absolutely stunned to see so many students and others echoing these claims. And it has raised the question: Where is this coming from? Where are these students and young people—teenagers—where are they hearing this? Where are they seeing it? Where are they being fed this propaganda? Because propaganda, it is.

At least one of the answers is, they are finding it on TikTok. Yes, TikTok, that Chinese-based, Chinese-owned social media app that is a back door for the Chinese Communist Party to track the movements, the key strokes, the whereabouts, the information of every American who has the app on their phone.

What we know now is that for many, many younger Americans—the so-called Generation Z; those in their teens and early twenties—so many of them—74 percent of them, in fact—use TikTok as a search engine. And, in fact, a majority of them prefer TikTok to Google as a principle search engine. So where are Americans and Generation Z increasingly getting their news? What are they using to search for information? They are using TikTok. They are getting their news from TikTok.

At the same time, this same cohort of young Americans, more than 50 percent of them—this is young Americans between the ages of 18 and 24—more than 50 percent of them say they believe Hamas's murder of civilians was justified. Let me repeat that. More than 50 percent of young Americans—Gen Z, between the ages of 18 and 24—believe Hamas's murder of civilians was justified.

These are the same people who are going on TikTok to get their news, to get their information, to be influenced. And they certainly are being influenced. Media reports have analyzed the prevalence of anti-Israel, anti-Semitic, pro-Hamas content on TikTok. It is really quite astounding.

Just take a look at the trending hashtags: “Stand with Palestine,” 285 million views, impressions, according to the news site Axios and their recent analysis. By contrast, “Stand With Israel” has far, far less—64 million.

This doesn't actually begin to tell the story because the truth is, there are other hashtags, other pro-Hamas, pro-Palestinian sources of information where the views are even larger. Take, for instance “Free Palestine.” That has received actually 917 million views, far outpacing even “Stand with Palestine” and dramatically outpacing the content that is actually supportive of the State of Israel.

Here is my point. TikTok has become a haven for anti-Semitic content, a haven for propaganda for genocide. Of course, TikTok denies this, as they deny any responsibility for anything they actually do.

They have tried to say, in fact, these numbers are skewed. But you can't change the facts. You can't deny the reality that their site is absolutely awash with this content. And we know that part of the problem, the danger of TikTok, is it gives the Chinese Communist Party enormous influence—enormous influence—to shape the news, the content of the information of the folks who look at it.

They have done this before. Back in 2019, the Chinese Communist Party used TikTok to suppress content that criticized the Chinese Government over their oppression and enslavement of the Uighurs in that country. They have a pattern of using this application to try and shape the narrative in the way they want it shaped. How they are shaping it now is pumping out the most virulent, toxic pro-Hamas propaganda.

Madam President, the time has come to take another look at TikTok. I will say this: As virulent and offensive as this content is, that is not a reason to ban them. The real reason to ban TikTok is that it is a spy app for the Chinese Communist government. Let's just look at what we have learned since I was last on this floor trying to pass legislation that would hold TikTok accountable and ban it from American phones.

On the 24th of this year, the New York Times reported that driver's licenses, addresses and photos—just to be clear, Americans' driver's licenses, addresses, and photos—were accessed by TikTok engineers based in China. What is extraordinary about this is TikTok has told us over and over and over again that this was impossible. They have come to this Congress, they testified before us and said this never happens. American data is absolutely sequestered. You can't access it in China. It is completely safe.

Yet we learned this year what, really, we already knew: That simply is not true. Let's not forget, the law of China—the People's Republic of China, a dictatorship—their law requires all major corporations, including, especially, data corporations, to make information available upon request to the Chinese Communist Party. That means your data. That means our personal information.

On May 30, Forbes magazine reported that TikTok creators—that means

American users'—financial information, Social Security numbers were, in fact, being stored in China. We had also been told this wasn't true. We have been told by TikTok: No, no, no, Americans' data is always stored in America. It can't be accessed anywhere but in America. There is a firewall between America and China.

Not true. Not true.

Americans don't realize that their data is being tracked. They are just on there to make their videos and put out their content. And what is happening? The Chinese Government is able to access it. Their personal information is being stored, not in this country, but in China, with full availability to the Chinese Communist Party.

On November 1, just a few days ago, Forbes further reported that a platform storing TikTok corporate secrets was inspected by the Chinese Government. Of course, it was. Chinese law requires it. It requires TikTok and its parent company ByteDance to make available all of this information to the Chinese Government.

We have confronted dangers like this before from China. Huawei is a prime example. Huawei, another Chinese-based corporation also subject to the laws of China requiring the sharing of personal information and data. And what did we do? We stood up a sanctions regime that sanctioned Huawei and prevented its use here in the United States. And we went further than that. We actually went to our allies and partners and said that we would not cooperate with them and offer them security assistance. We are talking about other countries right now. We would not cooperate with them or offer security assistance unless they took Huawei out of their 5G networks.

We should do the same with TikTok. We should protect the people of this Nation. We should be honest with them about what TikTok actually does. And we should protect them from the relentless spying and surveillance by a foreign government.

I want to be clear. I don't like a lot of what American Big Tech does. I doubt you will find a harsher critic of Big Tech than I am in this Chamber. But there is a big difference between an American company looking at Americans' data—accessing Americans' data—and a foreign government tracking Americans, building dossiers on Americans, and using it as a back door into the life of every American citizen who has that app on his or her phone.

It is time to put an end to this. We have already voted to do it. We voted to strip TikTok off of every government device just 10 months ago. States are doing it all across the country. It is time we took the step to protect the American people, to protect the integrity of Americans' personal information and their personal privacy.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of

S. 85 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, we are here once again faced with the proposal to ban TikTok and to forbid millions of Americans from expressing their opinion.

This is not a subject that we should entertain lightly. If there is a better national strategy to permanently lose elections for a generation, I have not heard of it. Banning TikTok, a social media app used by 150 million Americans, primarily young Americans, is a recipe for electoral disaster for Republicans.

This GOP strategy comes just after an election year in which a national survey indicated that 71 percent of young women and 53 percent of young men voted for the Democrat candidate for Congress. Now, admittedly, many Democrats have also joined Republicans in calling for this ban, but like most issues, the blame tends to stick to Republicans more.

The banning TikTok strategy also comes while the GOP simultaneously complains of liberal U.S. social media companies canceling and censoring conservatives. So without a hint of irony, many of these same "conservatives" now agitate to censor viewpoints they don't like.

So on the one hand, Republicans complain about censorship, while with the other hand, these same Republicans advocate to censor social media apps that they worry are influenced by the Chinese. The concern over TikTok seems to be over what the social media app might do. Propagating hysteria and fear of subtle communist subversion from the People's Republic of China through a social media app in the 21st century, is similar or akin to basically McCarthyist paranoia.

Today, in a move that Chairman Mao himself would approve, the Senate considers banning a platform because it seems one Member doesn't approve of how it handled content about the war between Israel and Hamas.

Just this week, the Senator from Missouri wrote to Secretary Yellen:

While data security issues are paramount, less often discussed is TikTok's power to radically distort the world-picture that America's young people encounter.

The Senator from Missouri wants to censor TikTok users who are biased against Israel. The Senator from Missouri wants to ban the speech of young TikTok users he disagrees with. Sounds more like a Chinese solution than an American one.

The Chinese solution to combating speech those in power do not like is to ban it. In fact, TikTok is banned in China. So is YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook.

There is an app similar to TikTok called Douyin that operates in China, but it is heavily censored. Try to search for "Tiananmen 1989" on Douyin, and nothing will come up.

The American solution, with the high value that our country places on the free exchange of ideas, is to counter flawed ideas—flawed ideas—or falsities with more speech and better arguments that persuade and reveal the truth.

Do we really want to emulate China's speech bans? Do we really want to intrude into the lives of Americans and deprive them of their First Amendment right to receive and consider information?

The ham-fisted ban under consideration today empowers the government to determine what Americans are allowed to see, hear, and contemplate. The headline of an opinion piece recently by John Tamny says it all: "Nauseating Harassment of TikTok Presumes Americans Will Be Saved From Chinese Authoritarianism If U.S. Politicians Act Like Chinese Authoritarians."

A ban on TikTok is what they do in China. You are worried about Chinese communism and Chinese authoritarianism, and you want to ban speech in our country? It is inconsistent with our very American primary principles. TikTok must be banned, the censors say, because they are owned and controlled by the Chinese Communist Government. In actuality, TikTok is owned by international investors and two Chinese software engineers who designed the app.

Does TikTok do the Chinese Government's bidding? Well, go to the app and search for Falun Gong, the anti-communist religious sect that is persecuted in China. Go to TikTok and search for videos advocating Taiwan's independence, criticism of Chinese Premier Xi Jinping. These videos are all over TikTok that are critical of Chinese positions. That is why TikTok is banned in China.

TikTok is banned in China, but you want to ban it in the United States. We are going to become like the Chinese to prevent the Chinese from taking over our country?

As Drs. Mueller and Farhat of Georgia Tech write, "If nationalist fears about Chinese influence operations lead to a departure from American constitutional principles supporting free and open political discourse, we will have succeeded in undermining our [very] system of government more effectively than any Chinese propaganda could ever do."

We will be doing what the Chinese want. If you are worried about becoming Chinese communists, you will now be emulating them by banning speech. To those who were worried that the Chinese Government might somehow have access to millions of American teenagers' info, realize that all social media, regardless of whether their ownership is foreign or domestic, sucks up

all your personal data, and this is what people provide voluntarily.

And, people, if you don't want your information—don't join these groups. If you are going to ban TikTok, what is next? Arguably, several domestic apps censor conservatives more. I know because I have been censored and banned by American companies. I have got no love lost with any of these companies. I have a host of complaints about domestic social media platforms that cancel conservatives, but I am not in favor of banning them or forcing them to accept my opinion. They are private companies. They have speech rights. I have speech rights, but I don't have the right to force them or to ban them if they don't post my stuff.

If you don't like TikTok or Facebook or YouTube, don't use them. But don't think any interpretation of the Constitution gives you the right to ban them. The First Amendment isn't necessary to protect speech that everybody likes or everybody accepts. The First Amendment exists to protect speech that might be unpopular or might be controversial.

I hope saner minds will reflect on which is more dangerous, videos of teenagers dancing or the President of the U.S. Government banning speech. For me, it is an easy answer. I will defend the Bill of Rights against all comers, even, if need be, from Members of my own party.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, let's just be clear about one thing. The Chinese Communist Government is not covered by the U.S. Bill of Rights.

The Chinese Communist Government does not have free speech rights, and we are not talking about free speech. We are not talking about speech at all. The sanctions that I am proposing have nothing to do with speech; they have everything to do with spying, for the same reasons that we have banned Huawei in this country.

If the Senator would like to have a debate about whether or not Huawei and its affiliates ought to be banned, whether it ought to be a sanctions regime for those that engage in espionage, I welcome it. That is the same debate we are having here.

I just say this. If all of those teenagers and other creators from around the world who are putting all of the pro-genocidal Hamas content onto TikTok want to go do it on other platforms, be my guest. I will be right here to criticize them and call them out for their moral atrocities wherever they do it.

But the reason to ban TikTok in this country is that it is a spying apparatus of the Chinese Communist Party. The facts simply cannot be disputed. ByteDance is subject to the laws of China, which make American data available to, accessible to, upon request for Chinese corporations and the Chinese Government.

I just lament that we cannot seem to move forward with a step that we have already taken with regard to Huawei, with sensible protection of Americans' privacy and their personal data.

But let me just close with this. With regard to the speech itself, while the content of the speech on TikTok is no reason to ban them, I just want to say, since we are here in this moment of great dispute, apparently, in some quarters of this country over whether it is right or wrong to call for the genocide of Jewish people, I want to say, clearly, it is wrong. And I want to say to those creators who are pumping out this content on TikTok: You may have a First Amendment right to do so, but you don't really have moral standing.

We need to be clear. There is a right. There is a wrong. There is good. There is evil. And calling for the genocide of Jewish people, whether it is in the Middle East, the State of Israel, or in this country is wrong. Whether you do it on TikTok or Meta or YouTube or just on the streets and plazas of your college campus, it is wrong.

And at this time, above all times, I think, we need to stand and make that clear.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, the bill before us to ban TikTok is clearly infringement of the First Amendment. It would ban 150 million people who regularly post on TikTok from expressing themselves.

It is without question speech. These folks, the 150 million users of TikTok, would have standing in court to sue over infringement of their speech.

This isn't about who was advocating for this or that in the Middle East or in Israel or in the Hamas situation. The Supreme Court has looked at speech over time, and there is some speech that is not protected.

But in Europe, they have gone one step further, in the sense that they ban all kinds of speech in Europe. You have certain opinions that can't be expressed. We have never done that in our country. You can have a foul, despicable opinion in our country, and we counter it with better ideas. We counter it with better speech. It is very, very dangerous to the primary principles of our founding, of our government, of our Bill of Rights, of the Bill of Right that is listed first, and that is freedom of speech. And my hope is that this will not be seen as a serious proposal and will be rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

S.J. RES. 38

Mr. RUBIO. So I think one of the things that has become increasingly accepted here is that

deindustrialization was a terrible mistake for America. No. 1, it hurt us and wiped out good-paying jobs that we relied on to build strong communities, and the other is it left us vulnerable in our supply chains.

And one of the things that is talked a lot about in terms of industries is these provisions called "Buy American." We have laws called "Buy American." I think it is especially important when we are spending taxpayer dollars on propping up an industry that it have strong provisions that do so.

What is called the infrastructure bill has \$5 billion of American taxpayer funds to build electric vehicle charging stations in the United States, and it has, in that bill embedded, very specific "Buy American" requirements that those funds may be used only so that all the iron, the steel, the manufactured products, the construction materials that are used are produced in the United States.

It is very simple. It is pretty straightforward. That is what the law reads, both a broader law that already exists and then the provisions of this bill.

The Biden administration, after passing this, however, didn't just fail to implement this provision—they were almost a year late in even issuing any findings on it, but they have now come out with this waiver. A waiver of that "Buy American" requirement that allows foreign-made EV chargers—translation, Chinese-made electric vehicle chargers—up until October of 2024.

But there is more. They actually give the Federal Highway Administrator the ability to extend that deadline by 5 years. And so we are now facing, under this waiver they are requesting, the real prospect that significant portions of the \$5 billion that is going to go to electric vehicle charging stations is going to be spent on Chinese companies—taxpayer dollars.

So we are either serious about restoring America's industrial capabilities or we are not. We should be especially serious about it when we are spending Federal funds on it.

Now, I have watched some of the debate, some of the things the administration is telling people about how somehow this is going to be the opposite effect. There is this 1983 general regulation that they have written or waiver that they have in place. Everyone knows here that specific statutory language, such as that that exists both in this bill and in other law, supersedes any of these. But the other is very simple. The administration, as they have done with a bunch of other regulations, can either amend it or get rid of it. But they are using that as a threat.

What they are basically telling people is, if you vote for this, if this thing passes, we will interpret that 1983 general provision to just do anything we want with regard to this.

So it is pretty straightforward. Get rid of it. Don't use it that way. Commit yourself to rebuilding American industry, American jobs.

The bottom line is this. You can play all the jiu-jitsu games you want with regard to language, the bottom line is this: If we are going to spend \$5 billion of taxpayer money to build electric vehicle charging stations in the United States, it should be made by Americans, in America, using American products.

And if you agree with me, I am going to give you a chance right now to vote for something that wipes out this waiver that the Biden administration wants to put in place that will guarantee that that may never happen and that most of this money—taxpayer money—will go into the hands of Chinese companies to build electric vehicle charging stations in the United States.

We shouldn't allow that to happen. I urge everyone to vote for this.

I yield the floor.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for up to 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I just want to make clear, as the person who authored the Make It in America Act in the infrastructure bill—which my colleague from Florida did not support—that we have a Made in America Office now, and I am so appreciative of what the Biden administration is doing to make sure that we are not giving waivers unless absolutely necessary.

We had a general manufacturing waiver for years—years and years and years. What they have done is taken the EV chargers out of that and said: OK, we will give you until July of next year. We will phase out any kind of a waiver because we want these American made. We want these American made.

And so the effect of voting for this resolution is to forever have EV chargers as part of the waiver, where they never have to be American made. They can always be Chinese made.

We want them American made, and I urge a "no" vote on this resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read a third time.

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 38

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 303 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeben	Rubio
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Sinema
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Collins	Lee	Tester
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cotton	Manchin	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NAYS—48

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Butler	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Paul	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Ernst Scott (SC)

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 38) was passed as follows:

S.J. RES. 38

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to "Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers" (88 Fed. Reg. 10619 (February 21, 2023)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 126, Monica Ramirez Almadani, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie Hirono, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert Menendez, Michael F. Bennet.

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 Monica Ramirez Almadani, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 304 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeben	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Collins	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	Lummis	Tillis
Cotton	Marshall	Tuberville
Cramer	McConnell	Vance
Crapo	Moran	Wicker
Cruz	Mullin	Young
Daines	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Ernst Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Monica Ramirez Almadani, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Almadani nomination be considered expired and that a confirmation vote be at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, November 9.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 267 and 276; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the following nominations en bloc: Mark W. Libby, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Azerbaijan; and Edgard D. Kagan, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Malaysia?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO DALE MONTGOMERY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is my honor to recognize an outstanding Senate Stationery Room employee, Dale Montgomery, who is retiring today after more than 50 years of service to the U.S. Senate.

For Dale, working in the Senate was more than just a calling; it is in his blood. Dale's father worked in the Senate Library for 35 years, and his grandfather worked with the Architect of the Capitol dating back to 1914. So, when the opportunity arose to follow in his family's footsteps, Dale couldn't refuse. Without ever even filling out an application, Dale accepted a job where he would spend the next half-century of his life.

Dale's first day in the Stationery Room was in 1973, in a different world and a very different Senate. He rose through the ranks, starting in the warehouse doing deliveries before moving to the Stationery Store as a clerk and then as a sales associate. No matter the title he held, Dale approached each task with a great level of care and attention to detail. His contributions to the day-to-day operations of the Senate are truly immeasurable.

Dale quickly became one of the Senate community's most beloved members. His affable nature and affinity for music attracted friends and strangers alike, people from all around the country. Dale was a sought-after DJ and

was known to make an appearance at Senator Ford's Kentucky Derby parties. It didn't matter where, when, or how you met Dale, he was sure to leave a lasting impression.

The mark of a good employee is a steadfast commitment to the work. The mark of a good friend is a steadfast presence for each other. To everyone he encountered over the last 50 years, Dale was both—and so much more.

On behalf of the entire Senate community, we thank Dale for his years of dedicated service, and we wish him and his family the best in retirement.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on this Veterans Day, I want to express my profound admiration for the unwavering service and sacrifices of our veterans. Their commitment to our Nation, its people, and the values we hold dear transcends generations. Democracy requires constant vigilance, and it is facing tough challenges at home and abroad. Despots and authoritarians worldwide would like nothing more than to see us retreat from defending freedom. But in the face of adversity, the United States stands resilient thanks to the courageous men and women who have worn the uniform.

From the American Revolution, where the Maryland Line fought bravely under General George Washington, to the defense of Fort McHenry in Baltimore that inspired the Star-Spangled Banner during the War of 1812, to today, where Maryland is home to almost 400,000 veterans, our State has a proud history of fighting for freedom.

Our veterans are among the best our country has produced. Each one answered the call to serve their country, leaving friends and family to go in harm's way. In today's divisive world, I especially want to thank our veterans for coming together from all walks of life to serve a purpose greater than themselves. Our veterans come from all over the country, from all backgrounds, races, and religions. Time and time again, veterans put their country before themselves and make sacrifices that most Americans do not even realize. They miss birthdays, anniversaries, births, funerals, and countless other life events so they can stand guard on the frontlines of our Nation's defense. Most servicemembers volunteer to join the military not long after graduating high school or college. Some serve a few years, and others make the military a career. All of them have earned the title of veteran.

In Maryland, prominent military installations stretch across the State from Aberdeen Proving Ground in the north to Patuxent River in the south. Marylanders have always answered the call when our liberties have been attacked. During World War II, Maryland produced over 5,000 B-26 Marauder aircrafts that bombed Nazi fortifications in advance of Allied landings on D-Day.

Baltimore's shipyards built 384 Liberty cargo ships during the war to transport troops and supplies to Europe. Marylanders have stood shoulder to shoulder, unphased in the face of monumental challenges.

Marylanders from across the State continue to volunteer to serve our country, both overseas and at home with our Active-Duty military components, Reserves, and National Guard units. Our veterans' dedication to country and democracy is felt around the world. Unfortunately, many of our veterans know all too well the cost of war. Our brave men and women continue to serve their communities even after their time in uniform is over.

Our veterans are humble patriots, and while I know they appreciate the public thanking them for their service, I want to encourage each Marylander to go a step further this Veterans Day: shop at a veteran-owned business, donate to a veteran's charity, hire a veteran for your company, or call a veteran and ask them to share stories about their time in the service. Our veterans are among the most highly trained, educated, and responsible citizens, and their skills make them incredibly valued members of their communities and their companies. On this Veterans Day—and every day of the year—put your thoughts into action and show our veterans how much we truly appreciate their service.

TRIBUTE TO BOBETTE FRANKLIN

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise to honor and pay tribute to one of the most patriotic and dedicated Kentuckians I have had the pleasure of knowing, Mrs. Bobette Franklin.

A Bowling Green, KY, native, Bobette is a graduate of Western Kentucky University. She married Steve Franklin, and they made their home in Bowling Green. They have been married for 24 years and have a son, Noah, who is their pride and joy.

Upon being elected to office in 2010, I set out to hire a director of constituent services for my State office in Bowling Green. I asked for recommendations for the very best and received one clear answer from many: Bobette Franklin. Bobette began her congressional career in constituent services with Congressman Ron Lewis and, upon his retirement, continued her career with Congressman BRETT GUTHRIE. I was thrilled when Bobette accepted my offer to lead my constituent services operation. My constituent services team is second to none and would not be known for their stellar reputation throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky without Bobette's leadership. Anyone who knows Bobette knows she takes tremendous pride in her work and strives to excel in all aspects of her life. Her commitment to excellence and attention to detail is evident in every interaction she has with Kentuckians who need assistance, no matter the size or scope of the request. During

Bobette's tenure in my office, she has overseen more than 20,000 constituent service cases, which has directly impacted thousands of Kentuckians and people across the Nation.

While Bobette has served Kentuckians in numerous ways, her outstanding reputation is most evident through her outreach and advocacy for veterans. Bobette has received numerous awards from the veteran community. In 2016, the Southern Kentucky Veterans Council presented her with its Distinguished Service Award for over 20 years of devoted service assisting veterans. And earlier this year, the Department of Defense Joint Executive Council of Veterans presented her with an award in recognition of her work for veterans and their families across Kentucky.

After 29 years of Federal service and nearly 13 years in my office alone, Bobette has decided to retire and close this chapter in her lifelong commitment to serving her community and her country. I will always be thankful to have had Bobette as a part of my team from the very beginning. Thank you, Bobette, for your service to Kentucky and to this country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACK RUTLAND, JR.

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, it is an honor to pay tribute to Mr. Jack Rutland, Jr., of Lincoln County, MS, who for more than 10 years has shown an inspiring dedication to sharing the stories and memories of armed service veterans in Mississippi. By conducting radio interviews with veterans, their experiences can be appreciated by citizens all across Mississippi. Mr. Rutland has shown that his appreciation and respect for the men and women who have served in our armed forces goes beyond that of an average citizen, and America needs more people like Jack.

Jack Rutland, Jr., was born on May 20, 1948, in Birmingham, AL, while his father was stationed at an Air Force base there. His father, Jack Rutland, Sr., enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps prior to World War II, and he served during the war for 3 years in countries like England, North Africa, and Italy. During his World War II service, the senior Mr. Rutland earned five battle stars. Upon the completion of the war, he remained in the Air Force for over 20 years. Once he retired, the family returned to Lawrence County, MS. From experiencing his father's patriotic dedication to our Nation, Jack grew up with a sincere reverence for the veterans who served to defend the United States of America.

In 2003, the Military Memorial Museum in Brookhaven, MS, opened to inform the public of local veterans and the town's service history through artifacts, newspaper clippings, and other memorabilia. The museum is operated completely by volunteers, one of them

being Jack Rutland, Jr. On the 10-year anniversary of the Military Memorial Museum's opening, Jack interviewed four veterans. His interviews were captivating and respectfully executed, leading the public to want more. Today, Jack has conducted more than 50 interviews with veterans, some as recently as a few weeks ago. These interviews can be heartbreaking, like the story of World War II veteran Mr. Howard Britt who had to leave his beloved lieutenant in the field after he had been wounded. While in enemy territory, there was no time to wait. A story from Mr. Don Hemphill was similarly moving, detailing his arrival on the beaches of Normandy on the evening of D-day and seeing the wreckage of equipment left behind, as well as American soldiers who had not made it. The scene was so harrowing that Mr. Hemphill still could not talk about it when he was interviewed. In addition to these poignant interviews were inspirational recollections, like Mr. Hoyte Case who saw the iconic flag raised on Iwo Jima atop Mount Suribachi from his ship as he left the battle. Mr. Herbert Savell recounted his long journey home from the Pacific following the end of the war, traveling by cattle car to return to his small hometown in the Mississippi Delta. Walking down the aisle of the church and sitting in the pew beside his mother was how he returned. Each interview shows another side of the tragedies and triumphs faced by veterans.

The work that Jack has done is necessary to help younger generations understand the commitments and sacrifices made by our Nation's veterans. Preserving the oral histories of those who served helps us better understand the challenging circumstances they underwent and the emotional impacts they experienced during that time. These veterans had immense influence on our country from their brave and selfless duty of protecting our Nation's values and freedoms. Through the diligent work of Jack Rutland, Jr., we can learn a bit more about the Nation we are today from those who served in the armed forces for us.

My life has truly been enhanced by knowing Jack and his wife Shirley, who reside in my corner of the world. They have an outstanding family that includes their daughter Jamie, son-in-law Joshua Grosshans, and three grandchildren: Avery Rose, Jack Seton, and Alice Faye.

In conclusion, I am incredibly grateful to Mr. Jack Rutland, Jr., for dedicating his time to serving those who have served our country. I commend him for his accomplishments, and I hope his story and the veterans' stories he brings to light will inspire future generations.●

REMEMBERING VIC FISCHER

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary Alaskan, Victor Fischer, who passed

away on October 22, 2023, after an incredible 99-year life where he made an indelible mark on the State of Alaska. Vic's legacy of dedicated public service continues to touch the lives of all Alaskans, and we will miss his kindness, compassion, and mentorship.

In his early life, Vic Fischer witnessed firsthand the regimes of Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia. He came to the United States at 15 years old and quickly immersed himself in his new country, first through education and later through military service. His service in the Army during World War II took him to France, Germany, and the Philippines. This experience, along with his early years in Berlin and Moscow, helped shape his lifelong belief in the intrinsic value of democracy and human life, values which influenced his many contributions to the State of Alaska. After the war, Vic obtained a graduate degree at MIT and then came to Alaska in 1950 as Anchorage's first city planner, drawn by the promise of adventure and the freedom of opportunity.

Vic's many contributions were invaluable to the formation of Alaska as we know it today. He served in the last territorial legislature and was an active participant in Operation Statehood from its inception, believing strongly that Alaskans should be able to make decisions for their own communities as full members of the Union. As a member of this legislature, Vic co-sponsored the repeal of Alaska's death penalty, work he remained proud of throughout his life as someone who witnessed the power of an authoritarian state to kill its citizens. He played an important role as a delegate to the Alaska Constitutional Convention, helping draft the Alaska Constitution for our new State. Several decades later, as a State senator, Vic worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to improve Alaskan education, promote women's rights, social infrastructure, fishing rights, and much more. He remained politically active until his final months, educating Alaskans about our constitution, governance structures, and advocacy at all levels. As the author and journalist Charles Wohlforth wrote shortly after Vic's passing, "Time on Earth is only an opportunity. Fischer had a large share, and made use of it all. He remained optimistically engaged deep into his 90s, always making friends, always committed, always connecting."

Generations of Alaskans will remember Vic Fischer as a kind man with strong, clear values who committed his life to serving Alaska. Vic had a fundamental belief in the value of democracy, encouraging people to participate in their local communities, their State, and their government and to stand up against authoritarianism. He opposed discrimination in any form and emphasized the need to dedicate time and effort to those without power. Above all, he encouraged Alaskans to

exercise the civic power to vote, believing that we all have an obligation to each other and to our State to do so. Vic's lifelong work and political activism reflect his belief that Alaskans can come together to solve any problem, provided we share a love for Alaska and a willingness to do what is right.

The life and legacy of Vic Fischer will continue to inspire Alaskans across our State, and we will all miss his integrity and friendship. Our condolences are extended to his wife Jane Angvik, his children, and grandchildren.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN RICHARDS

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding leader from Missouri, Mr. John Richards. John is the CEO and general manager of Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative out of Marshfield, MO.

In March 2023, John announced he would be retiring at the end of the year to close out a long and distinguished career of over 48 years with Sho-Me Power. He began his career with Sho-Me Power in September 1975 as a supervisor trainee in their accounting department. Less than a year later, John was promoted to an accountant, and in 1979, he became the manager of finance, later referred to as chief financial officer, a position he would hold for 37 years. In 2016, John was appointed by Sho-Me Power's board of directors to become the Cooperative's fifth CEO and general manager.

John graduated college in 1975 after studying accounting at Missouri Southern State College and University of Tulsa. He later received his master of business administration from Drury University in 1978. While in school, John interned for KAMO Power and was later hired on full-time before moving to Sho-Me Power.

John has been a resident of Springfield, MO, for several decades and is glad to call it home. He is involved in his community and has volunteered at his church for many years. He welcomes more opportunities for community engagement that retirement will offer. In his retirement, John most looks forward to spending more time with his three granddaughters, traveling with his wife, golfing, and "not having to drive on I-44 every day."

I applaud John for his 48 years of leadership, dedication, and selfless service to Sho-Me Power Electric Cooperative, and I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring his incredible career and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.●

RECOGNIZING CHOWAN UNIVERSITY

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Chowan University, a North Carolina institution of higher education that has long served our great State and this Nation.

This year, Chowan University, located in Murfreesboro, NC, is celebrating the 175th anniversary of its founding, which occurred on October 11, 1848. Chowan's demisemiseptcentennial is a time to commemorate the institution, honor the heritage, and applaud the people who accomplished and are accomplishing extraordinary things by creating positive change in the lives of others.

Chowan is a Christian educational institution founded by Baptist families and named Chowan "people of the south," to honor the Native American Algonquin Chowanoke Tribe. In the spring of 1848, a group of fathers gathered at the home of Dr. Godwin Cotton Moore, moderator of the Chowan Baptist Association. These men were determined to have an institution that would give their daughters a well-rounded education, and they presented a resolution to the association. The association appointed the first trustees for the "female high school," to be called Chowan Female Institute. Dr. Archibald McDowell of South Carolina was elected first principal, and the institute opened on October 11, 1848, with 11 students—thus began the institution, which now boasts over 15,000 alumni who live around the world. These alumni, friends, students, families, faculty, and staff are held in high regard. They are transforming the world by solving problems, sharing talents, and spreading Chowan University's rich story.

Today, we honor Chowan University's commitment to the education of past, present, and future generations. I ask my fellow Senators to join me in honoring Chowan University for its service.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2103(b), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following individual to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress on the part of the House of Representatives for a term of 6 years: Ms. Amy Kitchen of Fresno, California.

The message further announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 8468(a), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. DELUZIO of Pennsylvania.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7455(a), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2751. A communication from the Senior Counsel of Legal Policy, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustment for 2023" (Docket No. OLP 175) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2752. A communication from the Chief of the Immigration Law Division, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer, Review Procedures" (RIN1615-AB28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2753. A communication from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the decision not to seek Supreme Court review of the *Abbot v. Biden* decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2754. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a legislative proposal that would instruct and provide statutory authority for the federal district court overseeing the criminal case against alleged Pan Am Flight 103 bombmaker Abu Agila Mohammed Mas'ud Kheir Al-Marimi to provide victims of the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2755. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act Report to Congress September 2023"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2756. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions; Multiple Chemicals" (FRL No. 11517-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2757. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supervisory Letter - Minimum Liquidity and Cash Flow Calculation Under Advisory Bulletin 2018-07" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2758. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Entry List Additions" (RIN0694-AJ41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2759. A communication from the Chair and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports

to Ethiopia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2760. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reliability Standards to Address Inverter-Based Resources" ((RIN1902-AG07) (Docket No. RM22-14-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2761. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updating Regulations for Engineering and Design Materials for Liquefied National Gas Facilities Related to Potential Impacts Caused by Natural Hazards" (Docket No. RM22-8-000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2762. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Returning the Urban Sea to Abundance: A Two-Year Review (2020-2021) of Implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2763. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes to Reporting Requirements for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and to Supplier Notifications for Chemicals of Special Concern; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting" ((RIN2070-AK97) (FRL No. 8741-04-OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2764. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Vehicle Miles Traveled Emissions Offset Demonstrations for the 2015 Ozone Standards; California" (FRL No. 10386-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2765. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval and Disapproval; Colorado; Serious Attainment Plan Elements and Related Revisions for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the Denver Metro/North Front Range Nonattainment Area" (FRL No. 11237-02-R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2766. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Revisions to Miscellaneous Particulate Matter Rules" (FRL No. 11368-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2767. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; FL; Miscellaneous SIP Revision" (FRL No.

11369-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2768. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Revisions; California; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District; Imperial County Air Pollution Control District; Correcting Amendments" (FRL No. 11409-01-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2769. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination to Defer Sanctions; California; California Air Resources Board" (FRL No. 11425-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2770. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System; Remedy for the 340B-Acquired Drug Payment Policy for Calendar Years 2018-2022" (RIN0938-AV18) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2771. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Home Health (HH) Prospective Payment System Rate Update; HH Quality Reporting Program Requirements; HH Value-Based Purchasing Expanded Model Requirements; Home Intravenous Immune Globulin Items and Services; Hospice Informal Dispute Resolution and Special Focus Program Requirements, Certain Requirements for Durable Medical Equipment Prosthetics and Orthotics Supplies; and Provider and Supplier Enrollment Requirements" (RIN0938-AV03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2772. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, Payment for Renal Dialysis Services Furnished to Individuals with Acute Kidney Injury, End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program, and End-Stage Renal Disease Treatment Choices Model" (RIN0938-AV05) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2773. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems; Quality Reporting Programs; Payment for Intensive Outpatient Services in Hospital Outpatient Departments, Community Mental Health Centers, Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Opioid Treatment Programs; Hospital Price Transparency; Changes to Community Mental

Health Centers Conditions of Participation, Changes to the Inpatient Prospective Payment System Medicare Code Editor; Rural Emergency Hospital Conditions of Participation Technical Correction" (RIN0938-AV09) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2774. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2024 Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment and Coverage Policies; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements; Medicare Advantage; Medicare and Medicaid Provider and Supplier Enrollment Policies; and Basic Health Program" (RIN0938-AV07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 1, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2775. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Israel in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23-068); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2776. A communication from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Uses of Partially Hydrogenated Oils in Foods" (RIN0910-A115) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 6, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2777. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a petition which was filed on behalf of workers at the Sandia National Laboratory, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to be added to the Special Exposure Cohort; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2778. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2840. A bill to improve access to and the quality of primary health care, expand the health workforce, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. COR-

TEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3247. A bill to safeguard the humane treatment of pregnant women by ensuring the presumption of release and prohibiting shackling, restraining, and other inhumane treatment of pregnant detained noncitizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3248. A bill to prohibit money services businesses from engaging in any transaction that involves a central bank digital currency issued by the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 3249. A bill to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas, as the "Captain Elwin Shopteese VA Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 3250. A bill to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3251. A bill to modify the boundary of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in the State of Illinois; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 3252. A bill to terminate the authorities of certain entities of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3253. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require research and development on frost or cold weather insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3254. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow expenses for parents to be taken into account as medical expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3255. A bill to establish a new non-immigrant category for alien relatives of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents seeking to enter the United States temporarily for family purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3256. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Veterans Experience Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3257. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend to Black veterans of World War II, and surviving spouses and certain direct descendants of such veterans, eligibility for certain housing loans and educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3258. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of ALS-related services under the Medicare program for individuals diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3259. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and expand technical assistance and support for recovery community organizations and peer support networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. 3260. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a working group to formulate recommendations for standardizing the measurements of loneliness and isolation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. REED, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. Kaine, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 3261. A bill to require the Federal Government to produce a national adaptation and resilience strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3262. A bill to establish a commission on fiscal stability and reform; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. SMITH):

S. Res. 454. A resolution designating November 8, 2023, as “National Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Day” and celebrating the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in education and the workforce in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 455. A resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, the 30th anniversary of the Future Leaders Exchange, and the 20th anniversary of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 456. A resolution designating November 2023 as “National College Application Month”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. Res. 457. A resolution honoring the distinguished service of Captain Samuel Farmer of the United States Marine Corps and the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 106

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 106, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 140

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 140, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 489

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 489, a bill to prohibit any direct or indirect United States funding for the territory of Gaza unless certain conditions are met.

S. 552

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 552, a bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act.

S. 597

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 644

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 644, a bill to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies.

S. 909

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 909, a bill to allow members of federally recognized Tribes to use their Tribal government identification documents in obtaining a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 1800

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1800, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes.

S. 1905

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1905, a bill to expand the categories of forfeited property available to remediate harms to Ukraine from Russian aggression, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a time-limited provisional approval pathway, subject to specific obligations, for certain drugs and biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 2090

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2090, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines.

S. 2258

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2258, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to permit supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be used to purchase additional types of food items.

S. 2311

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2311, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles, California.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2442

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2442, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility to certain short-term workforce programs.

S. 2444

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2444, a bill to establish an

interactive online dashboard to improve public access to information about grant funding related to mental health and substance use disorder programs.

S. 2515

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 2626

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2626, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2888, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during prepreparation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2932

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2932, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to State Medicaid agencies, public housing agencies, Continuums of Care, and housing finance agencies on connecting Medicaid beneficiaries with housing-related services and supports under Medicaid and other housing resources, and for other purposes.

S. 3027

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3027, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the energy credit for qualified fuel cell property.

S. 3028

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3028, a bill to continue in effect certain Executive orders imposing sanctions with respect to Iran, to prevent the waiver of certain sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to Iran until the Government of Iran ceases to attempt to assassinate United States officials, other United States citizens, and Iranian nationals residing in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3182

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3182, a bill to prohibit actions recognizing the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 3192

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3192, a bill to designate Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization and impose certain sanctions on Ansarallah, and for other purposes.

S. 3225

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3225, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to any foreign person that the President determines engages in or has engaged in a significant transaction or transactions, or any dealings with, or has provided material support to or for a military or intelligence facility of the People's Republic of China in Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 3236

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3236, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage of ambulance services that do not include transportation.

S.J. RES. 47

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 47, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice relating to "Office of the Attorney General; Home Confinement Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act".

S. RES. 320

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 320, a resolution calling for the immediate release of Eyvin Hernandez, a United States citizen and Los Angeles County public defender, who was wrongfully detained by the Venezuelan regime in March 2022.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 408

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 408, a resolution

condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 408, supra.

S. RES. 426

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 426, a resolution designating November 4, 2023, as "National Bison Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3251. A bill to modify the boundary of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in the State of Illinois; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

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

S. 3251

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lincoln Home National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act".

SEC. 2. LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.

Public Law 92-127 (54 U.S.C. 320101 note; 85 Stat. 347) is amended—

(1) in the first section—

(A) by striking "That, in order to" and inserting the following:

"SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—To"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) BOUNDARY MODIFICATION.—The boundary of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site established under subsection (a) is modified as generally depicted on the map entitled 'Proposed Boundary Expansion of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site' and dated February 26, 2021.";

(2) in section 2—

(A) by striking the section designation and all that follows through "The" and inserting the following:

"SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) ACCESSIBILITY.—To improve accessibility, the Secretary of the Interior shall modify the following areas located within the boundary of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site to provide universal design and accessibility without the use of sloped surfaces:

"(1) The intersection at 8th Street and Jackson Street.

"(2) The area in front of the home of Abraham Lincoln.";

(3) in section 3, by striking the section designation and all that follows through "There are" and inserting the following:

"SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There are".

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 3259. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and expand technical assistance and support for recovery community organizations and peer support networks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, today I rise to introduce the Peer Support Services Center of Excellence Act, a bipartisan bill that I have authored to help combat the vast and growing opioid epidemic. I want to acknowledge and thank Senator SHAHEEN for her leadership on this effort, and I look forward to continuing to work with her and others on this important legislation.

Last year in Maine, 716 people died from a drug overdose—a record number. Tragically, this was the third consecutive year that Maine set a record for fatal overdoses. Nationwide, nearly 110,000 Americans were lost in 2022 to overdoses. It is clear that we need to take an all-of-the-above approach to tackle this crisis. This includes support for education and prevention, treatment, law enforcement, and border security. No single focus will be enough on its own.

One ongoing challenge to reducing the number of overdose deaths is that far too often individuals suffer an addiction relapse. Indeed, a nonfatal overdose is a leading predictor for a future fatal overdose. We must do more to address this reality. Between 40 and 60 percent of individuals in treatment for substance use disorders relapse, and this rate is often much higher for those struggling with opioid addiction. Relapse rates are high, but that does not mean relapse is inevitable.

One way that individuals struggling with addiction are finding support is through peer recovery groups. In 2018, Senator SHAHEEN and I introduced the Opioid Peer Support Networks Act, much of which was enacted as part of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act that year. Our bill fostered the expansion of peer support networks through the creation of a National Peer-Run Training and Technical Assistance Center for Addiction Recovery Support. This center provides no-cost training and assistance to recovery community organizations, or RCOs, and peer support networks to integrate peer support workers into non-traditional settings, build and strengthen the capacity of RCOs, enhance the professionalism of peers through workforce development, as well as provide evidence-based and practice-based tool kits and resource information to stakeholders.

This national center has enhanced the field of peer recovery support services. Through the center's work, in fiscal year 2022, nearly 2,000 individuals were trained in how to support RCOs and peer support networks, and nearly

200 individuals were trained to provide specialized technical assistance, evaluate and improve the effectiveness of services provided by RCOs, and offer translation and interpretation services, data collection support, and capacity building expertise. This training is improving the services that are offered by organizations across our country, and the center has provided a platform for experts and recovery centers to learn from each other's experiences.

In peer support networks, individuals and families battling addiction help one another stay firm on the road to recovery by assisting with employment, education, housing, health and overall well-being. I have visited the Bangor Area Recovery Network, or BARN, in Brewer, ME, which is a volunteer-led organization that provides support to individuals recovering from addiction. BARN is a model for peer-led counseling and brings hope, recovery support, and healing to those struggling with substance abuse. Individuals who are themselves in recovery can make that critical connection to others facing addiction, which, in turn, can make the recovery process sustainable and reduce the stigma of addiction and treatment.

In recent years, in response to growing need and community efforts to expand recovery programming, Maine has seen the presence of RCOs like BARN grow across our State. As of January 2023, there were 19 recovery centers—from Sanford to Caribou—operated by people in recovery who are serving their local communities by offering peer-based support services, among other activities.

After touring BARN and other similar organizations, I believe the emergence of peer-based and other recovery support services is one of the most significant trends in the addiction field. Peer-based recovery support services are unique in that they cover a wide range of activities not generally offered by treatment providers. This includes recovery coaching, support groups, sober social activities, as well as housing, transportation, and employment services. In offering services beyond treatment, this model provides the strong support system that is essential to recovery. As one of BARN's core beliefs tells us, "A supportive community is vital to a successful recovery."

The Opioid Peer Support Networks Act brought critical training and assistance to these on-the-ground peer-to-peer networks and helped build up these important recovery support systems. Our new bill reauthorizes the National Peer-Run Training and Technical Assistance Center for Addiction Recovery Support that is set to expire, and it expands upon the work made possible by our bill that was enacted 5 years ago. In addition to reauthorizing the center, our bill would create a pilot program for a regional center of excellence that could assist the national center and tailor its work to the needs of a particular region.

We believe that the development of regional assistance programs, along with the continuation of a national center, will promote coordination and effectiveness of technical assistance delivery. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, utilizing a regional model to grow the national center's reach may be an effective way to triage and distribute technical assistance requests and ensure that all entry points are coordinated centrally by retaining the National Center.

Tackling the opioid epidemic, both its causes and consequences, requires a multi-pronged approach. The bipartisan bill I have introduced continues and builds upon one proven way to respond to this growing problem—supporting individuals in recovery through proven support systems.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 454—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 8, 2023, AS "NATIONAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) DAY" AND CELEBRATING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS IN EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 454

Whereas the Bureau of Labor shows that there are currently over 10,000,000 Americans employed in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) occupations in the United States;

Whereas STEM occupations are projected to grow more than 10 percent between 2022 and 2032 to nearly 11,500,000 jobs;

Whereas over 821,000 new STEM job openings will become available within the next decade;

Whereas, in 2018, only 20 percent of high school graduates in the United States were fully prepared for college-level STEM curriculum courses;

Whereas women are largely underrepresented in the STEM workforce and hold less than 1/3 of all STEM jobs;

Whereas the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics shows that, in 2021, Hispanic workers represented only 15 percent of the STEM workforce and Black workers represented only 9 percent; and

Whereas teaching STEM subjects to students in the classroom can help inspire them to consider STEM career paths: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 8, 2023, as "National Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Day";

(2) celebrates the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in education and the workforce in the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe National STEM Day with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 455—RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE, THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FUTURE LEADERS EXCHANGE, AND THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENNEDY-LUGAR YOUTH EXCHANGE AND STUDY

Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 455

Whereas 2023 marks the 40th anniversary of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (referred to in this preamble as “CBYX”);

Whereas CBYX was established by Congress to allow participants and communities to benefit from mutual understanding and the sharing of ideas;

Whereas CBYX participants represent the spirit, values, and diversity of the United States on an international stage;

Whereas CBYX provides high school students and young professionals in the United States and Germany with a valuable opportunity to live and study in the other country for an academic year;

Whereas, for the youth of the United States and Germany, CBYX strengthens ties between them, improves their career skills through formal study and work experience, and expands their perspectives and awareness of the culture, society, history, and politics of each other;

Whereas maintaining a strong, mutually beneficial relationship with Germany, a key ally, remains a top priority for the United States;

Whereas, since 1983, more than 29,000 students have participated in CBYX;

Whereas 2023 marks the 30th anniversary of the Future Leaders Exchange (referred to in this preamble as “FLEX”);

Whereas FLEX was established by Congress after the fall of the Soviet Union to allow students from former Eastern Bloc nations to live and study in the United States;

Whereas FLEX students gain leadership skills, learn about the society and values of the United States, and teach the people of the United States about their home countries and cultures;

Whereas FLEX students perform community service in their United States communities and act as ambassadors of their home countries;

Whereas FLEX produces world leaders, including Rustem Umierov, the current Minister of Defense of Ukraine, who go on to promote democratic values on the world stage;

Whereas the best way to ensure long-lasting peace and mutual understanding between the United States and the countries of Eurasia is to enable young people to learn about the United States and the people of the United States firsthand;

Whereas, since 1993, more than 30,000 students from more than 22 countries have participated in FLEX;

Whereas 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (referred to in this preamble as “YES”);

Whereas YES was established by Congress after the events of September 11, 2001, to build bridges between citizens of the United States and countries around the world, particularly those with significant Muslim populations;

Whereas YES participants from abroad live with volunteer host families in the United States, attend high school, and engage in

community service and civic education activities;

Whereas YES offers participants from the United States full scholarships for 1 academic year to live and study abroad in selected YES countries;

Whereas, since 2003, approximately 15,000 students from more than 45 countries have participated in YES and YES Abroad; and

Whereas CBYX, FLEX, and YES advance key foreign policy goals by empowering young people around the globe, supporting civil society and democratic ideals, and promoting mutual understanding between the United States and other countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes—

(A) the 40th anniversary of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange;

(B) the 30th anniversary of the Future Leaders Exchange; and

(C) the 20th anniversary of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study;

(2) recognizes and congratulates all past and present participants of the programs described in paragraph (1); and

(3) encourages continued support by Congress and the President for the important mission of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, which is to design, implement, and oversee educational, professional, and cultural exchange programs and public engagement activities to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries;

(4) supports the use of international exchange programs to build future leaders who can meet global challenges that promote mutual understanding, cross-cultural networks, inclusive leadership development, and civic education; and

(5) encourages families and high schools in the United States to consider opportunities to host youth exchange programs administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, including the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, the Future Leaders Exchange, and the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study, to help build mutual understanding in their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 456—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH”

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 456

Whereas equality of opportunity for all people is one of the noblest aspirations of the United States;

Whereas data on the benefits of higher education demonstrates that, in spite of ongoing barriers to access and student success, colleges and universities can still provide pathways to economic opportunity;

Whereas the United States built a thriving middle class by funding colleges and universities to provide avenues to individual economic opportunity and shared economic growth;

Whereas higher education enhances the economic mobility of individuals, which is evidenced by—

(1) a finding by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce that the median lifetime earnings of holders of an associate degree are uniformly greater than the median lifetime earnings of holders of solely a high school diploma; and

(2) a finding by the Pew Economic Mobility Project that, for an individual born in the lowest income quintile, obtaining a 4-year degree or a higher degree is associated with—

(A) an approximately 80-percent difference in the probability of that individual earning an income outside the lowest income quintile; and

(B) a threefold difference in the probability of that individual going on to earn an income in the highest income quintile;

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that—

(1) the unemployment rate of recent high school graduates not enrolled in college was 18.3 percent, nearly 5 times higher than the overall unemployment rate of the United States;

(2) approximately 38 percent of 2022 high school graduates did not immediately matriculate to an institution of higher education the following fall semester, about the same percent as in 2021, and a 4.2 percentage point decline since 2012 in the rate of immediate matriculation of new high school graduates to an institution of higher education;

(3) the decline described in paragraph (2) was most notable among Hispanic and male high school graduates, who faced 12 percentage point and 6 percentage point declines, respectively, from 2012 in immediate matriculation to an institution of higher education; and

(4) the unemployment rate of adults with a bachelor's degree is nearly half that of the unemployment rate of adults whose highest credential is a high school degree;

Whereas the National Student Clearinghouse reports that overall undergraduate enrollment in colleges and universities continues to decline;

Whereas the complexity of financial aid systems and rising college costs can serve as additional deterrents or barriers for students and families as they assess the viability of higher education programs as a postsecondary option;

Whereas many students struggle to identify and compare postsecondary options due to—

(1) difficulties accessing school counseling services, which is evidenced by an estimation of the American School Counselor Association that the average student-to-counselor ratio in the United States is 408 to 1;

(2) an absence of reliable programmatic and institutional outcome data; and

(3) a lack of comparable and understandable college financial aid offers;

Whereas, in addition to expanding outreach and support to recent high school graduates, colleges and universities must also expand outreach and support to all undergraduate students;

Whereas applications for State-based financial aid are available in many States for students who do not qualify for Federal student aid; and

Whereas the data on the benefits of higher education underscores and reinforces the value of ensuring that all individuals, including students enrolled in high school and working adults—

(1) understand their postsecondary options;

(2) understand college financing opportunities; and

(3) have support to navigate the college application and financial aid processes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2023 as “National College Application Month”; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to—

(A) evaluate options for pursuing higher education;

(B) submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or an appropriate application for State-based financial aid in order to receive college financing opportunities; and

(C) support every student, regardless of the background, age, or resources of the student, in obtaining the skills and knowledge needed to thrive;

(3) supports efforts to better assist low-income and first-generation college students throughout the financial aid and college application process;

(4) urges public officials, educators, parents, students, and communities in the United States to observe National College Application Month with appropriate activities and programs designed to encourage students to consider, research, and apply to college and for financial aid; and

(5) commends teachers, counselors, mentors, and parents who support students throughout the college application process, as well as the organizations and institutions partnering to eliminate barriers to higher education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 457—HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF CAPTAIN SAMUEL FARMER OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND THE MARINES AND SAILORS OF 1ST PLATOON, COMPANY G, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT

Mr. HAWLEY submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 457

Whereas Captain Samuel Farmer, from the State of Missouri, a dedicated and courageous officer of the United States Marine Corps, faithfully served the United States for more than 4 years;

Whereas Captain Samuel Farmer displayed an unwavering devotion to duty throughout his military career;

Whereas then-First Lieutenant Samuel Farmer demonstrated outstanding bravery and selflessness while commanding the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment during Operation Allies Refuge in Afghanistan;

Whereas then-First Lieutenant Samuel Farmer led the Marines and sailors under his command in assisting and protecting civilians under deteriorating conditions at Abbey Gate during the Kabul airlift;

Whereas the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, in acts of noble humanitarianism, provided their own food and water to women and children attempting to flee Kabul;

Whereas the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment displayed heroism in combat with the enemy at Abbey Gate, including the critically wounded Marines who refused treatment in order to save fallen comrades;

Whereas 9 members of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment were killed in action and 14 members were wounded at Abbey Gate;

Whereas then-First Lieutenant Samuel Farmer and the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service; and

Whereas Captain Samuel Farmer honorably completed his service in the United States Marine Corps on October 30, 2023: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends its deepest gratitude to Captain Samuel Farmer for his dedicated service to the United States;

(2) recognizes the sacrifices that Captain Samuel Farmer and the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment made for the United States;

(3) commends the heroism shown by Captain Samuel Farmer and the Marines and sailors under his command in the line of duty; and

(4) honors Captain Samuel Farmer and the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment for their devotion to duty and decisive leadership in the face of enemy action at Abbey Gate in Kabul, Afghanistan.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1363. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 670, to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1363. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 670, to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATORS MAINTAIN PURPOSEFUL AWARENESS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING TRAUMA PROGRAM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established, in Homeland Security Investigations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program (referred to in this Act as the “IMPACTT Program”).

(b) **FUNCTIONS.**—The IMPACTT Program shall—

(1) provide outreach and training to Homeland Security Investigations employees who have been exposed to various forms of trauma in working with victims of human trafficking, including—

(A) self-awareness training for the relevant employees on recognizing the signs of burnout, compassion fatigue, critical incident stress, traumatic stress, posttraumatic stress, secondary traumatic stress, and vicarious trauma;

(B) training material that—

(i) provides mechanisms for self-care and resilience and notification of resources that are available through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, such as the Employee Assistance Program, the Peer Support Program, the Chaplain Program, and other relevant accredited programs that are available; and

(ii) provides examples of potential resources that are available outside of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which may include, faith-based and community-based resources; and

(C) provide additional training to first line supervisors of relevant employees on recognizing the signs referred to in subparagraph (A) and the appropriate responses to employees exhibiting such signs;

(2) include training modules that are carried out by—

(A) licensed and accredited clinicians who—

(i) have been trained on the exposure of various forms of trauma and other stressors experienced in working with victims; and

(ii) may have experience working with faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, counseling programs, or other social service programs; and

(B) additional subject matter experts who are available; and

(3) be overseen and coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering Human Trafficking to ensure that—

(A) appropriate program materials are distributed;

(B) training is offered to all relevant employees; and

(C) any needed travel and equipment is provided.

SEC. 3. HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle D of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 447. HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **FORENSIC INTERVIEW SPECIALIST.**—The term ‘forensic interview specialist’ is an interview professional who has specialized experience and training in conducting trauma-informed forensic interviews with victims of crime.

“(2) **VICTIM.**—The term ‘victim’ has the meaning given such term in section 503(e)(2) of the Victims’ Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20141(e)(2)).

“(3) **VICTIM ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST.**—The term ‘victim assistance specialist’ is a victim assistance professional who—

“(A) has experience working with victims of crime in a service capacity;

“(B) has been trained on the exposure of various forms of trauma and other stressors experienced in working with victims; and

“(C) may have experience working with local government and community-based organizations, including victim advocacy centers, child advocacy centers, child welfare agencies, faith-based organizations, and other social service programs.

“(b) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established, in Homeland Security Investigations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Victim Assistance Program.

“(c) **FUNCTIONS.**—The Victim Assistance Program shall—

“(1) provide oversight, guidance, training, travel, equipment, and coordination to Homeland Security Investigations victim assistance personnel throughout the United States;

“(2) recruit not fewer than—

“(A) 1 forensic interview specialist and 1 victim assistance specialist for each Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent in Charge office;

“(B) 1 victim assistance specialist for—

“(i) every Homeland Security Investigations office participating in a human trafficking task force; and

“(ii) every Homeland Security Investigations office participating in a child sexual exploitation task force;

“(3) support Homeland Security Investigations regional attaché offices, to the extent necessary;

“(4) provide training regarding victims’ rights, victim-related policies, roles of forensic interviewers and victim assistance specialists, and an approach that is—

“(A) victim-centered;

“(B) trauma-informed; and

“(C) linguistically appropriate, to the extent feasible; and

“(5) purchase emergency items that are needed to assist identified victims in Homeland Security Investigations criminal investigations, including food, clothing, hygiene products, transportation, and temporary shelter that is not otherwise provided by a nongovernmental organization.”.

(b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–296) is amended—

(1) in section 1(b) (6 U.S.C. 101 note)—

(A) by striking the item relating to section 442 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 442. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.”;

and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 446 the following:

“Sec. 447. Homeland Security Investigations Victim Assistance Program.”;

(2) in section 442—

(A) by amending the section heading to read as follows: “**U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT**”;

(B) by striking “bureau” each place such term appears (except in subsection (a)(1)) and inserting “agency”;

(C) by striking “the Bureau of Border Security” each place such term appears and inserting “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement”;

(D) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking “OF BUREAU”;

(ii) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking “affecting the Bureau of” and inserting “affecting U.S.”; and

(iii) in paragraph (4), by striking “the Bureau.” and inserting “the agency.”; and

(E) in subsection (b)(2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Bureau of Border Security” and inserting “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the Bureau of” before “Citizenship and Immigration Services” and inserting “U.S.”; and

(3) in section 443(2), by striking “such bureau” and inserting “such agency”.

SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to Congress that identifies, with respect to the reporting period—

(1) the number of trainings that were provided through the IMPACTT Program and the number of personnel who received such training; and

(2) the number of human trafficking victims who were assisted by the Homeland Security Investigations Victim Assistance Program.

SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall cease to have force or effect beginning on October 1, 2030.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I have seven requests for commit-

tees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

NATIONAL COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 456, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The resolution (S. Res. 456) designating November 2023 as “National College Application Month”.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 456) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF CAPTAIN SAMUEL FARMER OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS AND THE MARINES AND SAILORS OF 1ST PLATOON, COMPANY G, 2ND BATTALION, 1ST MARINE REGIMENT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 457, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 457) honoring the distinguished service of Captain Samuel Farmer of the United States Marine Corps and the Marines and sailors of 1st Platoon, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 457) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFICER RETIREMENT TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration Calendar No. 217, S. 311.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 311) to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer Retirement Technical Corrections Act”.

SEC. 2. ADJUSTMENT RELATED TO TRANSITION RULES.

(a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section the term “Eligible Individual” means any individual who—

(1) received a tentative offer of employment as a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer before July 6, 2008; and

(2) entered into duty as a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer on or after July 6, 2008, as a result of an offer described in paragraph (1).

(b) **TREATMENT OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—**Eligible Individuals—

(1) are considered to be individuals serving as U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers on July 6, 2008, for purposes of section 535(e) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008 (division E of Public Law 110-161; 121 Stat. 1844); and

(2) are entitled to—

(A) the minimum annuity amount required under section 535(e)(2)(C) of such Act; and

(B) an exemption from mandatory retirement otherwise required under section 8425(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION.—**

(1) **SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—**Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(A) create a list of all Eligible Individuals;

(B) notify each Eligible Individual of the annuity correction described in subsection (b); and

(C) provide the Director of the Office of Personnel Management with all of the information that is necessary for making annuity corrections with respect to Eligible Individuals.

(2) **COMPLETION OF ANNUITY CORRECTION.—**After receiving the information described in paragraph (1)(C), the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall make the annuity correction described in subsection (b) with respect to each Eligible Individual, including a retroactive annuity adjustment for Eligible Individuals who retired before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) **WAIVERS AND GUIDANCE.—**

(1) **WAIVERS.—**The Secretary of Homeland Security may retroactively waive the maximum entry age requirement under 3307(g) of title 5, United States Code, to the extent necessary, to ensure that each Eligible Individual is eligible for immediate retirement with the annuity correction described in subsection (b).

(2) **GUIDANCE.—**The Director of the Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall issue appropriate guidance to assist in the implementation of the annuity correction described in subsection (b).

(e) **GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.—**The Comptroller General of the United States—

(1) shall review U.S. Customs and Border Protection (referred to in this subsection as “CBP”) hiring practices, policies, and procedures related to eligibility for enhanced retirement benefits referred to in this section by assessing—

(A) the process for determining whether an employee qualifies for such benefits, including considering any potential factors that would make an employee ineligible for such enhanced retirement benefits;

(B) the internal controls used by CBP to ensure that all eligible employees, and only eligible employees, receive such enhanced retirement benefits;

(C) the policies regarding the use of employees’ personnel files to ensure compliance with current laws governing retirement benefits; and

(D) the adequacy of the training provided to CBP senior executives regarding human resources and hiring practices at CBP; and

(2) not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that describes the results of the review conducted pursuant to paragraph (1).

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported

substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion 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 committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 311), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

IMPACTT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 45, S. 670.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 670) to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I further ask unanimous consent that the Peters substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion 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 amendment (No. 1363) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “IMPACTT Human Trafficking Act”.

SEC. 2. INVESTIGATORS MAINTAIN PURPOSEFUL AWARENESS TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING TRAUMA PROGRAM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.—**There is established, in Homeland Security Investigations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program (referred to in this Act as the “IMPACTT Program”).

(b) **FUNCTIONS.—**The IMPACTT Program shall—

(1) provide outreach and training to Homeland Security Investigations employees who have been exposed to various forms of trauma in working with victims of human trafficking, including—

(A) self-awareness training for the relevant employees on recognizing the signs of burn-out, compassion fatigue, critical incident stress, traumatic stress, posttraumatic stress, secondary traumatic stress, and vicarious trauma;

(B) training material that—

(i) provides mechanisms for self-care and resilience and notification of resources that are available through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, such as the Employee Assistance Program, the Peer Support Program, the Chaplain Program, and other relevant accredited programs that are available; and

(ii) provides examples of potential resources that are available outside of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which may include, faith-based and community-based resources; and

(C) provide additional training to first line supervisors of relevant employees on recognizing the signs referred to in subparagraph (A) and the appropriate responses to employees exhibiting such signs;

(2) include training modules that are carried out by—

(A) licensed and accredited clinicians who—

(i) have been trained on the exposure of various forms of trauma and other stressors experienced in working with victims; and

(ii) may have experience working with faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, counseling programs, or other social service programs; and

(B) additional subject matter experts who are available; and

(3) be overseen and coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering Human Trafficking to ensure that—

(A) appropriate program materials are distributed;

(B) training is offered to all relevant employees; and

(C) any needed travel and equipment is provided.

SEC. 3. HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.—**Subtitle D of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 447. HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

“(1) **FORENSIC INTERVIEW SPECIALIST.—**The term ‘forensic interview specialist’ is an interview professional who has specialized experience and training in conducting trauma-informed forensic interviews with victims of crime.

“(2) **VICTIM.—**The term ‘victim’ has the meaning given such term in section 503(e)(2) of the Victims’ Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (34 U.S.C. 20141(e)(2)).

“(3) **VICTIM ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST.—**The term ‘victim assistance specialist’ is a victim assistance professional who—

“(A) has experience working with victims of crime in a service capacity;

“(B) has been trained on the exposure of various forms of trauma and other stressors experienced in working with victims; and

“(C) may have experience working with local government and community-based organizations, including victim advocacy centers, child advocacy centers, child welfare agencies, faith-based organizations, and other social service programs.

“(b) **IN GENERAL.—**There is established, in Homeland Security Investigations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Victim Assistance Program.

“(c) **FUNCTIONS.—**The Victim Assistance Program shall—

“(1) provide oversight, guidance, training, travel, equipment, and coordination to Homeland Security Investigations victim assistance personnel throughout the United States;

“(2) recruit not fewer than—

“(A) 1 forensic interview specialist and 1 victim assistance specialist for each Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent in Charge office;

“(B) 1 victim assistance specialist for—

“(i) every Homeland Security Investigations office participating in a human trafficking task force; and

“(ii) every Homeland Security Investigations office participating in a child sexual exploitation task force;

“(3) support Homeland Security Investigations regional attaché offices, to the extent necessary;

“(4) provide training regarding victims’ rights, victim-related policies, roles of forensic interviewers and victim assistance specialists, and an approach that is—

“(A) victim-centered;

“(B) trauma-informed; and

“(C) linguistically appropriate, to the extent feasible; and

“(5) purchase emergency items that are needed to assist identified victims in Homeland Security Investigations criminal investigations, including food, clothing, hygiene products, transportation, and temporary shelter that is not otherwise provided by a nongovernmental organization.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296) is amended—

(1) in section 1(b) (6 U.S.C. 101 note)—

(A) by striking the item relating to section 442 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 442. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.”;

and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 446 the following:

“Sec. 447. Homeland Security Investigations Victim Assistance Program.”;

(2) in section 442—

(A) by amending the section heading to read as follows: “U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT”;

(B) by striking “bureau” each place such term appears (except in subsection (a)(1)) and inserting “agency”;

(C) by striking “the Bureau of Border Security” each place such term appears and inserting “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement”;

(D) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking “OF BUREAU”;

(ii) in paragraph (3)(C), by striking “affecting the Bureau of” and inserting “affecting U.S.”; and

(iii) in paragraph (4), by striking “the Bureau.” and inserting “the agency.”; and

(E) in subsection (b)(2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Bureau of Border Security” and inserting “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the Bureau of” before “Citizenship and Immigration Services” and inserting “U.S.”; and

(3) in section 443(2), by striking “such bureau” and inserting “such agency”.

SEC. 4. ANNUAL REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to Congress that identifies, with respect to the reporting period—

(1) the number of trainings that were provided through the IMPACTT Program and the number of personnel who received such training; and

(2) the number of human trafficking victims who were assisted by the Homeland Security Investigations Victim Assistance Program.

SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall cease to have force or effect beginning on October 1, 2030.

The bill (S. 670), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 749 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 749) to ensure that the National Advisory Council on Indian Education includes at least 1 member who is the president of a Tribal College or University and to require the Secretaries of Education and Interior to consider the National Advisory Council on Indian Education’s reports in the preparation of budget materials.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 749) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 749

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Advisory Council on Indian Education Improvement Act” or the “NACIE Improvement Act”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON INDIAN EDUCATION.

(a) MEMBERSHIP OF NACIE.—By not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and notwithstanding any other provision of section 6141 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7471), the President shall ensure that the National Advisory Council on Indian Education established under such section includes at least one member who is a president of a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

(b) CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS.—

(1) SHARING OF REPORT WITH SECRETARIES OF EDUCATION AND INTERIOR.—By not later than June 30 of each year, the National Advisory Council on Indian Education shall provide the NACIE annual report submitted to Congress under section 6141(b)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of

1965 (20 U.S.C. 7471(b)(3)) for such year to the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—The Secretary of Education, in preparing the budget materials submitted to Congress by the Secretary in support of the budget of the United States Government that is submitted under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, shall consider the most recent NACIE annual report.

(3) DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.—The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Education Subcommittee of the Tribal-Interior Budget Council, in preparing the budget materials submitted to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior in support of the budget of the United States Government that is submitted under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, shall consider the most recent NACIE annual report.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “NACIE annual report” means the report prepared under section 6141(b)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7471(b)(3)).

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I finally ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Almadani nomination postcloture; further, that following the disposition of the Almadani nomination, the Senate vote on confirmation of the McMillion nomination, and that at 1:45 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the de Alba nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:56 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 8, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

RAMON ERNESTO REYES, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARK W. LIBBY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN.

EDGARD D. KAGAN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MALAYSIA.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

CHARLOTTE A. BURROWS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2028.