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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father and our God, in the silence of this moment, we feel gratitude for the privilege of approaching Your throne of grace.

Lord, we come to You aware that You know us better than we know ourselves. We are grateful that You know what we need even before we ask. Forgive our mistakes and the wrong we have done.

Lord, You know that, at times, we have been difficult to live with. Enliven our lawmakers. Let Your power come among them, as You direct them according to Your will. Remind them that their lives, Nation, and world are in Your hands.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 13, 2022.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4822

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for a second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

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

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ABORTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, shortly after the news leaked that the U.S. Supreme Court was ready to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, Leader MCCONNELL acknowledged that a Federal ban on abortion was now “possible”—his words. Well, later today, the senior Senator from South Carolina is going to make good on Leader MCCONNELL’s warning by introducing a radical bill to

institute a nationwide restriction on abortions.

Proposals like the one today send a clear message from MAGA Republicans to women across the country: your body, our choice. Rather than expanding women’s rights, MAGA Republicans would curtail them rather than give individuals the freedom to make their own healthcare choices. They hand that power over to radical politicians.

And let me add this. Republicans are twisting themselves into pretzels trying to explain why they want nationwide abortion bans when they said they would leave it up to the States. Even the senior Senator from South Carolina said a few months ago that “if the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*,” it would mean that “every state will decide if abortion is legal and on what terms.” And yet here he is, introducing a bill to restrict abortions nationally.

For the hard right, this has never been about States’ rights. This has never been about letting Texas choose its own path while California takes another. No, for MAGA Republicans this has always been about making abortion illegal everywhere.

The contrast has become clear. While Democrats want to protect a woman’s freedom to choose, MAGA Republicans want to take that right away with proposals to ban abortions, to punish women and doctors for carrying out abortions, and even to push bans with no exceptions for rape or incest.

We are seeing it play out across the country. It is chilling—chilling—to the bone. Every single American should stand in opposition against these radical MAGA Republican views.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on the IRA, this afternoon I will join with my Senate Democratic colleagues at the White House to celebrate the enactment of the Inflation Reduction Act

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



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of 2022. When this bill passed the Senate a little over a month ago, I expressed confidence that this legislation would signal a turning point in our country's fight to lower costs, to meet our Nation's climate challenges, and to usher in the era of affordable clean energy.

A month later, the good news is already pouring in. Companies like Toyota have announced billions in new investments to start manufacturing batteries for electric and hybrid vehicles right here in America. Elsewhere, Honda and LG Energy have also recently announced over \$4 billion for EV battery production in the United States. And recently, the CEO of First Solar said it was the Inflation Reduction Act that provided the "clarity" needed to make their investments here in America.

Had we not done this, many of these plants would have been built but probably overseas. And yet, despite this record of success, despite the fact that Democrats have told Republicans that this is opening a new way for the future for American jobs with good futures here, not one Republican voted in favor of this bill.

That is the difference between the two parties in a nutshell: While MAGA Republicans are fixated on their extremist agenda, Democrats are focused on creating jobs, lowering costs, bringing our country together. While Democrats will join today with President Biden to promote our job-creating agenda, Republicans will spend today introducing new, radical legislation to ban abortions on the national level, right here on the Senate floor. That is the contrast between the parties, clear as day, and we know which side the American people are on.

And while Democrats want to lower costs, increase prosperity, and strengthen ladders to the middle class, the junior Senator from Florida, who serves as the chief elections architect for Senate Republicans, continues to promote tax hikes—tax hikes—for working families and putting Medicare on the chopping block.

This split screen is unmistakable for all Americans to see for themselves. Democrats will spend today focused on the job-creating, inflation-fighting agenda we promised and delivered for the American people, while Republicans continue defending tax hikes for the working class while pushing national abortion bans here in the Senate. And the American people will have no trouble deciding for themselves which party is truly in their corner.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. On judges, last night I moved to file cloture on the nomination of Sarah Merriam to be U.S. circuit judge for the Second Circuit. She will be the sixth circuit court judge this Chamber has considered since the beginning of this work period—the sixth. She will be in exceedingly good company.

Later today, we will vote on the nomination of Arianna Freeman to be U.S. circuit judge for the Third Circuit, followed by cloture on the nomination of Lara Montecalvo to serve on the First Circuit.

Altogether, the Senate has now confirmed 80—80—judicial nominations to serve lifetime appointments on the Federal bench. I made clear that confirming more of President Biden's judicial nominees would be a top priority for Senate Democrats, and we are making good on our promise by being on track to vote on six circuit court judges in the first 2 weeks of this work period alone.

Among the judges confirmed this month are a number of notable firsts: the first Latino to serve from the State of Washington to the Ninth Circuit, the first Black Tennessean to ever sit on the Sixth Circuit, and the first Asian American from anywhere to sit on the Seventh Circuit. And that is just in the last 2 weeks.

The 80 jurists we have confirmed also include the first Native American judge, the first Muslim American district judge, and the first Black woman, of course, in the history of the U.S. Supreme Court. I mention these firsts because even though it takes a lot to be a successful jurist, representation is a key part of the equation.

There has been a lot of talk lately about the public's trust in our courts—in my judgment, for very good reasons. So if our courts are to long endure—to say nothing of our democracy—they must reflect the rich vibrancy of our country.

So as we continue confirming judges, we will make sure that the individuals on the bench meet this important standard. We have come a very long way, but there is much work left to be done.

NATIONAL SEPSIS DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on sepsis, I want to say a few words on a health issue that rarely gets the attention it deserves here on the Senate floor, and that is the issue of sepsis. Every year, roughly 1.7 million Americans are infected with sepsis. That is a population roughly the size of Phoenix, AZ. Of those, 270,000—270,000—are ultimately killed by the disease.

For those unfamiliar, sepsis is a terrible, life-threatening condition where the body overreacts to an infection in an extreme way. Most cases are preventable, if they are caught with enough time. Sadly, because of a lack of public awareness, too many cases fly under the radar until it is too late.

So today, I am here to introduce a resolution designating September 13 as National Sepsis Day. It would encourage greater public education about this condition, urge Federal entities to streamline treatment guidelines, and marshal our resources to ultimately bring sepsis to an end.

The Federal Government has a great model to follow in my home State of

New York, which adopted Rory's Regulations to guide health officials when it comes to this illness named in honor of Rory Staunton, a 12-year-old from Queens who died from sepsis 10 years ago. These rules have undoubtedly saved countless lives and should inform Federal policy.

I cannot imagine the profound suffering that Rory's parents must feel to this day, but I hope they find strength in knowing that the rules bearing their son's name have gone a long way to help others.

It is time we take this disease seriously at the Federal level. For that reason, I am proud to introduce this resolution today.

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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

INFLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Just a few minutes ago, yet again, the American people received a monthly inflation report that was even worse than the expert predictions.

The expectation was that Democrats' runaway inflation might finally begin to actually level off. The top-line inflation rate was expected to fall. Instead, yet again, the opposite happened. Overall inflation was up even higher.

The prices this past August were still 8.3 percent higher than they were in August of 2021. Just a catastrophically high inflation rate.

Food prices went up another 0.8 percent just this past month alone. Overall food prices just logged their biggest 1-year increase since the late 1970s. Groceries in particular are now 13.5 percent more expensive than they were at this time last year. Democrats' policies are sucker-punching American families every time they set foot in the checkout line. Eggs are up 40 percent. Butter, up 25 percent. Baby food, up 13 percent. Chicken, dairy, bread, cereal, and canned fruits and vegetables are all up around 16 percent each. Coffee is up even more than that.

Housing and shelter costs were up. Medical costs were up. Furniture, up. New cars, up.

Electricity costs were way, way up—a 15.8-percent increase since last year. So let me say that again. Inflation on Americans' electricity bills alone—alone—is 15.8 percent in just the last 12

months. This is the largest 1-year increase in electricity prices since 1981, when the statistic was looking back into the final months of Jimmy Carter.

Even if you take out energy and food prices—two areas where the administration likes to pass the buck and pretend they are powerless—inflation skyrocketed 0.6 percent in just the month of August alone.

Eight-point-three percent inflation—just an astonishing number. And remember, this figure only looks back 12 months, but we are now more than 12 months into the Democrats' inflation spiral. Prices are 8.3 percent higher today than in August of 2021, but remember, in August 2021, the baseline, we were already talking about runaway inflation. Prices were already way up compared to the year before that. So the 12-month number dramatically understates the total damage that Democrats have caused.

Here is the comparison that matters most to American families, especially with an election in less than 2 months: How are things today compared to January 2021, when this all-Democratic government was sworn in? How are they compared to January 2021? Here is the answer: Food prices are up a total of 13.9 percent since President Biden was sworn in. Gas prices are up 58.5 percent. Electricity costs are up 21.6 percent. And the overall, across-the-board inflation rate since President Biden took office is a catastrophic—catastrophic—12.5 percent.

This very day, President Biden and Democrats are having a big celebration for their latest reckless spending bill, which they pretended would reduce inflation but which nonpartisan experts say will actually make it worse. They could not look more out of touch if they tried.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, this past weekend, Vice President HARRIS made a surprising announcement on "Meet the Press." The Vice President declared—listen to this—"The border is secure."

We are about to close the fiscal year with more than 2 million illegal immigrant encounters on our southern border, breaking the alltime record that we only just set last year. Seizures of lethal fentanyl are also on pace to exceed last year's total. They are up more than 200 percent in just the latest month on record. These are not the signs of a secure border, and the American people know it. An outright majority of the country disapproves of how President Biden has been handling this issue. The Vice President's claims aren't fooling anyone.

For years now, this crisis has stretched border communities to the breaking point and caused ripples throughout the entire country. All the while, Democrats have claimed it would be cruel or uncompassionate to have a functioning southern border or actually enforce our laws.

Now, in recent weeks, the country has been treated to one of the more striking displays of irony we have seen in quite a while.

For many years, while the citizens and local governments on the border have cried out for help and law enforcement, various Democrat-run cities and States that aren't on the border decided to set themselves up as virtue signaling sanctuary cities, where immigration laws supposedly simply do not apply. For years, much of the political left has suggested there are no legitimate practical reasons why our country would want secure borders or to enforce its immigration laws. Only racism or xenophobia could possibly explain it.

Well, for several weeks now, some of these overwhelmed States have decided to try taking some of these Democrat-run jurisdictions at their word.

Governor Abbott in Texas and Governor Ducey in Arizona have put a very small proportion of the illegal immigrants pouring into their States onto buses bound for the self-advertised sanctuary cities of New York and Washington. And do you know what? Just this very small taste of chaos, this tiny little sliver of what many places in America have been dealing with for years, has these cities' Democratic leaders outraged, anxious, and scrambling.

Eric Adams, the mayor of New York, has only had to receive in 5 weeks roughly the number of people the Border Patrol encounters in 7 or 8 hours. New York has had over a month to handle a fraction—a fraction—of 1 day's share of border crossings. Yet the mayor says having to deal with this is "horrific." New York City officials complain that they are overwhelmed.

Here in Washington, the destination for fewer than 8,000 illegal immigrants, the Democrat Mayor has declared a public health emergency. She begged the Pentagon to send in the National Guard for help. The Defense Department, of course, turned her down.

It is incredible just how quickly Democrats change their tune when they have to stomach one single spoonful—spoonful—of the policies they have been force-feeding the rest of our country. Oh, it is challenging to have waves of illegal immigrants pouring into your community? This creates challenges for housing and medical care and resource allocation and law enforcement? Who knew all this?

As one former mayor from the frontlines of this crisis put it recently, "The city of McAllen was able to deal with thousands of immigrants a day. I think they can handle a few hundred."

Maybe this will be the wake-up call the Democrats need to finally understand that functional nations—functional nations—need functional borders.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Arianna J. Freeman, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, 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. KING. 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.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. KING. Mr. President, this is going to be an unusual set of comments for me because I am going to start out with some personal history, which I hope will make sense in terms of what I want to address.

I started working in the alternative energy industry in 1983. When I say industry, it was, actually, a very small company developing small hydro projects in Maine and New England. We then worked on the development of biomass projects. We, later on, worked on wind power and then also on the development of large-scale conservation. So my professional life has largely been occupied with energy and particularly with renewable energy.

At the same time, I had a deep history in Maine in environmental matters. I represented the environmental community in Maine before the Maine Legislature, in the seventies, if you can believe that anybody around here was still doing things in the seventies. I also, as Governor, was very active in conservation matters and am proud to say that, during my 8 years as the Governor of Maine, we put aside and set into conservation and protection status more land than in the prior 175-year history of Maine combined. This has been a passion of mine, the protection of the environment, for my entire life—so the history of renewable energy development and also environmental advocacy.

I learned some lessons when I was working in the field of developing alternative or renewable energy. The most important lesson is that there is no free lunch when it comes to energy. There are always costs and benefits. There are always impacts that some people think are terrific and that other people think are not so good. There are always trade-offs.

In fact, I will never forget my going to hearings on hydro projects and having people come and object and saying: We like hydro but not on our river, not on this site, and, by the way, we don't really think you should be ruining the rivers. Why don't you go and do wind power?

Lo and behold, 20 years later, I worked in the area of wind development, of wind power, and people came to our hearings and said: We don't really need to spoil the view in our mountains. Do more hydro.

I am not making that up. I actually lived that sort of conflict.

The second lesson I learned is that you may have global goals with renewable energy but have local impacts, and you often have a controversy about a particular project.

The third thing I learned is that change is hard. Everybody is for progress. Nobody is for change. Change is difficult, whether it is for a local community, a State, or a nation.

The fourth thing: Permitting is hard. Getting permits for renewable energy projects was lengthy, time-consuming, and expensive. This was serious learning that I had during this period in that, if you want to develop even the most beneficial project, you are going to have to go through an often arduous permitting process, and somebody isn't going to like it. There always will be trade-offs.

These were sporadic, small projects. Indeed, in New England today—and I just checked this morning—about 10 percent of our electricity comes from renewables. This is after almost 40 years of the development of these projects—about 10 percent. We are now talking about a transition in energy to a fully renewable future. Well, if you do the math, that means 10 times the amount of renewable energy development which we have done in the last 40 years, in the next 10 to 15 years. People have to understand that this is a major, major change that is going to require trade-offs. It is going to require us to make decisions and to understand—again, to go back to my basic premise—that there is no free lunch.

We are now undertaking the largest and most far-reaching energy transition in human history. The transition to fossil fuels took about 150 years. Going back to around 1800, you can see the graphic goes up, but we really got into the real heart of the fossil fuel economy in the mid-20th century—150 years. We are talking about transitioning away from fossil fuels to renewables over 15 years—not 150 but 15.

We have to grasp that this is an enormous undertaking and that it is going to involve change. We are literally in a race with climate change. That is why it is going to have to happen in the next 10, 15, 20 years, because the consequences of not doing it are catastrophic, and we are already seeing that.

I think that we have reached a point at which most Americans realize that climate change is real. The fishermen in Maine know it. The loggers know it. The farmers know it. The people who work with the land and the sea and the atmosphere understand what is happening. They see it. The animals know it. They know what is happening, and that is why we have to make this transition. That is why it is so important that we make this transition, and it has got to be fast. We don't have time to do it over 150 years or even over 50 years. It is a huge change. It is going to involve dislocation, and it is going to involve trade-offs. That is really the question that I want to address today.

There is broad agreement, I believe, that we need change, that we need to develop responses to the global climate change crisis. There is certainly agreement in the environmental community as far as that question is concerned. There is nobody in the environmental community whom I know who doubts climate change or doubts the necessity of taking dramatic action to meet it. Climate change is as real as it gets, and we have to address it.

How do we address it? With nonfossil fuel electrification—fast. If we can do that, we can address the CO₂. Really, what we are talking about is the emission of CO₂. Is it a problem? Well, the average over the past million years of CO₂ in the atmosphere is about 280 parts per million. It varies up and down.

People say: Oh, this is a natural cycle.

Yes, it varies up and down between 150 and 300 parts per million. It is now at about 420 parts per million. It has gone up 20 in the last 2 or 3 years. The last time we were over 400 parts per million of CO₂ in the atmosphere the oceans were 60 feet higher. We are in uncharted territory in human history right now. We have to deal with it, and we have to deal with it in a hurry.

Where is all of that CO₂ coming from? Well, here is a rough breakdown of the CO₂ budget, if you will: About 30 percent comes from the generation of electricity—30, 35 percent. Another 30, 35 percent comes from transportation, the combustion of fossil fuels in vehicles. The last 30, 35 percent comes from space heat and industrial use. So that is the budget that we have to deal with. How do we tackle that? With electrification, with the electricity coming from renewable sources.

Now, if you have an electric vehicle and you are feeling really good about saving the environment, you are not saving the environment if the power

for that electric vehicle comes from fossil fuels. You are saving the environment if the power for that electric vehicle comes from renewables. So that is what we are talking about, but there are problems with renewables.

Remember, I said I had worked in the wind power business. The wind doesn't blow all the time. The Sun doesn't shine all the time. The term is "intermittency." That is the issue. That is the issue with renewables—intermittency—the fact that there has to be something to supply power when the Sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow.

The answer to that is storage. The real Green New Deal is energy storage. If we can solve that problem in a cost-effective way, then we really can have a realistic, all-renewable future, because what you have with energy storage, plus renewables, is essentially baseload power without CO₂. That is really the direction that we are moving in.

However—and this is what I want to really stress—you can't be in favor of electrification; you can't be in favor of renewable power; you can't be in favor of electric vehicles if you are not in favor of mining the lithium that you need for the batteries or in covering a lot of farmers' fields with solar panels. You can't have those things without paying a price. It would be nice if you could.

I would love it if I could wave a wand and say: We are going to get rid of fossil fuels, and we are going to have an all-renewable future. Yes, I want that, but we have to recognize that, in order to get there, there are some things we have to do that heretofore we really haven't been very likely to like.

One of the other issues with renewable power is that a lot of the renewable power is in places where there aren't people. So we have to get that renewable power to the places where there are people.

Do you know what that means? Transmission, new transmission lines, new rights of way. People aren't going to be too crazy about that, but you can't have a renewable energy future without having transmission, and you can't have a renewable energy future without having batteries or some storage technology that, chances are, is going to require Earth minerals that you are going to have to mine.

Geography is a problem. Technology is a problem. This will require trade-offs. We have to keep in mind that we are talking about a global goal—we are talking about literally saving the Earth—but we have to understand that there are going to be costs to do so.

Let's talk about permitting.

One of my favorite stories is when God went to Moses and said: Moses, I have good news and bad news.

Moses said: God, give me the good news.

God says: I am going to empower you to part the waters of the Red Sea, allow my people to go free, and then

have the waters come back and inundate Pharaoh's army.

Moses says: That is wonderful, God. What is the bad news?

God says: You have to prepare the environmental impact statement.

We have got to understand that permitting is part of the process of going to a renewable future.

Now, when I was the Governor of Maine, I had a very clear policy: no diminution—no cutting, no cutting corners—of environmental standards, but I wanted the most timely and predictable environmental permitting process in the country, and I don't think that those two things are in any way mutually exclusive.

When I talk here and work with my colleagues here about permitting reform, I am talking—we are talking—about the process, not the standards. We are not talking about lowering the standards, saying that you can emit more or you don't have to meet clean water standards.

I sit at Edmund Muskie's desk in my office. Lightning would strike me if I were lowering the water quality or air quality standards, but we have got to talk about a process that is timely and predictable.

The estimates are that, to permit a mine in this country, it takes about 10 years—about 10 years. We don't have 10 years to spend on a permitting process if we are going to solve this problem in time to save the country and the planet. We have got to figure out how to do this in a more timely way. How are we going to do it? I don't know the details of the various discussions that are going on here, but I have some thoughts that I have suggested to Senator MANCHIN and others.

One is one-stop shopping. You shouldn't have to go to five different Agencies. Go to one Agency that is in charge of the permitting process, and let them lead it. Don't make the applicant go to five, six, seven different Agencies.

Secondly are deadlines—real deadlines, deadlines that mean something—so that the Agency, if it says 180 days, has got to have a decision in 180 days. Eisenhower retook Europe in 11 months. There is no reason that we can't get decisions out of some of these Agencies in less than a year. So deadlines and reasonable timeframes, I think, are part of this process, and an accelerated appeals process, where the appeal of an environmental decision on a renewable energy project, that is related to renewable energy, or that is related to our renewable energy future can go to the courts and get a fair hearing but on a timely basis and not go through a long process that takes, again, years.

Another suggestion I have—and this goes back to my experience of working on renewable energy projects—is there should be some credit given for the nature of the project that you are doing. In other words, if you are doing a project that is going to contribute to

the solution of the problem of global climate change, you shouldn't be treated as a strip mall. Some weight should be given to the import and the value—the environmental value—of the project, vis-a-vis the incidental environmental costs—and I could be criticized for using the word "incidental," but the smaller environmental costs that may be involved in getting there. I think that has got to be how we approach this whole permitting question.

So why am I here today? I am here today to talk to my friends in the environmental community—and I do mean friends, people whom I have worked with all my life—to have them change the way they think about the environmental process and what they have conventionally and historically thought about this kind of action.

Historically, if you go back to the beginning of the environmental movement in the sixties and seventies—and Lord, help me, I was there—the environmental movement was about stopping things. The environmental movement in Maine began with a proposed oil refinery on our coast. People wanted to stop it because they didn't think it was the appropriate place. But if you think about that, a lot of the environmental movement has been about stopping things, stopping projects, stopping highways, stopping whatever.

What we have to do now is think about facilitating getting things done in order to get to the renewable future that we want. I think that is a very, very important way to look at this process. You can't be for EVs if you are against mining lithium.

Let me give you just a couple of numbers on what I am talking about. Copper—remember, I talked about transmission. Copper, copper wires to transmit electricity, the estimate is—I want to be sure this is right. The estimate is we are going to need as much copper annually by 2050 as has been mined in the entire prior history of the world. In 1 year, we are going to need that much. The estimate is that in order to achieve our climate goals, we are going to have to triple—triple—the grid: the wires, the rights of way, the towers. The grid infrastructure has to be tripled in order to absorb the new and transmitted—distribute the new energy that is going to be needed. If you have electric vehicles, you are going to need more wires to get the power—that is going to be a huge increase; between doubling and tripling is the estimate—of the strength of the grid.

The International Energy Agency—not me and not some commercial group, but the International Energy Agency says that by 2040—that is not that long from now, barely over 15 years—we are going to need 42 times the amount of lithium that we have, 25 times more graphite, 21 times more cobalt, 19 times more nickel, and 7 times more rare-earth elements. Now, we have two choices: We can buy those things from other countries, particu-

larly countries that may be potential adversaries. Do we really want to be dependent on China for this kind of essential material to our environmental future? I don't think so. But if we are going to say we don't want to import it, we have got to get it out of the ground here, and we can't spend 10 years deciding it. I am not saying lower the standards, but I am saying the process itself should not be used as a weapon to undermine projects that are necessary to achieve our ultimate climate goal.

This is a change. This is a change of thinking that is required by the reality that we face. I am here because I want to face that reality. I want to do something about climate change. I want to take the actions necessary, not token actions but the real deal. But it is going to involve these enormous commitments of time, effort, and money and also our understanding—particularly in the environmental community—that there is no free lunch.

On December 2, 1862, Abraham Lincoln came to this Congress to talk about the progress of the Civil War. His problem was that the Congress was being the Congress. They were doing politics, and he didn't feel they were really taking it seriously or understood the massive change that was sweeping over the country. At the end of that speech, the afternoon of December 2, 1862, Abraham Lincoln gave what I think is still the best analysis of how you deal with change that I have ever encountered, and I think it applies exactly in this situation. Lincoln said:

The dogmas of the quiet past, are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, [therefore] we must rise—with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew, and act anew.

And then here is the key line:

We must disenthral ourselves, and then we shall save our country.

"We must disenthral ourselves and then we shall save our country."

"Disenthral" means thinking new and different ways. Let go of the way you thought about these kinds of issues in the past. Disenthral ourselves, and then we shall save our planet.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Republican whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to complete my remarks before the start of the vote.

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

INFLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this morning the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the August inflation numbers, and as every American who has been to a grocery store lately knows, August was yet another month of high inflation.

Consumer prices rose 8.3 percent last month from a year earlier, holding to a near-four-decade-high—40-year-high—inflation. And Americans are feeling the strain.

Even 1 unexpectedly expensive month can be challenging for many families, but at least it is actually and usually possible to recover from a single tough month. How are American families going to recover from the months upon months upon months of high inflation that have marked the Biden economy?

As I said, American families are suffering. Grocery bills are out of control. Between August 2021 and August 2022, grocery bills rose at their highest rate since 1979—1979, I was a senior in high school. Even back-to-school supplies like pencils and glue are more expensive.

The National Retail Federation reported in July that households were on track to spend an average of \$864 on back-to-school shopping—a 24-percent increase from 2019.

Utility bills have soared. Things have gotten so bad that approximately one out of every six households—one out of every six households in America—is behind on its utility bills. Unfortunately, considering the increases in the price of natural gas and electricity since President Biden took office, it is not surprising. Forty percent of households—40 percent—reported having difficulty paying for their normal household expenses.

And Gallup reports that 56 percent of Americans—well over half of the U.S. population—are experiencing financial hardship as a result of inflation.

The personal savings rate has plunged to its lowest levels since 2009, and many Americans are dipping into their savings to make ends meet. Others have taken up a side job or are pulling out the credit card. Still others have been forced to rely on food banks.

As recently as Friday, President Biden was touting his work to “finally deliver an economy that works for working families.” I have to say, I don’t know what ivory tower the President is living in, but the Biden economy is the very opposite of an economy that works for working families.

Working families in the Biden economy are struggling. They are wondering how they can make ends meet. They are cutting back on groceries like meat or milk. They are cutting back on family trips or putting off necessary home repairs. They are, as I said, dipping into their savings or charging necessities on their credit cards or visiting food banks.

A recent CBS News article discussing a new Gallup poll noted:

The findings indicate that the hottest inflation in 40 years is eating into the bedrock of the American economy—the middle-class—and even eroding the financial stability of more well-heeled households.

To repeat:

The findings indicate that the hottest inflation in 40 years is eating into the bedrock of the American economy—the middle-class.

This is not an economy that is—to paraphrase the President—being built from the bottom up and the middle out. This is not an economy that “works for working families.” This is

an economy where living standards for working families are declining.

The President has actually had the audacity to repeatedly bring up the lines of cars waiting at food banks that occurred during the height of the COVID pandemic, with the implication that things are different now in the Biden economy. Perhaps no one at the White House has read the news recently.

Here is a sampling of headlines from the past few weeks:

Las Vegas food banks experiencing heightened demand amid inflation spikes.

Here is another one:

Food banks feeling pinch of high inflation as centers juggle to increased demand for help.

Another headline:

New Hampshire food pantries struggle with rising costs, growing demand: Organizations say more people than ever need help.

Another headline:

St. Mary’s Food Bank in Phoenix sees record number of families in need amid inflation.

Yet another headline:

Mountain West food banks are strained by high customer demand and low supply.

Unfortunately, I can go on. At this point, everyone knows how we got here. Democrats took office and decided to pass a massive \$1.9 trillion spending bill, the so-called American Rescue Plan Act, that flooded the economy with unnecessary government money. And the economy overheated as a result.

When President Biden took office, the inflation rate was 1.4 percent, well within the Fed’s 2-percent target.

Democrats were warned, including by at least one noted economist from their own party, that the legislation ran the risk of overheating the economy. But they were committed to taking advantage of their new majority to push through their Big Government, Big Spending vision. And so they ignored the warnings, and their bill helped trigger the worst inflation crisis in 40 years.

But perhaps the worst part is that even after Democrats saw the damage that resulted from their American Rescue Plan spending spree, they continued to try to double down on the spending strategy that helped get us into this mess in the first place.

Democrats spent half of last year attempting to force through—if you can believe this—yet another partisan spending spree originally planned to cost up to \$5 trillion. Fortunately for Americans, those particular far-left fantasies were foiled. But that hasn’t stopped Democrats from continuing to accumulate wasteful government spending.

In August, Democrats forged through a partisan tax-and-spending bill that will raise Americans’ energy bills, reduce jobs and opportunities for American workers, and waste taxpayer dollars on a host of Green New Deal priorities, like electric vehicle tax credits

for wealthy Americans and road equity and identifying gaps in tree canopy coverage. They called this tax-and-spending spree the Inflation Reduction Act, even though—as even the Democrat chairman of the Senate Budget Committee admitted—the bill will not reduce inflation. Apparently, the title’s only function is to make the bill sound more acceptable to Americans who are sick and tired of dealing with soaring prices and economic pain.

Then, a mere 8 days—8 days—after signing the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, the President once again added to Democrats’ record of economic malfeasance with a massive student loan giveaway that could cost more than \$1 trillion and that the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget notes will “meaningfully boost inflation.” That from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget.

I am not sure whether the Democrats are incapable of learning their lesson or whether they consider soaring prices to be a trivial issue next to implementing their Green New Deal agenda or whether they think inflation is an acceptable price to pay for Big Government. But, whatever it is, Democrats are apparently going to continue to ignore the economic pain that Americans are experiencing in favor of implementing their far-left, Big Government, and big-spending agenda. And it appears that the American people are going to have to continue to suffer as a result.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would ask consent to speak for up to 5 minutes before the vote.

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

NOMINATION OF ARIANNA J. FREEMAN

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the pending nominee, Arianna J. Freeman, who has been nominated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. For those who may not know all the geography, that includes, under the jurisdiction of that court, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the Virgin Islands.

Arianna Freeman has dedicated her legal career to service, especially in the Philadelphia community. After graduating from Swarthmore College and Yale Law School, Ms. Freeman returned to Philadelphia to start her legal career. After clerking for three Federal judges in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, she joined the Federal Community Defender Office in Philadelphia. Through her experience in the defender’s office, she has briefed over 15 appeals in the Third Circuit and presented oral argument on seven occasions, including before the Third Circuit en banc, meaning the entire court. She has submitted four briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court as well.

Her legal reputation, her intellect, her ability, and her integrity are unquestioned. I will just give you three or

four examples of what others have said about her work.

Former U.S. District Court Judge Giles wrote:

Ms. Freeman has the character and intellectual attributes that will lead her to be a wonderful appeals court judge. She is discerning, open-minded, logical and is both a listener and contributor to debate and conversation.

A group of appellate practitioners from the Third Circuit wrote as follows:

Arianna Freeman has the strong intellect, tenacious work ethic, and even temperament necessary to become an outstanding federal judge. Her integrity and experience will ensure that she will be ready to serve from the first day.

Third example: Given Arianna's background as a Federal public defender, perhaps most important is the praise that she has received from over 20 former Federal prosecutors. One group wrote:

We are impressed by Arianna's diligence, intelligence, dedication, and integrity. It is because of her ethics and compassion, grounded in sensibility, that we are confident she will provide sound and measured opinions, while approaching each case without bias and with respect for the rule of law.

So said 20 former Federal prosecutors.

Arianna is so well respected that her nomination has garnered strong support even beyond the State of Pennsylvania, as evidenced by a letter submitted by over 30 law school professors from across the Nation who described Arianna Freeman as a "brilliant, careful, and talented lawyer with impressive professional credentials and a strong commitment to fairness, equal justice, and the rule of law."

There is no doubt that Arianna Freeman's extensive legal experience, keen intellect, and dedication to the principles of fairness and equal justice will serve the Third Circuit well. Furthermore, if confirmed, she will not only provide a critically important professional perspective to the Third Circuit as a career public defender; she will also become the first woman of color to serve on the Third Circuit and just the third active woman on that bench.

This is an important and historic nomination not only for Pennsylvania but, of course, for the entire Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

I would like to share a final passage from a letter written to the Senate Judiciary Committee by a group of law school deans from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, led by Professor Danielle Conway from the Penn State Dickinson School of Law. They wrote:

The nomination of Arianna J. Freeman to serve as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit is inspiring and her ultimate confirmation will be inspiring. As legislative leaders in this great society, the Committee and the full Senate will be favorably rewarded with history's account of how you worked to elevate this brilliant lawyer to the bench.

It couldn't be said any better than that. I urge her confirmation and urge my colleagues to vote yes.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON FREEMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Freeman nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have noted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 333 Ex.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—50

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

NOT VOTING—3

Duckworth	Hassan	Young
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The nomination was rejected.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The motion is entered.

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. 1033, Lara E. Montecalvo, of Rhode Island, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith, Jeanne Shaheen, Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tim Kaine, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher Murphy, Maria Cantwell, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Gary C. Peters, 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 Lara E. Montecalvo, of Rhode Island, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have noted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 334 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—4

Cassidy	Hassan
Duckworth	Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SINEMA). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 45.

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 Lara E. Montecalvo, of Rhode Island, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:13 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about the rising costs of American energy, and this morning we found out that inflation continues to burn very hot.

Prices continue to go up and up and up. Last month, they actually went up faster than even any of the economists had predicted. Since Joe Biden took office, the prices have risen now by more than 13 percent across America. That is what families are facing. And prices have been rising faster than wages for the last 17 months. So people are feeling the heat and falling further and further behind.

Today, gas prices are still nearly a dollar and a half a gallon higher than they were the day Joe Biden took office, but Democrats are patting themselves on the back because gas prices have come down from the stratospheric \$5 a gallon during the peak this summer. Well, gas is still over \$4 a gallon in lots of States, including Nevada and Washington State, and, of course, at \$5 a gallon, very few people can afford to drive. So it is no surprise the prices fell as demand plummeted.

But yet many of the Democrats are at the White House this afternoon, apparently in the thousands, to celebrate a law that just got passed here.

These price hikes, these increases in costs, this is nothing to celebrate. And so in 15 minutes, at the White House, Joe Biden is going to lead a celebration—a party—for a bill that passed along party lines.

We have a crisis of food, a crisis of energy, a crisis of rent. People cannot afford the cost of living. In terms of energy, after 2 years in power—I come today to the floor as the ranking member of the Senate Energy Committee—after nearly 2 years in power, Democrats still haven't lifted a finger to produce a drop of additional American energy, specifically oil.

Supply is down below the prepandemic peak. Joe Biden has leased the fewest acres of Federal land for energy development of any Presi-

dent since World War II—World War II. The Biden economy is hitting record numbers—40-year record-high inflation. Food prices are up higher in terms of costs of feeding your family; the rise in prices is up higher than in 40 years—and now shutting down American energy with the fewest acres of Federal land for energy development since World War II.

Now, Joe Biden had a plan. His plan was to invite dictators to sell us oil. Officials from the Biden administration went hat in hand, just a little over a year ago, to Vladimir Putin in Russia, to Iran, to Saudi Arabia, to Venezuela. The President actually went personally to Saudi Arabia to ask for more energy and more production. He went to Riyadh to beg the Saudis to sell us more oil. It didn't work.

Actually, the Saudis and the OPEC cartel announced last week that they are actually going to slash production by 100,000 barrels a day.

When President Obama was in the White House, he went on an apology tour to the Middle East. This summer, Joe Biden went on a begging tour to the Middle East. Both were a failure. Both were a waste. Both were an embarrassment to the United States.

That is delusional Democrat diplomacy for you.

Gas prices are still a dollar and a half a gallon higher since the day Joe Biden became President. Earlier this summer, people were actually driving less than they did in the summer of 2020, during the peak of the pandemic, during the lockdown. That is why prices have dropped for gas.

But prices for everything else have gone up so high that people are still hurting all across the country, and we have Democrat policies and Democrat spending to thank for it.

People can't afford to drive. They can't afford to stay home either. That is because natural gas prices have more than doubled since Joe Biden took office.

Well, half of American homes are powered by natural gas. One expert predicted utility bills could jump 40 percent just this year.

Already, more than 20 million Americans have fallen behind on paying their electric bills because they don't have the money. This is another record. In total, the American people owe more than \$16 billion in unpaid electric bills. That is nearly double the amount they owed before the pandemic.

So you have 20 million Americans facing the possibility of having their power shut off. This is a moment of anxiety and anguish for families, and it is caused by the policies of the Biden administration.

Democrats think everything is fine because they just passed what they tout as the largest climate bill in history. I would expect to see the Secretary of Energy up there on the stage leading the cheers: Rah, rah. Look what we have just done.

They don't care about affordability, availability, the reliability of energy.

Oh, no, they are focused on something very different.

So in about 15 minutes, Democrats are throwing themselves a party at the White House to celebrate—to celebrate a bill that is not going to bring down inflation. Oh, no, no, it is going to raise it.

And it is not going to bring down the temperature either. According to one estimate, it will only reduce global warming by—I want to make sure I have this right—0.0009 degrees. The most expensive climate bill in history, taking our Nation from energy dominant to energy dependent, for 0.0009 degrees.

And the centerpiece of this law is, of course, the \$300 billion slush fund.

People say: What is it for?

Well, it is going to give taxpayer dollars to well-connected Silicon Valley elites. That is what it is going to do. It is going to be given to them so that so-called clean energy startup companies can do things with it. Supposedly, they are going to spend it on new forms of energy. We will see.

If it sounds familiar, it is because Democrats tried this the last time Joe Biden was in the White House, as Vice President. The Obama administration spent \$90 billion on a similar program. So this one is over three times as large.

Who was in charge of running that failed program at the White House back in the Obama administration?

Well, it is the guy in the White House today. Joe Biden was in charge of running it, and what was the end result? It was a national embarrassment. It was a disaster. Ninety percent of the jobs that Joe Biden promised America back then never materialized—not at all.

According to Bloomberg, Democrats spent over \$725,000 for each job that ultimately materialized. And, again, it wasn't Democrats' money that they were spending. It was taxpayer money.

Most famously, Democrats gave half a billion dollars to a company called Solyndra. They became a laughing stock in the news and late-night comedy. They were supposed to make solar panels. Two years later, Solyndra went bankrupt. The taxpayer money was gone, all to waste. And now the Democrats are saying: Let's go back to that same playbook and let's just reload with cash. Load up the money cannon and fire away.

At a much bigger scale this time, instead of \$90 billion last time, it is \$300 billion this time.

Democrats have also just gone on and extended another giveaway for people buying electric vehicles. Now, many of them are high earners, there is no question about it. At a time of record inflation, Democrats are robbing the middle class to give the money to the rich. Three out of four electric vehicle owners make over \$100,000 a year. It is not just unfair; it is unsustainable because electric vehicle prices are soaring right now.

The average price is now \$66,000 for each electric vehicle, and, I will tell

you, it is funny. The price of electric vehicles rose by \$8,000 per vehicle just recently, just a couple of weeks ago, just as soon as the Democrats crammed through their new giveaway.

And what was the giveaway—7,500? And the price of electric vehicles went up by \$8,000? Do you think that is a coincidence? I ask the body. Is that a coincidence, that the price goes up by 8,000 the day that government passes a bill to give a \$7,500 subsidy?

And, of course, to make matters worse, there is a shortage of batteries that are needed to kind of produce the electric vehicles to receive the subsidy. There aren't enough charging stations.

Electric vehicle technology is not ready for prime time. The only reason electric vehicles are on the road today is because of massive government giveaways. Otherwise, they wouldn't be able to compete.

Sometimes it is said a picture is worth 1,000 words. Here is a picture of West Virginia coal miners. West Virginia coal miners right here. What are they doing? They are pushing an electric vehicle that has run out of power. They have run out of electricity, and they are trying to push an electric vehicle. These coal miners, with coal under attack by this administration, they are pushing the electric vehicle to a place the vehicle can plug in.

Well, you know, the people of West Virginia say: How did they get there? Well, you might see down here that this is a Washington, DC, license plate.

The vehicle being pushed by the coal miners were tourists from Washington, DC, and they ran out of power on the road in West Virginia. Fortunately, there were still some West Virginia coal miners nearby who were willing to lend a helping hand.

This electric vehicle was pushed by coal miners and then recharged by electricity generated by West Virginia coal—coal, public enemy No. 1, according to the Democrats.

Where do Democrats believe the electricity comes from to power electric vehicles? Electric vehicles are charged on the power grid. Nearly two-thirds of that energy is still fossil fuels. It is still traditional energy.

The extreme climate policies the Democrats are pushing are delusional. Yet Democrats are imposing these delusions on tens of millions of people.

Last month, the State of California announced a couple things. It announced that it is going to require all new cars sold in the State to be electric by 2035. Secretary of Energy Granholm gave it a big stamp of approval. She said it is the model for the rest of the country.

Just days later, California began experiencing blackouts. This is what Secretary Granholm says is the model for the rest of the Nation. This is the path to the future, she says.

Joe Biden is giving a speech tomorrow on electric vehicles. I am sure he is going to endorse what they did in California. No matter what Joe Biden says,

the painful truth is this: California is mandating electric vehicles when their electric grid already can't keep up today.

In California, gas costs more than \$5 a gallon. Meanwhile, you are not even allowed to charge your electric vehicle for much of the day—not allowed to charge it. You have got to buy one, but you can't charge it—what a solution.

Oh, and you can't turn your thermostat below 78 degrees in a heat wave.

The mandates are coming out for people who live in this mandate society, where California is leading the way and the Democrat Secretary of Energy says is the future we should look forward to. If the Democrats remain in charge, I believe this is an ugly glimpse at America's energy future.

Now, maybe Governor Newsom thinks he can run a modern economy this way in California, but it takes energy to run a modern economy. It takes affordable energy, reliable energy, available energy, and that means traditional forms of energy.

Now, Warren Buffet is known as one of the best investors in history. So what is he investing in today? Well, he is buying an American oil company. Why? Because in contrast to the left-wing fantasies, oil isn't going away anytime soon.

Renewable energy cannot yet meet demand. Only traditional energy can. It is simply a fact. Whether the environmental extremists partying at the White House today like it or not, these are the facts of life. There is still an enormous difference between renewable energy and reliable energy. There simply is no renewable energy that, all in, is cost competitive with oil, gas, or coal.

But Democrats are doubling down on expensive energy and waging war on affordable energy at a time when inflation continues to soar—record high inflation, 40-year highs—and the impacts on American families have been punishing and painful.

In Colorado, the local utility company actually took control over people's thermostats. You wouldn't think they could do that? The capacity is there to do it today. And why? Because of what they describe as an energy emergency. It was an unprecedented intrusion into the homes of 22,000 people.

If Democrats remain in charge, this is another glimpse of our energy future and of our freedom and independence—more blackouts, more restrictions on energy production, more restrictions on energy use, more price hikes, all in service of their climate religion.

And as one of the headlines in the New York Times said last week, "California muddles through another day."

Joe Biden needs to reverse course. We are a country that doesn't want to muddle through anything.

The Democratic Party needs to reverse course unless we are looking at that kind of a future. This energy crisis is a crisis of Joe Biden's choosing. We have plenty of American energy.

We have it in the ground. The Democrats won't let us get it out. All we need is for Democrats to get out of the way and let us use American energy.

America's energy future must be powered by American producers. If we want available, affordable, reliable, secure energy, we need more American energy.

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

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

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I understand that there is a lot that is going on in the world today. We are worried about climate change and what that is doing to our planet. We are worried about the terrible war in Ukraine and all of the destruction taking place there. We are worried about inflation and the fact that wages are not keeping up with the prices that people are paying. We are worried about the massive level of income and wealth inequality that exists in our country and the increased concentration of ownership that we see in the United States, among many, many other things that are on people's minds. But to my mind, Madam President, the American people remain and always are deeply concerned about an issue that, by definition, touches each and every one of us, and that is our collapsing and dysfunctional healthcare system.

While it is not discussed much in the corporate media or here in the Halls of Congress, we have today in the United States the most inefficient, bureaucratic, and expensive healthcare system in the world. And that is not just what I believe; that is what the American people know to be true because of their lived experience with the healthcare system.

Madam President, I would hope that all Members of Congress take a hard look at a poll that was published yesterday by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, and this is some of what the poll disclosed.

At a time when I hear many of my colleagues tell us that we have the best healthcare system in the world, it turns out that, according to this poll, just 12 percent of the American people believe that healthcare in general is handled very well or extremely well in the United States. Twelve percent.

At a time when we pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, only 6 percent of the American people believe that prescription drug costs in the United States are being handled well or extremely well. Six percent.

At a time when COVID has exacerbated the crisis, only 5 percent of the American people believe that the mental health care system in the United

States is being handled well or extremely well. Five percent.

When so many older Americans have died unnecessarily in nursing homes and when so many cannot even find the nursing home bed that they need, just 6 percent of Americans believe that the quality of care at nursing homes in the United States is very good or exceptional. Six percent.

Madam President, the American people increasingly understand, as I do, that healthcare is a human right, not a privilege, and that we must end the international embarrassment of the United States of America being the only major country on Earth that does not guarantee healthcare to all of its citizens. Again, that is not just BERNIE SANDERS talking; that is what the overwhelming majority of the American people believe.

According to yesterday's AP poll, 66 percent of the American people believe it is the Federal Government's responsibility to make sure that all Americans have health insurance coverage. Sixty-six percent.

Over 86 percent of the American people believe that it is absurd that millions of senior citizens lack dental care, hearing aids, and vision care, and they believe that Medicare should be expanded to cover these basic healthcare needs. It happens to be an issue I have been working on for several years. Eighty-six percent of the American people believe that Medicare should cover dental care, hearing aids, and vision care. Eighty-six percent.

At a time when our long-term healthcare system is in shambles, 81 percent of the American people believe that Medicare should cover the outrageous cost of long-term healthcare for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Eighty-one percent.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this AP-NORC poll.

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

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

[Sept. 12, 2022]

AMERICANS GIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
FAILING MARK: AP-NORC POLL
(By Amanda Seitz)

WASHINGTON (AP)—When Emmanuel Obeng-Dankwa is worried about making rent on his New York City apartment, he sometimes holds off on filling his blood pressure medication.

"If there's no money, I prefer to skip the medication to being homeless," said Obeng-Dankwa, a 58-year-old security guard.

He is among a majority of adults in the U.S. who say that health care is not handled well in the country, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

The poll reveals that public satisfaction with the U.S. health care system is remarkably low, with fewer than half of Americans saying it is generally handled well. Only 12% say it is handled extremely or very well. Americans have similar views about health care for older adults.

Overall, the public gives even lower marks for how prescription drug costs, the quality

of care at nursing homes and mental health care are being handled, with just 6% or less saying those health services are done very well in the country.

"Navigating the American health care system is exceedingly frustrating," said A. Mark Fendrick, the director of the University of Michigan Center for Value-Based Insurance Design. "The COVID pandemic has only made it worse."

More than two years after the pandemic's start, health care worker burnout and staffing shortages are plaguing hospitals around the country. And Americans are still having trouble getting in-person medical care after health centers introduced restrictions as COVID-19 killed and sickened millions of people around the country, Fendrick said.

In fact, the poll shows an overwhelming majority of Americans, nearly 8 in 10, say they are at least moderately concerned about getting access to quality health care when they need it.

Black and Hispanic adults in particular are resoundingly worried about health care access, with nearly 6 in 10 saying they are very or extremely concerned about getting good care. Fewer than half of white adults, 44%, expressed the same level of worry.

Racial disparities have long troubled America's health care system. They have been abundantly clear during the COVID-19 pandemic, with Black and Hispanic people dying disproportionately from the virus. Black and Hispanic men also make up a disproportionately high rate of recent monkeypox infections.

Fifty-three percent of women said they are extremely or very concerned about obtaining quality care, compared to 42% of men.

While Americans are united in their dissatisfaction with the health care system, that agreement dissolves when it comes to solutions to fix it.

About two-thirds of adults think it is the federal government's responsibility to make sure all Americans have health care coverage, with adults ages 18 to 49 more likely than those over 50 to hold that view. The percentage of people who believe health care coverage is a government responsibility has risen in recent years, ticking up from 57% in 2019 and 62% in 2017.

Still, there's not consensus on how that coverage might be delivered.

About 4 in 10 Americans say they support a single-payer health care system that would require Americans to get their health insurance from a government plan. More, 58%, say they favor a government health insurance plan that anyone can purchase.

There also is broad support for policies that would help Americans pay for the costs of long-term care, including a government-administered insurance plan similar to Medicare, the federal government's health insurance for people 65 or older.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, it is hard for me to imagine how anyone could defend a healthcare system in which over 70 million people today are either uninsured or underinsured. As we speak, this moment, there are millions of Americans who would like to go to a doctor, who need to go to a doctor, but cannot afford to go to a doctor because of the outrageous cost of medical care in this country.

Frankly, I am tired of talking to physicians who tell me about the patients who died—who died—because they were uninsured or underinsured and who walked into the doctor's office when it was too late. Time and time again, I hear from doctors who tell me

about a patient who walked in, and they said to the patient: Why didn't you come in when you first noticed your symptoms?

The patient responded: I don't have the money; I can't afford the copayment; or I have no insurance at all.

Madam President, we are talking about—and I know we don't talk about it much, and maybe we should—we are talking about some 68,000 Americans who die every single year because they are uninsured or underinsured and don't get the medical care that they need. This is the United States, the wealthiest country in the history of the world; 68,000 Americans should not die every year unnecessarily.

I am tired of seeing working-class families and small businesses pay far more for healthcare than they can afford, which results in more than 500,000 Americans every year declaring bankruptcy because of medically related expenses. Half a million Americans declare bankruptcy because of outrageous healthcare bills they simply cannot afford to pay. Families in America should not be driven into financial ruin because someone in that family became seriously ill. Sickness should not be a cause of financial ruin.

I am tired of hearing from Americans who lost loved ones because they could not afford the unbelievably high cost of prescription drugs, and I am tired of hearing from constituents who are forced to cut their pills in half due to the cost. Today, unbelievably, almost one out of four patients cannot afford the prescription drugs their doctors prescribe.

When you want to talk about an irrational and dysfunctional healthcare system, think about a system in which people go to a doctor, they get diagnosed as to their healthcare problem, they get a prescription drug prescribed to them, but they can't afford to buy the drug the doctor prescribes. So what ends up happening? They end up getting sicker. Maybe they end up in the emergency room at an outrageous cost. Maybe because they couldn't afford the prescription drugs in the first place, they end up in the hospital at a very high cost. Maybe they die. That is an irrational and absurd healthcare system.

I am tired of talking to people and families of people who are struggling with mental illness but cannot afford the mental health counseling they desperately need. Last year, as you know, a recordbreaking 100,000 Americans died of drug overdoses. And I will tell you that in my office—and I am sure that in every other Senate office—we get desperate calls from family members looking for affordable mental health counseling. Far too often, that care simply is not there in the community.

People are struggling with husbands, wives, kids who are on the verge of doing something terrible to themselves, to others, and yet, in this country, despite spending far more for

healthcare than any other country, we don't have the capability of helping those people. It is not there. The mental health counseling, the help that people need is not there because in this system, geared toward the profits of the insurance companies rather than the needs of the American people, we don't have enough psychologists, counselors, or social workers.

Unbelievably, despite spending far more per capita on healthcare than any other nation, we don't even have enough doctors. We are facing a major doctor shortage in America now, which will only get worse in the years to come if we don't address it. We don't have enough nurses. We don't have enough dentists. We don't have enough medical providers in general. We have, however, more than enough people who bill us and more than enough debt collectors who hound us to pay for a bill we cannot afford, but we just don't have enough people to provide the healthcare that we desperately need.

By the way, the crisis of lack of healthcare providers is only going to get worse as our society continues to age.

At a time of declining life expectancy in the wealthiest country on Earth, your health and your longevity should not be dependent on the amount of money you have. It is an absolute outrage and grossly un-American that the number of years we live in this country is dependent upon our income. Studies have shown that the top 1 percent of Americans live 15 years longer than the poorest people in our society. It is not only the very top as opposed to the very bottom; it is wealthy people in general versus working-class people. If you got the money, you are going to live longer in this country than if you do not have the money.

In my view, healthcare is a human right that all Americans, regardless of income, are entitled to, and all Americans deserve the best quality healthcare that our country can provide.

Further, as chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, it is not acceptable to me that we end up spending over twice as much as virtually every other major country on Earth per capita—twice as much per capita—while our life expectancy and other healthcare outcomes lag behind most other countries. This is really quite an amazing thing. We spend more; yet our results are worse than in other countries, unbelievably.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, we are now spending \$12,530 per capita on healthcare. Imagine that—over \$12,000 for every man, woman, and child in this country. This is, frankly, an outrageous and unsustainable sum of money. In comparison, the United Kingdom spends just \$5,300; France spends \$5,400; Canada, \$5,900; Germany, \$7,300. We spend over \$12,000 per year.

The question that everyone should be asking is, How does it happen that we

spend so much money for healthcare, but we get so little in return?

Let's be clear. The current debate over healthcare in the United States really has nothing to do with healthcare. Frankly, it is hard to defend this dysfunctional system. The healthcare debate has everything to do with the unquenchable greed of the healthcare industry and their desire to maintain a system which fails the average American but which makes the industry huge profits every single year. While ordinary Americans struggled to pay for healthcare during this pandemic, the six largest health insurance companies in our country made over \$60 billion in profits last year, led by UnitedHealth Group, which made \$24 billion in 2021.

While millions of Americans cannot afford soaring healthcare costs, the top executives in the insurance industry receive huge amounts of compensation. In 2020—remember, 70 million uninsured and underinsured and 68,000 dying every year because they don't get to a doctor on time—the CEOs of 178 major healthcare companies collectively made \$3.2 billion in total compensation—up 31 percent from the previous year—all in the midst of the pandemic. People were dying every single day, and the cost of healthcare was soaring; yet the CEOs saw a 31-percent increase in their compensation. According to Axios, in 2020, the CEO of Cigna, David Cordani, took home \$79 million in compensation. The CEO of Centene, Mr. Neidorff, made \$59 million. The CEO of UnitedHealth Group, Mr. Wichmann, received \$42 million in total compensation.

But it is not just the health insurance companies that are ripping off the American people; it is the drug companies as well. In terms of the pharmaceutical industry, last year, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and AbbVie—three giant pharmaceutical companies—increased their profits by over 90 percent to \$54 billion. How is it that, in the midst of a pandemic, during which we lost over a million people and millions and millions of people have become sick, the profits of the major drug companies went up by over 90 percent?

The CEO of Moderna got a \$926 million golden parachute after his company received \$2.5 billion in taxpayer dollars to develop the vaccine. We all appreciate the development of the vaccine, which is saving lives every day. But, really, does the CEO of the company that received \$2.5 billion of taxpayer money deserve a \$926 million golden parachute? That is an indication, a manifestation, of a sick and broken healthcare system. And while over 330,000 Americans died during the pandemic because they could not afford to go to a doctor on time, the CEO of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals made over \$450 million in total compensation.

The current system is failing the American people, and the American people want change—real change.

In March, a few months ago, I was pleased to introduce Medicare for All

legislation, with 15 Senate cosponsors. Companion legislation in the House now has 122 cosponsors. This legislation would improve and expand Medicare to cover, over a 4-year period, healthcare to every man, woman, and child in this country. In other words, what this legislation finally does is make sure that the United States joins every other major country and that we guarantee healthcare to all of our people.

This legislation is comprehensive, and it would end out-of-pocket expenses. Unlike the current system, it would provide full freedom of choice regarding healthcare providers. In other words, under Medicare for All, there would no longer be insurance premiums, deductibles, or copayments, and no more networks which deny you your choice of doctors. And, when I talk about Medicare for All being comprehensive, it would cover dental care, vision, hearing aids, prescription drugs, and home- and community-based care. In other words, it would do precisely what the American people want us to do.

Would a Medicare for All system be expensive? Yes, but while providing comprehensive care for all, it would be significantly less expensive than our current dysfunctional system because it would eliminate an enormous amount of the bureaucracy, profiteering, administrative costs, and misplaced priorities inherent in our current for-profit system.

Remember, we currently pay twice as much for healthcare as do the people of virtually any other country, and all of those countries manage to provide universal healthcare. So, yes, we can provide quality care for all at a much, much lower cost per person.

Under Medicare for All, there would no longer be armies of people billing us, telling us what is covered and what is not covered, and hounding us to pay our hospital bills. This not only saves substantial sums of money but will make life a lot easier for the American people, who would never again have to fight their way through the nightmare of insurance company bureaucracy. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, estimated that Medicare for All would save Americans \$650 billion a year.

Now, trust me. I do know the 30-second ads from the insurance and drug companies that have told us that if Medicare for All becomes law, your taxes will go up. What they forgot to tell you is that, under Medicare for All, you will no longer be paying premiums, deductibles, copayments, and out-of-pocket expenses to private health insurance companies. What they certainly won't tell you is that Medicare for All will save—save—the average American family thousands of dollars a year. In fact, a study by RAND found that moving to a Medicare for All system would save a family with an income of less than \$185,000 about \$3,000 a year on average.

Now, one might ask, fair enough: If Medicare for All is so good, if it has so many advantages, if it is what the American people want, why hasn't it been enacted by now? Why hasn't the United States joined every other major country in guaranteeing healthcare for all?

That takes us to our corrupt political system and the outrageous way we fund campaigns. So I would suggest if you want to know why we are stuck with a dysfunctional healthcare system that fails the American people but that makes the drug companies and the insurance companies wildly profitable, follow the money. Follow the money.

Since 1998, in our corrupt political system, the private healthcare sector has spent more than \$10 billion on lobbying. Got that? More than \$10 billion on lobbying since 1998. Over the last 30 years, it has spent more than \$1.7 billion on campaign contributions to maintain the status quo.

In terms of their lobbying efforts, let's be clear. They are very, very bipartisan. There are former Democratic Party leaders and former Republican Party leaders who are working together to represent the insurance companies and the drug companies.

And, by the way, of course, in terms of the campaign contributions, the insurance companies and the drug companies are also very bipartisan. In fact, their contributions go to many Members of both the Democratic and Republican Parties. It doesn't really matter if you are a Democrat or a Republican; what matters is you protect the interests of the drug companies and the insurance companies.

But, you know, what I believe is that maybe, just maybe, now is the time for Congress to do what the American people want—not what the lobbyists want, not what the drug companies want, not what the insurance companies want. And maybe, just maybe, we should have the courage to take on the powerful special interests that dominate healthcare in the United States. And maybe, just maybe, now is the time to provide healthcare to every man, woman, and child as a human right by passing a Medicare for All, single-payer program.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, agriculture is a critical part of Nebraska's economy. It accounts for, roughly, \$25.7 billion of Nebraska's gross State product. That is a little less than a quarter of our State's overall GDP. Nearly one in four jobs in the State is tied to agriculture.

That economic output is important because, thanks to States like Nebraska, hard-working family farmers and ranchers produce a wide variety of products that keep our grocery stores stocked and help to feed the world. But our Nation's agricultural bounty doesn't do anyone much good if it can't

get to market, and that is where our complex transportation and infrastructure system comes into play.

The railroad industry, in particular, has a big role in bringing agricultural products to locations across the United States. That includes ports, where they can then be shipped to locations around the world. Whether it is grain or soybeans, railroads provide the means to affordably move thousands of tons of goods where they need to go. It is estimated that rail delivers 1.6 million carloads of agricultural products a year. That is why I am deeply concerned about the potential for a rail shutdown later this week.

I think it is very important that people understand what kind of economic impact such as a shutdown would have and how it would upend our Nation's agricultural sector. The consequences would be devastating. When agricultural products can't be transported, there will be price hikes, and there will be shortages. Our international exports of commodities like corn, soy, wheat, of which a large share moves by rail, will fall dramatically.

Fertilizer prices—an already expensive input due to inflation—will further skyrocket. The mere prospect of a shutdown on Friday means fertilizer and other hazardous materials have already started being removed from the rail networks on September 12. Biofuel plants could be forced to scale down operations or completely shut down.

I would also point out that we have harvest coming up in Nebraska. Family farmers in my State, many of whom are grappling with rapidly rising input costs, need a good harvest season. And if rail service isn't feasible, that possibility could go out the window.

Grain elevators, for example, could run out of storage and be unable to accept additional commodities. Family farmers and ranchers will lose critical revenue streams.

The bottom line is, if rail shuts down, our entire agricultural system shuts down. It is that simple.

All of this economic chaos would come on top of extreme inflation. Today's numbers put grocery prices up 13.5 percent over last year. Think about the toll this out-of-control inflation is taking on our working-class families.

Then there is the international turmoil. Russia's horrific invasion of Ukraine has dramatically curtailed the flow of grain, which, in turn, has exacerbated food insecurity in Africa and the Middle East. And the war has also further strained the fertilizer supply chain. All of this is to say that the stakes of these rail negotiations couldn't be higher.

Nine of the twelve labor unions in the rail sector have been able to utilize the Presidential Emergency Board recommendations to come to an agreement. I note that the Board is composed of neutral, impartial individuals appointed by President Biden. Their recommendations are widely seen as

benefiting all parties. It is critical that the remaining labor unions and the rail industry use those recommendations to reach an agreement as soon as possible.

Our entire agricultural system is at stake here, the economic welfare of the American people is at stake here, and the global food security is also at stake here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, there are a lot of important things that we do here in the U.S. Senate, hopefully, every day; certainly, every week, month, and over the year. But there are a couple of pieces of legislation which are literally must-pass pieces of legislation. They deserve an even higher priority than our day-to-day work here. These must-pass pieces of legislation are critical to the function of our government.

First, for example, government funding is critical so we can keep the lights on and keep the government working on behalf of the American people. If Congress fails to pass an appropriations bill, the government will literally shut down and millions of government workers will be left without a paycheck and the American people will be left without the services that those government employees would otherwise provide.

The good news is, at this moment, there appears to be little appetite for a funding fiasco at the end of this fiscal year at the end of this month. In a couple of weeks, I expect we will vote on a stopgap funding bill to keep the lights on and the trains moving until the end of the year.

Continuing resolutions like this, leading up to an end-of-the-year omnibus appropriations bill, are never my first choice. My hope would be that we would take up and pass each of the individual appropriations bills on a timely basis and then bring them across the floor of the U.S. Senate, pass them, and get them to the President for his signature. But, unfortunately, that hasn't happened under the current management.

There are other bills that receive the "must-pass" label. These could be anything from farm bills to disaster relief. Each of these are important. But, in my view, the ultimate must-pass piece of legislation is the National Defense Authorization Act.

Each year, this is how we make sure that our men and women in uniform have the support and the tools and the training they need and the pay to compensate them for their service as well as the support their families deserve, which is particularly important in an All-Volunteer military. This is how we maintain our military bases, modernize our weapons systems, and invest in the next generation of weapons.

It is how we take stock of the global threat landscape, which always seems

like it is getting more and more ominous, and we make sure that our country is prepared to counter even our most aggressive adversaries.

That is why Congress has passed a consolidated defense authorization bill for each of the past 61 years. For 61 years in a row, we passed a national defense authorization bill. But, apparently, the majority leader, Senator SCHUMER, is contemplating not doing that this year.

A strong and ontime defense authorization act has always been crucial, but this particular moment in history demands even greater attention.

As we know, on February 24—nearly 7 months ago—Russia launched an unprovoked war against Ukraine. Thankfully, the civilized world has rallied around Ukraine, supplying it with the tools and weapons they need not only to fight but to win this war.

At the same time, we know thousands of miles away, the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Republic of China have become increasingly hostile to the West and desperate to project its military power. It continues, at the same time, to commit genocide against the Uighurs and other ethnic minorities, and it is likely preparing an invasion of Taiwan.

North Korea has declared itself to be a nuclear weapons state. Iran is pursuing its own nuclear ambitions and a breakout for those nuclear weapons, which is the point when they actually acquire one. It is getting closer every day.

We know after the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan that the Taliban, which once gave nurture to al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden, attacked the Twin Towers and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

And, of course, the political instability from the disastrous means or method by which we withdrew from Afghanistan, literally turning over billions of dollars to the Taliban and weapons that they never would have otherwise been able to acquire, has created a tremendous amount of instability in the region, where already Pakistan and India warily eye each other, both of whom are nuclear powers.

So given the walk around the globe and the identification of these multitude of threats, you would think that passing a defense authorization act would be the highest priority for the U.S. Congress and particularly the Senate.

If you think about it, all of the freedoms and the standard of living, the quality of life we enjoy in this country, our prosperity, are all directly related to our ability to keep our country safe and keep the American people safe. That should be our No. 1 priority.

But the truth is, we can't match these stakes. We can't rise to this demand and this need with continuing resolutions and past-due authorizations.

Our men and women in uniform need to prepare and train every day, 365 days

a year. And if we don't pass a defense authorization act now, we will be stealing time that we already don't have.

General MacArthur, who became famous in the Korean war, said the history of failure in war can be summed up in two words: "too late"—too late.

Now, our colleagues on the Senate Armed Services Committee, on a bipartisan basis, under the leadership of Senator REED, a Democrat, and Senator INHOFE, a Republican, have compiled a strong bill that would strengthen and modernize our national defense. But the Senate Armed Services Committee completed its work on July 18. Here we are, September 13.

Senator SCHUMER, the one who sets the agenda for the U.S. Senate, has yet to bring that bill to the floor. Of all of the must-pass bills that I hear discussed in the media and among our colleagues, rarely are people talking about the Defense authorization bill.

The Presiding Officer succeeded John McCain in the U.S. Senate. John McCain was, of course, not only a war hero; he was a proud patriot. And he was a bear of a man to deal with. But I dare say, if John McCain were alive today, we would be on a defense authorization bill before we break for the midterm elections because he would not let anyone rest if we broke or threatened to break that 61-year consistent threat of meeting that No. 1 priority obligation.

I was hoping that the Senate would consider the Defense authorization bill this month and give our planners at the Pentagon and our commanders the predictability they need, as well as our military families the support that they deserve and need, not to mention our men and women who are on the frontlines fighting to protect our country, the tools and the training they need in order to do their job. I was optimistic that given the clear and present danger of the situation we are living through now, the threat landscape, and the desire to show our bipartisan support for our military, that we would, naturally, make this the 62nd year consecutively to pass the Defense authorization bill.

The only other must-pass item on the Senate's to-do list this month is to keep the government funded, and the Democratic majority has already committed to the short-term extension until the middle of December. So there is just no excuse for putting off the annual Defense bill. But for some reason, to this point, Senator SCHUMER, the Senate majority leader who sets the agenda in the Senate, does not seem to agree that is an urgent, must-pass piece of legislation.

I know there is bipartisan support to encourage him to bring this bill up, but so far he hasn't been swayed. The Defense authorization bill seems to be at the bottom of his priority list, below judicial nominations and a bill to codify a right to marry that is not even in jeopardy.

Given everything that is going on in the world, there is simply no reason to

delay consideration of the Defense authorization bill. In fact, there is every reason to do it on time and for the 62nd consecutive year.

We all know that American strength and leadership are vital to global security and equally vital to protecting our homeland. The Senate simply should not ignore its responsibility when it comes to our readiness.

Now, one of the things that concerns me the most, because he is not talking about this being a priority, is that he will try to stick this Defense authorization bill on an appropriations bill at the end of the year, sort of as a clean-up, but if he does that, he will effectively deny Senators floor time to offer debate and to actually have votes on the bill and how to improve it.

One amendment I intend to offer if given the opportunity is a bill I introduced with Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire which would help replenish our defense stockpiles.

As we all know by now, the United States has provided Ukraine unprecedented defense aid—Stingers, Javelins, grenade launchers, small arms, ammunition, and so much more. This assistance is not a handout. This is not a charity project. As much as we want to see Ukraine prevail, our material support for Ukraine is not entirely altruistic. The United States isn't just investing in a Ukrainian victory; we are also putting our resources toward a Russian defeat. We are trying to help snuff out the fire before it spreads even further west. We know what Mr. Putin's aspirations are; it is to restore the great Russian Empire that existed when the Soviet Union existed.

We know that there is a delicate balance to strike here. Our support for Ukraine cannot come, should not come at the cost of our own military readiness. And we have requirements way beyond just Ukraine, as I mentioned earlier—the People's Republic of China, North Korea, Iran.

The United States is a global power, and we have to be ready whenever and wherever the threat arises. We have to be able to replenish our weapons stockpiles quickly so we are ready whatever may come our way. Unfortunately, there are a lot of bureaucratic hurdles in the way.

I was shocked when I saw that the Pentagon is not in a position to replace the Javelins and Stinger missiles that we provided Ukraine because they don't have an operating production line, and they said it may take a couple of years. I know that our friends and allies in Europe that are providing weapons to the Ukrainians have every expectation that the United States will replenish those stockpiles of weapons so that they can defend their country and meet their NATO obligations.

So the level of unreadiness at the Pentagon to meet the current need is shocking. The Defense Department can't place an order for more Javelins and then have them show up at the Pentagon 5 to 7 business days later. It

simply doesn't work like that. The process of purchasing, manufacturing, and deploying this lethal aid takes a lot of time, which, to be frank, we do not have.

Senator SHAHEEN and I have recently introduced a bipartisan bill called the Securing American ARMS Act to remove some of the hurdles and the bureaucratic delay in replenishing those stockpiles. It will give the Department of Defense the ability to fast-track the procurement process. That includes times like these when the United States is providing defense articles to an ally or a partner that is under armed attack by a U.S. adversary.

Our bill would also give the Defense Department the ability to expedite the delivery of defense articles to our allies and partners in need. This will allow us to continue to provide critical support to Ukraine—but not just limited to Ukraine—all without compromising our national defense or our ability to meet other obligations around the world.

I appreciate Senator SHAHEEN working with me on this bill, which now has more than a dozen bipartisan cosponsors.

When the Senate finally begins consideration of the Defense Authorization Act, I hope this legislation will be a part of it. At the same time, as a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I am hopeful we can also reauthorize the U.S. intelligence community, which usually takes a ride on the Defense Authorization Act.

The hard-working men and women of the intelligence community carry out missions day in and day out that inform key policy decisions and the work of the U.S. military. Of course, being intelligence operators, their work is not acknowledged necessarily like a member of our uniformed services, but their service is vital to our missions and our interests around the world.

One great example of the role the intelligence community played in the runup to Russia's invasion of Ukraine was that our intelligence community was able to provide skeptical allies with irrefutable proof of Russia's intentions and showed exactly what Russia was planning before February 24. I have no doubt that this intelligence contributed to the unified response in the days and weeks following. And we engaged in enhanced information and intelligence sharing on a real-time basis that I think has helped facilitate Ukraine's strong national defense and now counteroffensive that they are currently engaged in, trying to recapture some of their territory that Russia has previously occupied.

I want to particularly recognize the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee—Senator WARNER, a Democrat from Virginia, and Senator RUBIO, a Republican from Florida—for their leadership in helping us pass the Intelligence Authorization Act unanimously in July. Like other authorization bills, this

outlines funding levels for the intelligence community, but it also contains legislative oversight of America's intelligence apparatus.

Strong oversight is crucial to ensuring accountability, while enabling our intelligence professionals to accomplish the complex and difficult missions the American people demand of them. With the ongoing war in Ukraine and threats from China continuing to grow, we need intelligence at the speed of relevance. This is how we help assure everyone, from our policymakers to our warfighters, that we will have the tools to maintain America's preeminent global position and ensure the defense of our homeland.

I appreciate the hard work of Senator RUBIO and Senator WARNER to advance this reauthorization, and again, I hope, when we take up the Defense Authorization Act at some point, that it will be included.

So, Madam President, let me just conclude where I started. The National Defense Authorization Act is a must-pass piece of legislation. We have passed it for 61 years in a row. Yet, when I hear Senator SCHUMER, the majority leader, talk about things we need to do before the midterm elections, I don't hear a peep out of him on his intention to move that Defense Authorization Act.

Providing for the common defense is one of Congress's most basic responsibilities. If we can't keep the American people and our democracy safe, we will have failed in our first and most urgent duty. There is far too much at stake to let the NDAA linger on the Senate calendar for more months. So my hope is that the majority leader will bring this bill to the floor this month and provide Senators who are not on the Armed Services Committee an opportunity to participate in the process by debating and offering amendments like the one I described earlier so we can strengthen our national defense at this critical moment in our Nation's history.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, what a great time of the year—county fairs, State fairs. The weather is changing. People are getting outside more. It is not quite as hot in most places. Parents have smiles on their faces because their kids are going back to school. College is starting up.

That is what I want to talk about today. Our college campuses are ramping up. There are a lot of good things going on with that. A lot of young people are for the first time going to college, going out for the first time in their lives and making their own decisions, away from home for the first time, putting their budgets together, having to go by their own time with nobody to wake them up, having to wash their own clothes, having to do things they have never had to do be-

fore. For the first time in their lives, they are responsible for themselves 24 hours a day.

I did that for 40 years coaching college football, coaching high school football. It was amazing how many young men and women whom I worked with never saw the Sun come up in their lives. If they played for me, they got to see the Sun come up. We got up early and stayed late.

So it is an important time for all of our young adults in college, K-12—very important—for our high school, elementary, and junior high school kids. For many, many years, it has been an important part of all of our lives in the United States of America, and it has been one point that has made us better than everybody across the world in terms of education. We educate our young people from K-12. Everybody has an opportunity to go to college for an extended education. It is a great opportunity. It is fun to watch. I had a chance to watch a lot of young people have some great opportunities and make a lot of things out of themselves.

I used to tell my players when I coached that you are living in the greatest country on the face of the Earth. If you are born in this country, you hit the lottery. A lot of people don't understand that. If you go to some of these other countries, you will figure it out real quick. But the United States of America, this country, really owes you nothing other than one thing: It owes you an opportunity—an opportunity to do what the heck you want to do or be who you want to be. If you work hard, you might have a chance. A lot of times, you are going to get knocked down. Do you know what this country does? It gives you a chance to get back on your feet and go again. It doesn't owe you one thing other than that. If you take advantage of it, you can achieve it.

For many years, institutions of higher education were great examples of the great American experiment. They were places where free speech was not only allowed but encouraged, and innovation and problem-solving were required for success. Success created some of America's favorite pastimes.

College sports, which have become a piece of our national identity, started a couple of weeks ago. They have immense benefits for young men and women who get involved in sports. But higher education became the envy of the world, as I said earlier. Our colleges and universities produced new research, technologies, and medicines and molded the talent and the talented minds to use these new developments that make our country a better place and make our country No. 1.

But this trend, I hate to say, is changing. Activists have fundamentally shifted higher education to become a vehicle to further their political agenda, and now they are set on forcing American taxpayers to pay for the overpriced indoctrination and taking athletic opportunities away from

those who have worked so very hard to train and compete.

Let's start with the pricetag associated with higher education. The cost of attending college has skyrocketed, but these institutions have done little—very little—to ensure their value has increased along with the increase in price, the increase in tuitions. Bloated school administrations continually drive budgets and tuitions up, to the point where a lot of people can't afford to go to school anymore.

President Biden recently decided to throw gasoline on this fire by attempting to use Executive authority to, as he calls it, forgive student loan debt for millions of Americans. His plan will forgive up to \$20,000 in student loan debt for Pell grant recipients who make \$125,000 a year or less and \$10,000 in student loan debt for all those under the same salary cap.

Think about that. A college-educated person making a six-figure salary would essentially get a \$10,000 handout from hard-working Americans, the majority of whom did not go to college themselves and are struggling to provide for their families thanks to soaring inflation driven by our comrades on the left, Democrats' reckless spending in the last 2 years.

Despite the administration's attempt to convince the country that they are focused on fighting inflation, this debt transfer scheme will do exactly the opposite. It is going to make prices higher. In fact, the Penn Wharton budget model projects the total cost of President Biden's loan forgiveness plan and changes to the other loan programs could cost the American people more than \$1 trillion.

Folks on both sides of the aisle have rightfully criticized this plan because of its clear and indefensible cost, and I share those concerns with everybody that is against this.

I am also concerned about two additional long-term effects of this decision. One, it does nothing to fix the broken system that led to soaring costs of college in the first place. It will, in fact, make college even more expensive. If we are going to do something, let's fix the problem. We are not fixing the problem. We are just adding to the problem. And, two, it allows students and graduates to avoid the consequences of their own actions, further hindering young people from becoming independent, free thinking, and responsible. The thing about education is learning responsibility, and this does exactly the opposite of teaching responsibility at a level where they need to learn.

All Americans, including those who, like me, chose to take on debt attending college must be responsible for their own actions. Hard-working taxpayers who did not go to college should not have to assume the debt of others because this administration decided to fulfill a campaign promise right before a midterm election.

Further, this degradation of the value of college is just the latest in a

decades-long effort by those on the left to fundamentally change higher education and force their agenda on campuses across our country, and it comes right after this administration announced its plan to attack another key part of the American system—athletic competition and the level playing field created by title IX.

I began my career coaching high school a long time ago. But before that, title IX was created in supporting women athletics. I started coaching a few years after title IX was started, and I have seen from the very beginning what title IX has done for women across this country—girls and athletes—and how it has made leaders of young girls and young women who would have never been afforded the opportunity had title IX not passed.

Title IX, to me, is one of the best things this Federal Government has ever done, bar none. It has given the opportunity of a level playing field for young girls to have that opportunity they would have never had. What it did, it said boys and girls have to have the same facilities, coaches, and same athletic budgets, also the same scholarships if they went to a university. Men could not have more than women. And we have seen the explosion of women sports, bar none.

When I was coaching years ago, 3 to 6 percent of the high school girls—3 to 6 percent—played high school athletics. Today, we have close to 60 percent. Why? Because of title IX, because of more sports that title IX afforded and bigger budgets for women athletics. It did a tremendous service to women and girls across this country. I am proud of the progress this country has made and the immense talent that it has brought out because of what title IX has done.

But this anniversary, which was the 50th anniversary in June—think about that, 50th anniversary, how time flies. I am not that old. But the 50th anniversary of title IX was in June. This anniversary comes at a challenging time now for young girls and women in sports. The ability to train and compete fairly is under attack from activists and this current White House. Since 2003, at least 28 biological males have won titles in various women's events around the world. Think about that. Now we are allowing biological boys and biological men to compete against girls and women in sports, and they won 28 titles. How fair is that?

If the current administration and the activists pushing this policy have their way, biological males winning women's sports championships would become the norm. It will be an everyday occurrence. That is not fair. It is not fair for a young girl or woman that has trained all her life in a sport to, at the end of the day, have to compete for a championship against a young boy who says or thinks that he is a woman. What is right about that?

In July, the Department of Education published and proposed a rule to change how title IX is implemented in

order to better align with the administration's progressive agenda. These proposed changes would require schools to allow—this is in title IX now—will allow biological males to compete in women's sports.

Last week, I submitted a public comment to Secretary Cardona that clearly and strongly condemns this new proposed rule. Expanding the definition of sex to include gender identity, to identify whoever you want to identify as, will cause lasting damage to the level playing field title IX originally was created for, which was for women. The change to title IX would be a monumental setback for the generations of women who have benefited from the law over the last 50 years.

So what are we going to do now? We are going to go back to square one because somebody wants to change it. The Department should not move forward with this proposal and not change the rule but, instead, work with Congress on legislative action meant to strengthen protections afforded women in the original statute.

As I know from firsthand experience, participating in college athletics is about more than winning and losing. There is a lot more to it. Student athletes learn many important lessons by participating. It sets our country apart from other countries all over the world—like the value of hard work, discipline, commitment, responsibility. Athletes learn how to work together, be loyal to each other, play for a cause, take responsibility for their own actions, learn how to win—but, more importantly, learn how to lose. Perhaps most importantly, they teach student athletes that free and fair competition allows the best team to win.

That is why I am so strongly opposed to this administration's plans to devalue education and unlevel the playing field in the name of leftwing progress and indoctrination.

These attacks on higher education and women's sports must stop. To best prepare America's young people to be the next generation of leaders our country needs, I am fighting back against these policies, like dismantling title IX and haphazardly forgiving student debt. That encourages young adults to break the rules and ignore their responsibilities.

Instead of making our colleges more expensive and less fair, Congress should be focused on reforms to get to the root of the cause. Universities should be encouraged to cut budgets and lower tuition rates. Students graduating high school should be steered toward career and financial decisions that make sense for them and that they can afford. Everybody doesn't need to go to college.

Lastly, we must reject these ideologies and mobs on the left who don't believe in free speech in the classroom and on our college campuses. Our country cannot thrive without allowing young adults to freely and fairly learn, grow, develop, and create on

and off the field. We must protect that fair playing field while encouraging college students to take responsibility for their own actions and financial decisions, something all of us here in Congress should learn to do as well.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RAILWAY LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this afternoon, I come here with genuine concern about the possibility of the failure to resolve a railroad labor management dispute, and I express my support for that resolution.

I represent a State, the State of Kansas, its people, America's largest supplier of wheat, and a top leader in agricultural markets of many other crops. I can tell you that a labor strike would disrupt the stability of our ag markets and could prove catastrophic to our global food supply.

At a time in which hunger is rampant around the world, again one of the last things we need is more difficulties in getting agriculture, commodities, and food to people around the globe who are looking for a meal tonight. In my State, corn, soybeans, grain, sorghum—that harvest is underway, and farmers need to be able to ship their crops by train around the country and to our ports where the grain will be sent to feed that hungry world.

In parts of Kansas facing severe drought, feed yards, places that we feed cattle, are shipping grain in from other areas of the country to feed their livestock.

Rail service is critical to making sure these producers are able to get the feed they need and to keep their livestock fed and healthy. The U.S. rail network moves critical agricultural commodities across the Nation, and a complete shutdown of the rail system would result in devastating consequences across an already weak supply chain.

The Association of American Railroads found that a nationwide rail shutdown could idle more than 7,000 trains and lose more than \$2 billion a day in missed economic output. As the deadline approaches, we are already seeing the impact of contingency planning by railways, showing that a full shutdown would be totally unacceptable.

With the trucking industry and other transportation systems already at their maximum capacity, there is no alternative plan that could mitigate the losses in case of a rail transportation strike and that rail service coming to an end.

I have been in regular contact with our rail leaders, including those at Union Pacific and the Kansas City

Southern, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and I continue to urge all parties to reach an agreement.

Our constituents deserve certainty that will come from reaching that agreement. In the event that the conclusion is not reached, I will utilize my opportunities as a Member of the Senate, as a Member of Congress for congressional intervention and work to shield the impact of a rail shutdown across the Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

ISRAEL AND TAIWAN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, on November 11, 2001—exactly 2 months after the September 11 attacks—President Bush spoke to the United Nations General Assembly about the universal threat of terrorism.

I want to share just a few lines from that speech:

The suffering of September the 11th was inflicted on people of many faiths and many nations. All of the victims, including Muslims, were killed with equal indifference and equal satisfaction by the terrorist leaders.

Time is passing. Yet, for the United States of America, there will be no forgetting September the 11th. We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We will remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls, the funerals of the children.

And the people of my country will remember those who have plotted against us. We are learning their names. We are coming to know their faces. There is no corner of the Earth distant or dark enough to protect them. However long it takes, their hour of justice will come.

Every nation has a stake in this cause. As we meet, the terrorists are planning more murder—perhaps in my country, or perhaps in yours. They kill because they aspire to dominate.

Now, 21 years later, I fear that President Biden and many of my Democratic colleagues have forgotten the lessons they learned from that day and in the years that have followed.

What I recall most about the weeks and months following the attacks is that everyone I talked with, no matter their politics, believed that we were facing a battle of good versus evil.

There was a real clarity of conviction that demanded we all choose a side. Would we stand with freedom or with the enemies of freedom? You can dither and dally all you want on national security policy, but there was not much dithering to be done on that point, at least not in 2001.

But now, in the mainstream media and at the highest levels of the Democratic Party, we see that clarity of conviction ceding ground to moral relativism. It infected this weekend's remembrance. It infected the debate surrounding Joe Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. And it has all but derailed any serious discussion about emerging threats, not just from terrorist organizations but from hostile regimes that the Biden administration seems determined to appease.

During this past August work period, I had the opportunity to visit two of

the hot spots. Working with our counterparts in Taiwan and Israel was illuminating for many reasons. I wish every single one of my colleagues would get off their computers, get on a plane, and go talk to them about what it is like to spend every day on the frontlines in this battle against the new "axis of evil."

Here in the United States, we are blessed by the benefit of physical distance from the hot spots. And it is no guarantee of protection, and I believe it has lulled many of my colleagues into a false sense of security concerning the threats we face.

Our friends in Taipei and Jerusalem don't share this benefit. They spend their days watching missiles fly closer to their homes and listening to authoritarian propaganda from Beijing and Iran that threatens innocent families with extinction for the crime of simply existing.

In Israel, they are gravely concerned about the Biden administration's desire to enter into a new nuclear deal with Tehran. They worry that this will move Iran closer to a nuclear warhead. They are concerned about what would happen with the billions of dollars that would flow into Iran's coffers. What would happen with sanctions relief? How will they use this money?

Overall, their fears are dominated by the knowledge that, yes, indeed, Iran is the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism. How will they use the money to finance the work of their proxies? They are particularly concerned how this will instigate growth and expansion of terrorism in Palestine.

In Taiwan, they are concerned about the growing intensity of Chinese Communist Party aggression. I have also heard grave concerns from other island nations that if China overruns Taiwan, they could be the next to fall.

But above all, they conveyed a strong desire to continue working with the United States. Yes, we are their preferred partner. They need our foreign military sales. They want to be able to defend themselves. It means they have to increase their defense capabilities.

Taiwan and Israel aren't the only hot spots that should concern us, but they both represent the first line of defense against the growing influence of the new "axis of evil."

The one thing I heard, over and over again when I was overseas, is that if we allow these nations to become overrun, it will start a domino effect in the Indo-Pacific and the Middle East that will be difficult, if not impossible, to stop.

And as we have seen before, when we give nations like China and Iran an inch, what do they do? They take a mile.

So it is incomprehensible to me that Joe Biden and the Democrats are not doing everything—everything—in their power to stop this from happening.

Over the past few years, I have watched the President and his allies treat the threat posed by the new "axis

of evil” like an academic problem, rather than what it is, a true threat to our freedoms.

There is no excuse for this. They all have access to television and the internet. They know exactly who is in charge in Tehran and Beijing and what they are willing to do to expand their power.

So why have we made so little progress repatriating our supply chains and protecting our economy from the Chinese Communist Party? Why is Joe Biden trying to force the American people into another failed nuclear deal with Iran? Why are they not listening to our closest allies and partners in these regions? Why is this administration having Russia negotiate a new Iran nuclear deal?

If this country continues to treat China and Iran like difficult neighbors instead of a threat to our freedoms, eventually the balance of power will shift in their favor. Nations like Taiwan and Israel will fall. The United States could suffer another devastating attack.

Joe Biden and the Democrats have wasted time rejecting reality in favor of appeasement. They believe that they can negotiate the upper hand and settle things diplomatically. But this isn't diplomacy; this is a hostage situation. If it weren't, images of missiles flying towards civilians would have reignited the same clarity of conviction we all felt after the towers fell and the people in charge of our government would be shouting warnings from the rooftops rather than negotiating away our security behind closed doors.

I would remind my Democratic colleagues that U.N. human rights reports and strongly worded statements and all the other trappings of your current brand of diplomacy mean nothing if you are not willing to put lives and livelihoods on the line to defend them.

So it is time to decide: Will you stand with freedom or with the enemies of freedom?

I want to reiterate President Bush's assessment of the terrorists who attacked our country 21 years ago this week because it is an apt comparison to be made. “They kill because they aspire to dominate.” Think about that one. “They kill because they aspire to dominate.”

What the regimes in Tehran and Beijing are doing right now to our friends in Israel and Taiwan looks different from what al-Qaida did to us on 9/11, but their goals are the same. They seek global domination, and they are growing impatient. We can either wait to see what they will do next or we can stand with our allies and partners and demonstrate our resolve to ensure that the new axis of evil fails.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UKRAINE

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague from the great State of Ohio, Senator PORTMAN, to share with the Senate and the country some of the things that we learned from our recent trip to Ukraine.

I first want to thank Senator PORTMAN. He comes to the floor every week—never gives up, whether things are good or bad—to talk about what is happening in Ukraine.

President Zelenskyy was incredibly grateful—that was the first thing he wanted us to report back to the Senate and to the country—incredibly grateful for all America has done to stand with Ukraine.

We know that this is a country that has given its all. Sometimes we wonder in our own country: What would we put on the line for democracy? Are we going to vote? Or things like that. The people in this country have put their very lives on the line every single day: ballerinas donning camo and going to the frontline; exhausted workers at a nuclear plant trying to protect not just Ukraine but all of Europe in what is the biggest nuclear powerplant in Europe and which supplies 20 percent of Ukrainian energy; the cellist playing beautiful melodies in the bombed-out remnants of a town square to remind people that no matter what Vladimir Putin did to their country, no matter what he did with his inhumane barbarism, culture and love is there in Ukraine, and it is not going away.

Senator PORTMAN and I visited the mass grave in Bucha, and in Irpin we saw many, many apartment buildings that were completely blown apart from the bombs.

We saw firsthand the strength of the Ukrainian people and their leaders. But just as Vladimir Putin has shown his true colors with the bombing and the shelling near a nuclear powerplant, the people of Ukraine have shown their colors in a brilliant yellow and blue. Over the past 6 months since the invasion, their bravery and humanity consistently shine through.

We had, together, traveled to Ukraine. And the last group of Senators who visited before the war started was Senators SHAHEEN, MURPHY, BLUMENTHAL, CRAMER, and WICKER. We witnessed the incredible resolve of the people back then, and it has only grown stronger.

In our meeting with President Zelenskyy for over an hour and with Defense Minister Reznikov and the President's Chief of Staff, we heard, time and time again: the helpfulness of the HIMARS. In fact, the Embassy staff told us that they went to a take-out place in Ukraine and that the people who worked in the restaurant didn't even know they were with our Embassy but knew they were American, and they gave them their bag of food, and on the bag was written the

words “Thanks for the HIMARS.” That is how the people of Ukraine are focused day in and day out on what is happening in their region.

We also, of course, talk about the counteroffensive, and I know Senator PORTMAN will talk in detail about what is happening. And we know the fight is not over. Russia has retaliated by striking infrastructure just in the last few days, and Ukraine is still on the move. But, if anything, this is certainly a sign that our aid—our humanitarian aid, our economic aid, and our military aid—has been very helpful.

The situation, of course, remains dangerous, especially in the Zaporizhzhia region, where the nuclear powerplant is located. We have a situation where the Russians have been bombing and shelling around that plant, where several times Ukrainians have lost power for the power that powers that plant. But also, of course, that plant provides energy. All of it is dangerous.

We called for the IAEA when we were there—they visited literally the next day—to be able to inspect that plant. They were able to—14 inspectors, with 2 being allowed to stay on indefinitely. And, of course, we have called for a demilitarized zone, as has our government.

We also got to meet with the 101st Airborne in Poland, and they, again, underscored our commitment to our NATO allies, the work they have been doing, including helping the Ukrainians remotely to make repairs on various missiles and various weapons and the like. It is an incredible story.

Last week, our administration reported that Moscow is in the process of purchasing rockets and artillery shells from North Korea. It shows how much trouble they are in.

This Senate voted nearly unanimously to allow Finland and Sweden to join NATO. That must happen as quickly as possible because we want to see a united front. As Senator PORTMAN pointed out many times on our trip, there are over 40 nations that are aiding in this effort; it is not America alone.

I always think of that viral video that President Zelenskyy did. He knew the importance of staying in his country and not abandoning his post when the Russians invaded. If you think back to that day, if he had done that, if he had left for a safer location, we would never be where we are today, standing up for democracy. But what he said that night was simply this: We are here. He said: We are here. From that moment on, he and his people inspired the world. Now it is our time to ensure the Ukrainians—as we move forward with our next continuing resolution and supplemental with the budget—that we are here for them; that we know what they are up against, and it is evil, and we stand with their democracy.

Again, I want to thank Senator PORTMAN for his incredible leadership

in working with our leadership, our military, but also the Ukrainian leadership. They know him well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Minnesota who just talked about our recent visit to Ukraine, where we were able to meet with President Zelenskyy and his top officials and see firsthand what you can see on TV. But, frankly, the emotion and just the incredible courage of the Ukrainian people, when you see it in person, is much more powerful, including going to an airport right outside of Kyiv where a bunch of inexperienced National Guard troops were able to fight off a larger and very seasoned group of Russian and Chechen special operators who landed at that airport.

This was back on February 24. You may remember seeing this on television. I remember watching CNN and seeing these Russian troops landing one after another. Twenty-five helicopters came in, and they were going to use that as a staging area, as you said so well, to not just take Kyiv but take the entire country and topple the government. And this small band of National Guard troops, fighting for their family, fighting for their homeland, and fighting for freedom, as they told us, were able to instead defeat this group of highly trained Chechen and Russian special operators and turn the tide. Within 3 days, they had routed them. Thanks to their bravery and courage, they were not able to use that staging area to then go into the city of Kyiv, which is only about 30 minutes away, and be able to topple that government.

I remember we asked the commander whom we saw there, who was the commander that night when these helicopters arrived: How did you do it? Like, how could this have been possible, that you could fight off these more experienced troops and the world's third biggest army? And his response was: Because I was fighting for my family. Remember that? So we saw constantly.

Senator KLOBUCHAR was always good about ensuring that the people of Ukraine knew that we were standing with them and that we understood the challenge they face and the fact that this is not just a fight for freedom in Ukraine but a fight for freedom that affects all of us around the world. They are the shield, really, of freedom—certainly for Europe and for so much of the rest of the world.

So I appreciate your, again, going with me on the trip.

We took the last congressional delegation into Ukraine before the invasion and now the first authorized one, I guess, after. There is so much we were able to learn when we were there because it was a time when the U.N. inspectors were coming into Zaporizhzhia. This is the biggest powerplant in Europe that Senator KLOBUCHAR just talked about. Thank good-

ness they were able to get to the plant, inspect the plant, and make some changes to try to keep the plant from leaking radioactive material that has the potential to be another Chernobyl and also make a very declarative statement that you must demilitarize that zone, which the Russians still have not done. In fact, they have done just the opposite. They have used that plant as, effectively, a military base by having their military there, using the plant as a shield to fire on Ukrainian positions.

They have also destroyed infrastructure going into Ukraine from that plant, which is very dangerous, but they have used explosives to do so to try to cut off the electricity going into Ukraine because they would like to take that electricity and direct it, instead, to Russia and to Crimea. These are dangerous, dangerous games.

We have seen them play politics with food, destroying bins of grain all along the southern coast of Ukraine, stopping the ships from going out. Finally now, because of the U.N. and Turkey and the negotiations, some ships are going out. But they have used food as a weapon. They have certainly used energy as a weapon. They continue to do so every day, as they are doing in Europe, as they cut off even the Nord Stream 1 Pipeline to Europe, insisting the Europeans give up on their sanctions, which need to be tightened, if anything. Now they are actually using a nuclear powerplant as a weapon of war—not just incredibly irresponsible but dangerously reckless and risking a catastrophe.

So, again, I appreciate Senator KLOBUCHAR coming with me. I appreciate her leadership on this issue. We have tried to keep this issue totally non-partisan, not just bipartisan. The members of the Ukraine Caucus, including Senator KLOBUCHAR and myself, continue to meet regularly and get updates as to what is going on in Ukraine and ensure that we are doing our part here as a leader of freedom-loving countries all over the world.

As she said, there are many other countries participating. In fact, there were 50 countries at the recent conference on providing defensive military assistance to Ukraine. At least 42 countries have provided serious weapons, like these longer range artillery weapons that are so essential to Ukraine's success.

So this is not just America alone, but America has a unique leadership role to play here. That is what we have seen so far. As we come upon another vote here in the U.S. Senate and the House over the next couple of weeks, we have to ensure that we continue to take that leadership role.

I have come to the floor every week for the past 21 weeks—this is the 22nd week—while we have been in session since the invasion began, and the focus has been often about kind of grim news about what Russia is doing: the murders, the rapes, the fact that they are constantly bombing civilian targets,

not just apartment buildings but hospitals and schools. It is a grim story, and it is a sobering experience to see this, as we did in Irpin and in Bucha, to see the ditch that the Russians dug to be able to dump the bodies that have been tortured and murdered.

But today I am, fortunately, able to talk about some much more positive news, which is that, at a time of all these tragic circumstances, the Ukrainians are now making great progress and pushing back this Russian assault.

So we were here in the Kyiv area. This is where we saw some of the results of what the Russian troops had done, the atrocities and the war crimes they had committed—Irpin and Bucha. This is where the airport was we talked about. You remember, at one point, Russians were all in this area. They were pushed out and went down to this area called the Donbas.

The Russians had been making progress down here, frankly, in Donetsk and Luhansk and even in southern Ukraine here, taking Kherson. This is one of the key and one of the first cities that Russia took. Here is Odessa. Here are the ports.

So that is where we were until a couple of weeks ago, but a few weeks have made a big difference. Just 3 days before we arrived in Kyiv, there was a counteroffensive that began, and that counteroffensive was here in the south, so going here toward Kherson, as it is called, and trying to liberate some of these areas that the Russians had invaded. This is what they invaded initially back in 2014, and this is what they invaded more recently. So this Russian war has been going on for 8½ years.

The good news is that this counteroffensive has been making progress, and that progress has been not just here in the south but also up here in the northeast. In fact, in many respects, I think what happened is Russia moved some of its troops down here to the south, knowing that this counteroffensive was beginning. In a surprise move that is really astonishing, the Ukrainian troops have made progress now here in this area, the northeastern part of Ukraine.

This map will show you a little more detail about what is happening up north in Kharkiv. And I show you this in part to show progress but specifically to show and demonstrate to my colleagues that what we provided in military assistance to Ukraine is working. In particular, they have been asking for some time for these weapons called HIMARS, which are rocket systems that allow for a longer range and more accurate use of artillery. Prior to that, the Russians were sitting back and firing on Ukrainian positions, destroying towns—again, a lot of civilian targets—and doing so with impunity because the artillery from Ukraine could not reach them.

So we now know from public sources there are at least 16 of these batteries

that are over in the area. There are also a few from Germany and the UK. They have made a tremendous difference. That is something, again, that is in public reporting, but we have also heard quite a bit about this from their defense secretary and their team.

But here is where we are today. Remember, all this was red in that larger map. Now, after only a few weeks and, really, just a couple of weeks in terms of this offensive, you see the great progress that has been made. A number of these cities that they have taken back are areas where there is a tremendous advantage to the Ukrainians, because this city, as an example, is a rail hub that was being used to supply the Russian troops that are in this part of the Donbas called Luhansk. Now look at that amount of blue. That is all where the Ukrainians have made progress. In fact, they have pushed the Russians right back to the Belarus border or to the Russian border. So this is very positive news.

Again, the reason for it—the reason that Kharkiv Oblast is now free—is because of the work of 42 countries around the world that supplied them the necessary equipment, the necessary ammo, to be able to succeed and because of the courage and bravery, most importantly, of the Ukrainian fighters. Again, think back to that commander at that small airport in Kyiv who said: We are fighting for our families, for our homeland, for our freedom. That gives them a distinct advantage, in my view.

Let there be no doubt that what happened here in this northeastern part of Ukraine was a collapse of demoralized Russian forces who fled, often leaving behind Russian armored vehicles, personnel carriers, tanks. You have seen some of that, perhaps, on the news coverage. On the other side were Ukrainians showing courage, tenacity, and determination.

The Ukrainians not just outsmarted the Russians, but they were braver and charged into the breach to liberate, by the way, thousands, if not millions, from Russian domination. People came out of their homes, by the way, to embrace these Ukrainian soldiers and to thank them—people who had been hiding in their homes, people who had been living under these terrible conditions and suffering from some of the atrocities from the Russian troops.

There was a great photo that I saw that I wanted to show you, which is of a bus stop in the Kharkiv Oblast, the Kharkiv region. This is a bus stop that had been defaced by the Russian soldiers, including putting the Russian flag on it and other graffiti. Here are some Ukrainians repainting this bus stop with, of course, the colors of Ukraine, yellow and blue—yellow standing for the sunflower fields that at one time were all over the country of Ukraine. Unfortunately, because of the war, that production will be down about 50 percent this year, but it is a beautiful sight to see those sunflower fields, which I have seen throughout

Ukraine. And, second, of course, there is blue for the beautiful blue sky.

This is a photograph of people celebrating. I think there is another one there, too. People are celebrating not just the fact that they can reclaim their homes but celebrating the fact that their country is being liberated, that they can, once again, call themselves proud Ukrainians and stand tall. This is what is happening.

Sometimes the events of the day make it difficult to follow what is going on in Ukraine. Remember, we saw it on the front pages and the top of the news for weeks. And then, more recently, we have gotten distracted with other issues. But it is time for us to refocus on Ukraine and ensure that we are helping them to continue to make progress.

Ukraine has the will, the bravery, and the military competence to win. We have now seen that. What they need are the weapons to be able to defend themselves and the equipment that we and other nations of the world can provide for them. The economic aid package that passed here in the Senate back in May included this funding they needed—again, funding for the HIMARS, as an example.

It took longer than many of us wanted for the administration to provide those weapons, but they did provide them and, again, we see what is happening.

Recently, the administration, just this week, is making another request, a supplemental request, for additional funding. This time it is \$13.7 billion in Ukraine-related funding, \$7.2 billion in military assistance of two different kinds and then \$4.5 billion in budget support.

This is a country whose economy has been reduced to a shambles thanks to the Russian invasion, and their economy is down about 40 percent to 50 percent. So until we can have more peace in that country and people can come back, they need budget support, as well as military support, just to be able to pay salaries for first responders and teachers.

I was pleased that Secretary of State Blinken also made a recent surprise visit to Kyiv right after our visit to let Ukraine know that the Biden administration and this country stands with them. He told the leaders the administration will continue to provide long-term support to Ukraine and to 18 other countries that are at risk of a Russian invasion in the Eastern European area.

That funding that he promised is from some existing appropriations. The new money, \$13.5 billion, is a new package. This is a lot of money, but it is important that Congress continue to strongly support Ukraine, particularly during this incredibly critical period for the country's future.

This is a fight, again, not just about Ukraine, but it is a fight about global freedom. If we are not there to help Ukraine and Ukraine were to lose this

fight and Russia were to take Ukraine, the cost we would all pay would be far, far more.

We have to learn the lessons of the past. Last month, we marked 1 year since the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, when the Biden administration was rightly criticized for abandoning our allies there. It was a stain on American credibility. It shook the trust of many of our allies around the world. I can say that having talked to many of them in the aftermath, if we were to abandon Ukraine, especially right after they demonstrated such spectacular military success, we would be making that mistake all over again. Many would wonder if America could be trusted to watch their backs.

Remember, Ukraine is a free and democratic country that looks to us, the United States, as a role model. In 2014, they made a very deliberate decision, which was to get rid of a Russian-backed corrupt government and, instead, turn to the West—to Europe, to the United States—to adopt our free-market approaches but also our democratic approaches of free speech, free and fair elections, ensuring that they had transparency and were fighting corruption. That is the country that we want to hold up as a role model and, certainly, continue to support them.

In 1994, we made a commitment after the Cold War ended—along with, by the way, the UK and Russia—that in exchange for them getting rid of their nuclear weapons in Ukraine, we would stand with them and protect their territorial integrity. Of course, Russia is not making good on that pledge, but for the United States of America it is another reason for us to stand with our allies who have chosen to stand with us.

To underscore the point that the assistance is appreciated, every time Senator KLOBUCHAR and I were at the meeting, we heard the same thing, whether it was with President Zelenskyy or whether it was with people who were in these small towns like Kharkiv or Bucha. It was “thank you, thank you, thank you.” There was deep appreciation for what we are doing and thankfulness to the American people.

I will remind everyone that Ukraine has never asked for us to put American boots on the ground. This is not Iraq. This is not Afghanistan. What they have offered for us is an opportunity to protect freedom by providing them with the ability to protect themselves. We can't let Vladimir Putin even begin to think that the West is beginning to falter in this mission, especially as this counteroffensive makes more and more progress as the war crosses the 200-day mark.

It is important to note that we are not the only ones, again, providing it. Nations around the world have banded together and that is important. They know that if aggression can succeed in Ukraine, it can spread elsewhere, including further Russian encroachments in Europe that Russia has openly

talked about, reclaiming the Russian Empire, as they say, and increased Chinese aggression throughout Asia, including in the Pacific Ocean.

The Solomon Islands is an example of that today, increased Chinese aggression with regard to Taiwan, and aggressive moves by Iran, exporting terrorism and instability across the Middle East.

So this is about Ukraine, but it is really about a broader issue, and all countries are watching—our allies and our adversaries.

I know there are some out there who say we can't provide indefinite funding to Ukraine, with no end in sight. I totally agree. That is not what anybody wants to do or no one expects to do. Everyone agrees that our aid to Ukraine will end at the right point, as Ukraine reclaims its rightful territory. The question is just when. We cannot let an arbitrary timeline determine that. We tried that in Afghanistan; it doesn't work. We have to be guided by the reality on the ground.

It is clear that ending our support now would be premature and ill-advised. We have to step up, and this is money well-spent in defense of freedom. A Russian victory would be disastrous for U.S. national security and the stability and volatility of the world, the security of our NATO allies, and, certainly, the security of Eastern Europe.

We know that Russia would not stop there. Vladimir Putin himself has said:

The borders of Russia never end.

He talked about recreating the Soviet Union, recreating the Russian Empire. I would say the borders of Russia end where freedom begins.

Meanwhile, China would see the West's surrender in Ukraine as proof of the West's "weakness." This would further embolden them. A Ukrainian victory would have the opposite effect. It would not only cripple Russia's war machine that President Putin has used to invade Georgia, Ukraine in 2014, Transnistria, Syria, and parts of Africa where they continue to meddle. It would also make Russian military aggression less likely for a long period of time.

With President Putin expected to meet with Chinese President Xi this week, both men know that the United States and their allies stand together against rogue aggression against sovereign countries. That is very important as a message to send.

Of course, with our assistance that we are going to be voting on, once again, here in this body, there have to be safeguards in place. There have to be guardrails. We have to ensure that military assistance is subject to careful accountability.

When Senator KLOBUCHAR and I were there, we talked to the 101st Airborne in Poland, who are handling a lot of the equipment coming in from around the world, from all these dozens of other countries and the United States. They talked a lot about what is called

"end-use monitoring," knowing where these weapons are going precisely to ensure they are going to the right hands, to ensure there is not an issue with regard to how these weapons are being used. It has been more difficult to do that in Ukraine given the security concerns. But during our trip, we heard about real progress being made to increase that U.S. and global oversight of our military aid to Ukraine with real end-use monitoring. As our Embassy in Kyiv begins to bring people back, we have more American eyes on the ground to ensure that oversight. Ukraine, itself, by the way, wants that transparency and strongly supports it.

The price that we pay to stop Russia now is small compared to what we would pay if they succeed, and the deeper price, of course, is being paid by Ukraine. As NATO Secretary Stoltenberg said recently:

The price we pay is measured in currency. The price they pay [in Ukraine] is measured in lives lost every day.

We are on the side of freedom. Ukrainians want their freedom back. They fought for it in 2014 in the Euromaidan. They fought for it several times in their history. The United States and dozens of our allies have stepped up to help them achieve this goal and win this brutal war.

They have this big advantage. They are fighting with heart. They are fighting for the freedom of their homeland, their families. Russia is fighting against an enemy that never truly existed in the first place. They are fighting against a neighbor that never wanted anything but peace with all their neighbors, including Russia, but now has to take up arms to protect itself.

Recent polling by the International Republican Institute, IRI, shows that 98 percent of Ukrainians believe Ukraine will win this war. Their morale is strong. Their spirit is amazing. That was certainly the feeling I got from President Zelenskyy, his team, and every other Ukrainian Senator KLOBUCHAR and I met with on this trip. They are united together for victory.

We met with parliamentarians from four different parties in the Rada, the equivalent of their U.S. Congress, their parliament. They are all together, all working together toward a common cause and a common enemy.

This morale isn't just in Ukraine. I see this spirit every time I go back to Ohio, where tens of thousands of Ukrainians call Ohio their home. These Ukrainian Americans and others from the Eastern European area—others of the community of nations that have been affected by the Soviet Union and Russia over the years—they are sticking together and their morale is high too.

On Sunday, President Zelenskyy brought this spirit to his people in a powerful address to the Ukrainian people. This was a 200-day speech that talked of 200 days of brave troops fighting. He said that he was certain

Ukrainians would get through this difficult path to victory. This was an inspirational speech at a time when the Ukrainian people are making progress toward victory on the battlefield and, therefore, peace by getting Vladimir Putin to the bargaining table. This must be the result.

With our help and the help of all freedom-loving countries, victory can be achieved. That is what is so important right now as we look at this new appropriations bill, this legislation that the administration has sent us to help Ukraine continue its battle for freedom.

My hope is that this week and next, as we take up this legislation, that Congress passes it, showing the same spirit and the commitment to victory as we saw in Ukraine.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

MR. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, before I start my planned remarks, let me thank Senator PORTMAN for his remarks and all his effort. There is considerable bipartisan consensus about the need for support of Ukraine's efforts. The mantle of freedom in the world right now is carried by Ukraine against Russian oppression. I am delighted to have been present for his remarks.

Very early on, there were a few of us here in the Senate who, on a bipartisan basis, decided that the U.S. policy ought to, at a minimum, contemplate the possibility of Ukrainian victory, that writing it off was simply a bad mistake. At the time, it looked like it was a very small prospect, but the courage of the Ukrainian military, as they have pushed back in Kharkiv with counteroffensive and the abundant supply of military hardware that they have received from the West has made what seemed a fantastic, hopeful notion something that actually could be real, and it could be real in a fairly short time.

I, again, thank Senator PORTMAN for his remarks.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

MR. President, I am here on a different subject. I will now turn to that subject.

This is the 18th time that I have come to the floor to expose the dark money scheme that has captured and controlled our Supreme Court.

Over the last 2 years, I have, over and over, exposed how dark money operatives, working from the shadows, have installed Supreme Court Justices handpicked—handpicked—by the minions of far-right donors.

I have exposed the key front groups through which this Court-packing operation is driven and the tactics that the schemers have used to hide the dark money donors who pull its strings.

And when you take a close look at the scheme, the little spider that you find at the center of the dark money web behind it is a character named Leonard Leo.

From his perch at the dark money-funded Federalist Society, Leo crafted a reputation as the Court-capture scheme's puppet master. The key to his craft is an armada of phony front groups that shuffle dark money back and forth, around and amongst each other, to deploy as spin, as propaganda, as political ads, or as hidden campaign funding.

During Donald Trump's time in office, Leonard Leo brokered the scheme to have the Federalist Society or—more accurately—the big secret donors behind the Federalist Society handpick Trump's Supreme Court nominees. Remember that list we all heard about?

Leo coordinated the dark money propaganda machine that kept the heat on Senate Republicans to confirm those nominees, and he supported the big donors' doctrine factories where donor-approved fringe legal doctrines are concocted for the anointed judges to weaponize from the Bench.

Look no further than the recent *West Virginia v. EPA* decision weaponizing the doctrine factory-concocted major questions' doctrine. And this was no small scheme. The latest estimate from earlier this year is that these big donors put \$580 million, more than half a billion dollars, into Leo's network of Court-capture front groups.

Well, little did we know, that was just the beginning. Last month, ProPublica and the New York Times broke the news that a reclusive, far-right billionaire supercharged Leo's dark money operation with a \$1.6 billion donation to a Leo front group. You heard that right, \$1.6 billion into this dark money operation.

The man behind this new slush fund is a billionaire named Barre Seid, and even the way the donation was made was creepy and clandestine. Seid and Leo devised a plan to transfer all the shares in an electronics company to Leo's front group, on the way to selling that company.

So when that company sold for \$1.6 billion, it all went straight to Leo's group and, by the way, helped Seid avoid what would have been roughly \$400 million in taxes.

Seid has a long history of funding far-right front groups. Here is how ProPublica characterized what Seid calls his "attack philanthropy."

Seid has funded climate denialism as well as a national network of state-level think tanks that promote business deregulation and fight Medicaid expansion. He's also supported efforts to remake the higher education system in a conservative mold, including to turn one of the nation's most politically influential law schools into a training ground for future generations of right-wing judges and justices.

So let's unpack all of that, starting with the climate denialism. The "climate denialism" that they are referencing came from a group that he funded called the Heartland Institute. I have talked about the Heartland Institute on the floor before in my "Web of Denial" speeches.

Heartland is a dark money disinformation mouthpiece for fossil

fuel interests. In 2012, Heartland compared climate scientists to the Unabomber. So you can see it is a classy bunch.

According to one of Seid's advisers, he was Heartland's major patron, and he even convinced his business's chief financial officer to join Heartland's board of directors.

If that isn't creepy enough for you, we move on to the national network of State-level think tanks that promote business deregulation and fight Medicaid expansion.

That is a reference to the State Policy Network, a web of dark money front groups that pump into State legislatures the propaganda and legislation designed by fossil fuel and other corporate interests.

The State Policy Network has also received millions from DonorsTrust, which has been called the "dark money ATM of the right," a central node of the rightwing Koch dark money network.

The service that DonorsTrust provides is to scrub the identities of actual donors. It creates dark money. Anonymity is key for these donors, many of whom have financial interests behind their political schemes that they really don't want disclosed.

If a fossil fuel billionaire, say, wants to run ads against me in Rhode Island—folks will get the joke. So the real donor's identity gets laundered through groups like DonorsTrust and comes out under other groups with names like—I am making this one up, but they sound this way "Rhode Islanders for Peace and Puppies and Prosperity."

All of that, of course, leaves citizens in the dark about both the actors and the plot in the politics in which they are supposed to be active participants. And that brings us to Seid's project to "turn one of the nation's most politically influential law schools into a training ground for future generations of right-wing judges and justices." That is a reference to Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University, a central cog in the right-wing doctrine factory.

The cog was not always named Antonin Scalia Law School. In 2016, George Mason received \$10 million from the Charles Koch Foundation, plus another \$20 million from an anonymous donor, orchestrated by that same Leonard Leo, and one of the strings attached was that George Mason rename its law school after Scalia.

When folks at George Mason University, a public university, pushed for answers about all of this, the university, after a legal battle, had to disclose that renaming the law school wasn't the only string attached to that \$20 million donation.

Leo and his donor wanted input over faculty hiring. And that legal battle also unearthed the name of the anonymous donor: Barre Seid. And all of that brings us back to Seid's \$1.6 billion to

the Leonard Leo dark money apparatus.

Remember that with \$0.6 billion, Leo was able to orchestrate a dark money takeover of our Supreme Court, stacking it with far-right Justices, who have already delivered massive victories for their donors: overturning *Roe v. Wade*, undermining the government's power to combat climate change, throwing out century-old commonsense gun regulations.

If he can do that with \$0.6 billion, imagine what kind of damage he will be able to do with \$1.6 billion to squirt out as dark money through his armada of phony front groups.

Leo's already dispensed \$153 million to Rule of Law Trust, which appears to exist solely to funnel money to other dark money groups and another \$16.5 million to his own Concord Fund. If you have been watching these "Scheme" speeches, you will remember that the last time I addressed the scheme in this Chamber, I laid out how the Concord Fund and its corporate twin, the 85 Fund, are the central nodes in a collection of phony front groups that deploy fictitious names, fictitious names to mask their connections.

The coordinated and colocated front groups, Concord Fund and 85 Fund, operate through the fictitious names Judicial Crisis Network and Honest Elections Project, among other fictitious names. So, yes, you have got this right. In this dark money netherworld, the front groups have front groups.

With this new billion-dollar slush fund, Leo can take those efforts to entirely new levels: more voter suppression, which is the job of Honest Elections Project; more abortion bans, which was the accomplishment of Dobbs; more climate denial, which was powered by *West Virginia v. EPA* and the earlier EPA decision by the Supreme Court about the Clean Power Plan; more power for corporations, which is, of course, the constant goal of this dark money operation; more disinformation; and more dirty dark money in politics—sluiced around inside this covert apparatus until it gets squirted out through even more phony front groups.

This dark money slime will ooze everywhere. With pivotal elections coming up this fall, this slime will ooze out through your television sets, through your mailboxes, through your telephone, all of it designed to smear and lie to benefit far-right donor interests.

The phony front group squirting out the slime will have innocuous-sounding names, but make no mistake, hiding behind many of them will be Leo and his secretive billionaire backers.

While this tactic isn't new, it has been perfected by the rightwing. It began with the Koch brothers, who spent the last decade pumping dark money into our politics, producing a decade of successful climate obstruction, until finally we got the Inflation Reduction Act passed with the first real climate measures Congress has

ever passed, but because of the Koch brothers' pressure, we had to rely entirely on Democrats to get that bill passed. We did not get one Republican vote in the Senate. We did not get one Republican vote in the House.

Constant assaults on workers' rights, endless attacks on the Affordable Care Act, and, of course, the rightwing billionaires own big payoff, big tax cuts for billionaires—it is probable that for all of the money that got thrown into this dark money apparatus by rightwing billionaires, some of them probably made more money than that back from the tax cuts that were delivered for them under the Trump administration. This is a it-pays-to-play dark money operation.

And the result is that all this dark money has reduced the once Grand Old Party to the political operation of a handful of extremist megadonors.

The dark money assault on our democracy is not over. Right now, Leonard Leo, his rightwing donors, and their dark money apparatus are devising the next phases of the scheme.

They have already captured the highest Court in the land, but they will not stop until they have enacted their entire radical agenda. They will turn their sights on State courts, on city councils, on local school boards—anywhere they can find a way to subvert democracy with dark money.

So now is the time to fight back, and the first step is to pass the DISCLOSE Act. It is way long past time that we shine the light on the dark money schemers.

You may recall that in the Citizens United decision, by a vote of 8 to 1, even that Court said that dark money is corrupting. That is an established principle of the Citizens United decision.

Well, if it is corrupting, we ought to get rid of it, because the American people deserve to know who captured their Supreme Court and who keeps flooding our politics with dark money.

When you spend that kind of money, there is a motivation, and voters, citizens, deserve to know.

To be continued.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, we revert now to the closing script, and I will ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate consider the follow nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 921, 1101, 1102, 1040, and 1042; 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 (Mr. PETERS). Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Bruce I. Turner, of Colorado, for the

rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament; E. Martin Estrada, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of California for the term of four years; Gregory J. Haanstad, of Wisconsin, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for the term of four years; the following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard Reserve to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203(a): to be Rear Admiral, Miriam L. Lafferty; the following named officer for appointment to serve as the Director of the Coast Guard Reserve in the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 309(b): to be Rear Admiral (Upper Half) Rear Adm. Miriam L. Lafferty, en bloc?

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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-07, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Pakistan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$450 million. After

this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-07

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Pakistan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * \$0 million.
Other \$450 million.
Total \$450 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: This Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Case is a follow on effort and consolidation of prior F-16 sustainment and support cases to support the Pakistan Air Force F-16 fleet by reducing duplicate case activities and adding additional continued support elements.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Included are U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics services for follow-on support of Pakistan's F-16 fleet to include participation in F-16 Aircraft Structural Integrity Program, Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program, International Engine Management Program, Engine Component Improvement Program, and other technical coordination groups; aircraft and engine hardware and software modifications and support; aircraft and engine spare repair/return parts, accessories and support equipment; classified and unclassified software and software support; publications, manuals, and technical documentation; precision measurement, calibration, lab equipment, and technical support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of aircraft maintenance and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (PK-D-QAP).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PK-D-NAP, PK-D-SAF, PK-D-QAJ, PK-D-QCX.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 7, 2022.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Pakistan—F-16 Case for Sustainment

The Government of Pakistan has requested to consolidate prior F-16 sustainment and support cases to support the Pakistan Air Force F-16 fleet by reducing duplicate case activities and adding additional continued support elements. Included are U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics services for follow-on support of Pakistan's F-16 fleet to include participation in F-16 Aircraft Structural Integrity Program, Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program, International Engine Management Program, Engine Component Improvement Program, and other technical coordination groups; aircraft and engine hardware and software modifications and support; aircraft and engine spare repair/return parts, accessories and support equipment; classified and unclassified software and software support; publications, manuals, and technical documentation; precision measurement, calibration, lab equipment,

and technical support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of aircraft maintenance and program support. The estimated total cost is \$450 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a partner nation that is a force for political stability in the region by allowing Pakistan to retain interoperability with U.S. and coalition forces in ongoing counterterrorism efforts and in preparation for future contingency operations.

The proposed sale will improve Pakistan's capability to meet current and future threats by continuing the sustainment of its F-16 fleet, which is the Pakistan Air Force's premier multi-role jet fighter and greatly improves Pakistan's ability to project combat power in support of counterterrorism through its robust air-to-ground capability. Pakistan will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Corporation, Fort Worth, TX. There are no known offsets proposed in conjunction with this sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Pakistan.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 858, Jennifer H. Rearden, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, while returning to Washington, DC, on September 12, my flight was temporarily grounded by inclement weather, delaying my return to Washington, DC. As a result, I was unable to attend the vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 986, Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

I would have voted yea on the confirmation had I been able to attend the vote.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present I would have voted YES on rollcall vote No. 331 on the confirmation of Salvador Mendoza, Jr., to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 1134, Natalie K.

Wight, of Oregon, to be United States Attorney for the District of Oregon for the term of four years.

REMEMBERING QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, the attacks of September 11, 2001, exposed the American people to a level of vulnerability we had not encountered since the Second World War. While the terrorists failed in their objective of breaking us, they were successful in forcing the rest of the world to decide if they would give in to fear and remain silent or take a stand against the violent hatred that motivated the murders of almost 3,000 innocents.

For me, the memory of 9/11 is and always will be dominated by fear for the safety of my own children. The hours that passed without hearing from them were among the loneliest of my life, and indeed, that loneliness was shared by every American who spent the next few terrible days waiting for the phone to ring. Our sense of isolation was compounded by a growing chorus of voices that blamed Americans for the bloodshed in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

When Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II broke with centuries of tradition and directed the band of the Coldstream Guards to play the "Star-Spangled Banner" outside Buckingham Palace just 2 days after the attacks, she did much more than make a political statement. Her small act of rebellion confirmed that the special kinship between our nations will unite us forever under a common cause of freedom. While some chose cowardice in the wake of the attacks, she recognized the anguish of a friend and offered a gesture meant only to assure us that we were not, and never would be, alone.

For more than 70 years, the Queen ruled with the same grace and dignity she afforded the American people in our darkest hour. On behalf of all Tennesseans, I offer my gratitude for her long life of service, my condolences to the royal family, and my assurances to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth that, should great need arise, there will be no need to ask for our help, for we are already standing beside you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FRED SMITH

• Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Fred Smith, founder and executive chairman of FedEx for receiving the distinguished L. Welch Pogue Award for his outstanding lifelong contributions to the field of commercial aviation.

On September 14, Mr. Smith, a proud Memphian and generous benefactor to his city, will receive due commemoration for his renowned achievements and contributions involving his organization, career, and passion.

Since 1971, the iconic Tennessee company he founded has facilitated deliveries not just in the United States but across the world.

This includes FedEx's work on the Project Airbridge Operation, a partnership executed by FedEx under the direction of the Federal Government that expedited the importation of critical supplies at the height of the pandemic.

This award, first presented in 1994, recognizes individuals with a lifetime of achievement in aviation and recognizes individuals who not only have a vision for where the industry is headed, but have acted to make it a reality.

I can think of no one more deserving to receive such an award. Let us celebrate this achievement and commitment to excellence that Mr. Smith has shown throughout his career.●

REMEMBERING LARRY PETREE

• Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Larry Petree, a beloved member of the Bakersfield community and a pioneer in the creation of a uniquely Californian brand of country music.

Larry Petree was born in Oklahoma in 1933 at the heart of the Great Depression. Like so many Americans from Dust Bowl communities in the 1930s, at the age of 9, Larry's family moved out West and settled in Bakersfield, CA. He attended Bakersfield High School before going on to serve a tour of duty in the U.S. Army and then working for over three decades as a mechanic with the Kern County Fire Department, where he could overhaul truck engines with ease.

But Larry's friends and fans knew him best working with a different instrument. From his seat behind his pedal steel guitar, he helped to produce the "Bakersfield Sound," an entirely new, rock 'n roll-inspired genre of country music that introduced the sounds of California country to a national audience in the 1960s.

For decades, Larry's masterful control of the twangy steel guitar brought life and energy to the honky-tonks and watering holes of the Central Valley. Playing alongside country artists Red Simpson, Tommy Hays, and the Western Swingsters, his music joined the likes of Merle Haggard and Buck Owens to help fuel a movement that proved California could be home to the country music industry. And he did it all, in large part, thanks to the support of his wife Betty, his beloved partner for over 60 years.

California is grateful for his service to our country, his contributions to our culture, and for the timeless music he introduced to our communities.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

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

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-4861. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-487, "Medically Necessary Foods Coverage Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4862. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-488, "Procurement Agencies Alignment Amendment Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4863. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-489, "HIV/AIDS Data Privacy Protection and Health Occupation Revision Clarification Amendment Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4864. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-490, "Sexual Harassment Data Collection and Reporting Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4865. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-491, "Human Rights Enhancement Amendment Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4866. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-524, "Clean Hands Certification Equity Amendment Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4867. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-525, "Rebecca Coder Park Designation Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4868. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-526, "Non-Compete Clarification Amendment Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4869. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-527, "Climate Commitment Amendment Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4870. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-528, "Clean Energy DC Building Code Amendment Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4871. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Colum-

bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-524, "Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts Amendment Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4872. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-530, "Juneteenth History and Planning Commission Establishment Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4873. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an alternative plan for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4874. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Assistance Program's Simplified Procedures Large Project Threshold" (RIN1660-AB10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4875. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's fiscal year 2022 Commercial Activities Inventory and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4876. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Physicians' Comparability Allowance Program"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4877. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting a legislative proposal relative to amending Title V to appoint and pay highly qualified experts; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4878. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Program Fraud Civil Remedies: Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (RIN3206-AN39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4879. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of cyclopentyl fentanyl, isobutyryl fentanyl, para-methoxybutyryl fentanyl, and valeryl fentanyl in Schedule I; Correction" (21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-565) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 2, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4880. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Placement of 10 Specific Fentanyl-Related Substances in Schedule I" (21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-476) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on Au-

gust 2, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4881. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of para-Methoxymethamphetamine (PMMA) in Schedule I" (21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-509) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 2, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4882. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Designation of 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidate (PMK glycidate), 3,4-MDP-2-P methyl glycidic acid (PMK glycidic acid), and alpha-phenylacetoacetamide (APAA) as List I Chemicals" (21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-542) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 2, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4883. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Specific Listing for 4F-MDMB-VINACA, a Currently Controlled Schedule I Substance" (21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-819) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 2, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4884. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Registration Requirements for Narcotic Treatment Programs With Mobile Components" ((RIN1117-AB43) (Docket No. DEA-459)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 2, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4885. A communication from the Section Chief of the Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of N-Ethylpentylone in Schedule I" (21 CFR Part 1308) (Docket No. DEA-482) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 2, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4886. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled "Authority to Permit Continued Presence in the United States"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4887. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an audit of the Garden for the period from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4888. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Justice Management Division, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Streamlining DOJ Acquisition Regulations (JAR)" (RIN1105-AB54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4889. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Victims Compensation Fund established

by the Witness Security Reform Act of 1984; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4890. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" (RIN1615-AC64) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4891. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4892. A communication from the General Counsel, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Definition of Unmanned Aircraft Accident" (RIN3147-AA20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4893. A communication from the National Listing Coordinator of the Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Species; Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat" (RIN0648-BJ44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4894. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reinstating Class D FM Exemption to Section 73.3527(e)(8)" (MB Docket No. 22-240) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4895. A communication from the Senior Attorney of the Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partitioning, Disaggregation, and Leasing of Spectrum" ((WT Docket No. 19-38) (FCC 22-53)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4896. A communication from the Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Wireline Competition Bureau released a Second Report and Order entitled Affordable Connectivity Program" ((RIN3060-AL16) (WC Docket No. 21-450)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4897. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Parts 73 and 74 of the Commission's Rules to Establish Rules for Digital Low Power Television and Television Translator Stations; Update of Parts 74 of the Commission's rules Related to Low Power Television and Television Translator Stations" ((MB Docket Nos. 03-185 and 22-261) (FCC 22-58)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate

on August 9, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4898. A communication from the Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Wireline Competition Bureau released a Third Report and Order entitled Affordable Connectivity Program Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program" ((RIN3060-AL16) (WC Docket No. 21-450) (FCC 22-65)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 23, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4899. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4900. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Incorporation by Reference in Safety Standard for High Chairs" (Docket No. CPSC-2015-0031) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4901. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Gabilan Mountains Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 25, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4902. A communication from the Acting Deputy Program Director and Acting Director for Privacy Act Compliance, Office of Privacy and Open Government, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records" (RIN0605-AA46) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4903. A communication from the Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures of the Transportation Security Oversight Board Review Panel Concerning Federal Aviation Administration Airman Certificates" (RIN1601-AB09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 19, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4904. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "URCS Data Reporting" ((RIN2140-AB59) (Docket No. EP 769)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4905. A communication from the Senior Attorney Advisor/Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Standards for Traffic Control Devices; the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways; Maintaining Pavement Marking Retroreflectivity" (RIN2125-

AF34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4906. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V-44 and Revocation of VOR Federal Airway V-446 in the Vicinity of Samsville, IL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0971)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4907. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment and Removal of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Eastern United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1082)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4908. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment and Removal of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Eastern United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1082)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4909. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4015" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31436)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4910. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4016" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31437)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4911. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4018" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31439)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 18, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4912. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-417; Tok Junction, AK" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0865))

EC-4934. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of United States Area Navigation Routes Q-162 and Q-166; Bishop, CA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0741)) received during adjournment of the Senate

adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4949. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-22098" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0691)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4950. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; CFM International, S.A. Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-22107” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0803)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4951. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Williams International Co., L.L.C. Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-22101" (RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0511) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4952. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-22095" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0147)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4953. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-22097" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0464)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4954. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-22099" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0982)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4955. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-22094" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0394)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President

of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4956. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Diamond Aircraft Industries Inc. Airplanes; Amendment 39-22092” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0450)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4957. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, inc. Airplanes; Amendment 39-22091” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0453)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4958. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22090” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1073)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4959. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd & Co KG (Type Certificate Previously Held by Rolls-Royce plc) Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-22103” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0296)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4960. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Stemme AG (Type Certificate Previously Held by Stemme GmbH & Co. KG) Gliders; Amendment 39-22116” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0809)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4961. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39-22100” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0295)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4962. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Support and Services (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics) Airplanes; Amendment 39-22114” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0507)) received during adjournment of the Senate

in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4963. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters; Amendment 39-22108” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0806)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4964. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; GE Aviation Czech s.r.o. (Type Certificate Previously Held by WALTER Engines a.s., Walter a.s., and MOTORLET a.s.) Turboprop Engines; Amendment 39-22117” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0385)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4965. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Airplanes; Amendment 39-22113” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0461)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4966. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-22106” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0454)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4967. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Turbofan Engines; Amendment 39-22122” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0384)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4968. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, inc., Airplanes; Amendment 39-22112” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0470)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4969. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-22111” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0505)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16,

2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4970. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22063” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0788)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4971. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Camarillo, CA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0244)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4972. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D Airspace and Class E Airspace; Fort Worth and Dallas-Fort Worth, TX” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1047)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4973. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class D Airspace, Removal and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Oxnard Airport, CA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0243)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4974. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Removal of Class E Airspace and Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace; Point Mugu NAS (Naval Base Ventura Cp) Airport, CA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0242)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4975. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Victoria, TX” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0693)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4976. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revocation of Class E Airspace; Milford, PA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0523)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4977. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal

Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Independence, IA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0474)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4978. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revocation of Class E Airspace; Rocksprings Four Square Ranch Airport and Sonora Canyon Ranch, TX” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0473)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4979. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Poughkeepsie, NY” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0524)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4980. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class R Airspace; Greenwood, SC” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0432)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4981. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class R Airspace; Fort Dodge, IA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-1006)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4982. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Columbia, MO” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0694)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4983. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Sturgeon Bay, WI” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-1005)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4984. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Raleigh, NC” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0525)) received during adjournment of the Senate

in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4985. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 567” ((RIN2120-AA63) (Docket No. 31444)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4986. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-229; Hope, AK” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1083)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4987. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-233; Kotzebue, AK” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1097)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4988. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-367; St. Mary’s, AK” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1157)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4989. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q-136; MI” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0624)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4990. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Jet Routes J-82 and J-94; Extension of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q-122; Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-100, V-138, V-456, and V-505; Removal of the Fort Dodge, IA, Domestic Low Altitude Reporting Point; In the Vicinity of Fort Dodge, IA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1043)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4991. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-267; Nome, AK” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0812)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August

31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4992. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-368; Salmon, AK” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0819)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4993. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-227; Fairbanks, AK” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0811)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4994. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Multiple Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes and Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes in the Vicinity of Liberal, KS” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2022-0918)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4995. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-768; Northcentral United States” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1189)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4996. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-7, V-341, and V-493, in the Vicinity of Menominee” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0994)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4997. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of VOR Federal Airway V-175, in the Vicinity of Malden, MO” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1029)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4998. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-26, V-193, and V-285, and Revocation of White Cloud, MI, Domestic Low Altitude Reporting Point in the Vicinity of White Cloud, MI” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0972)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate

on August 16, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4999. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4021" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31442)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5000. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4022" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31443)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5001. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4020" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31441)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5002. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4019" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31440)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5003. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD) Helicopters; Amendment 39-22139" ((RIN2120-AA64) (FAA-2022-0510)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5004. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-22136" ((RIN2120-AA64) (FAA-2022-0586)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5005. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-22135" ((RIN2120-AA64) (FAA-2022-0522)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5006. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.); Amendment 39-22134" ((RIN2120-AA64) (FAA-2022-0590)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5007. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22096" ((RIN2120-AA64) (FAA-2021-1177)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5008. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-22137" ((RIN2120-AA64) (FAA-2022-0990)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5009. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes; Amendment 39-22133" ((RIN2120-AA64) (FAA-2021-0958)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5010. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22104" ((RIN2120-AA64) (FAA-2022-0462)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5011. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22127" ((RIN2120-AA64) (FAA-2021-1005)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5012. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes; Amendment 39-22129" ((RIN2120-AA64) (FAA-2022-0884)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 31, 2022; to

the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1116. A bill to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employees duty, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-146).

S. 2793. A bill to authorize the Administrator of General Services to establish an enhanced use lease pilot program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-147).

S. 3552. A bill to provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in areas of persistent poverty, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-148).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4823. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to remove the overtime wages exemption for certain employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4824. A bill to provide for proper oversight of North Korea policy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 4825. A bill to criminalize the intentional obstruction of roadways on the Interstate System; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4826. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to modify the definition of the term "at-risk community"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 4827. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a national sepsis data trust, and to fund State-based pilots and programs to establish interoperable State-based sepsis data trusts; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4828. A bill to provide consistent leadership, purpose, and administrative support for the primary governmentwide executive councils, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 4829. A bill to create intergovernmental coordination on addressing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 4830. A bill to reaffirm actions taken by the Secretary of the Interior for the benefit of Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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

S. 4831. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to limit the ability of Federal Reserve banks to issue central bank digital currency; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 4832. A bill to temporarily prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until a certain level of taxpayer services have improved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4833. A bill to improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4834. A bill to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING:

S. 4835. A bill to provide for the removal of small-diameter trees in fire hazard areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 4836. A bill to allow COVID-19 relief funds to be used for disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 4837. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to establish within the Mount Hood National Forest in the State of Oregon Indian Treaty Resources Emphasis Zones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4838. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate for allowances based on mileage for beneficiary travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 4839. A bill to reauthorize and expand a grant program for State and Tribal response to opioid and stimulant use and misuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 4840. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to protect pain-capable unborn children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 4841. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 4842. A bill to require the United States Coast Guard to implement new rules for Mer-

chant Marine credentialing for veterans and members of the Uniformed Services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 4843. A bill to permit visiting dignitaries and service members from Taiwan to display the flag of the Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 757. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate in support of the peaceful democratic and economic aspirations of the Sri Lankan people; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. Res. 758. A resolution designating the month of September 2022 as "Macedonian American Heritage Month" and celebrating the language, history, and culture of Macedonian Americans and their incredible contributions to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 759. A resolution honoring Boston Celtics legend Bill Russell, 11-time National Basketball Association champion, first Black head coach of the National Basketball Association, and civil rights activist; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 760. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as "Patriot Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 761. A resolution designating the week of September 18 through September 24, 2022, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MORAN, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KING, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BURR, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. Res. 762. A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of Queen Elizabeth II and expressing condolences to her family and the United Kingdom on her passing; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 344

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retirement pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 377

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 377, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 744

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 744, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing incidents, and for other purposes.

S. 1125

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1125, a bill to recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, 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. 1566

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1566, a bill to provide grants to enable nonprofit disability organizations to develop training programs that support safe interactions between law enforcement officers and individuals with disabilities and older individuals.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 1892

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1892, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify employer-provided fringe benefits for bicycle commuting.

S. 2242

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from

New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2242, a bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 2607

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2607, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979–1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

S. 2706

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2706, a bill to improve diversity in clinical trials and data collection for COVID-19 and future public health threats to address social determinants of health.

S. 2736

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2736, a bill to exclude vehicles to be used solely for competition from certain provisions of the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2872

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2872, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the adjusted gross income limitation for above-the-line deduction of expenses of performing artist employees, and for other purposes.

S. 3018

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

S. 3957

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3957, a bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to make certain activities eligible for grants from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 4030

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4030, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a cattle contract library, and for other purposes.

S. 4179

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4179, a bill to establish the Space National Guard.

S. 4325

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 4325, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 4389

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4389, a bill to provide for the abolition of certain United Nations groups, and for other purposes.

S. 4466

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4466, a bill to amend the Peace Corps Act by reauthorizing the Peace Corps, providing better support for current, returning, and former volunteers, and for other purposes.

S. 4469

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4469, a bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules prohibiting disinformation in the advertising of abortion services, and for other purposes.

S. 4567

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4567, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 4605

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4605, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security

Act to ensure stability in payments to home health agencies under the Medicare program.

S. 4702

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4702, a bill to impose limits on excepting competitive service positions from the competitive service, and for other purposes.

S. 4742

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

S. 4760

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4760, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to provide the Commodity Futures Trading Commission jurisdiction to oversee the spot digital commodity market, and for other purposes.

S. 4769

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4769, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize and modernize the registered traveler program of the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 4815

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4815, a bill to clarify regulatory certainty, and for other purposes.

S. 4817

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4817, a bill to prevent the use of additional Internal Revenue Service funds from being used for audits of taxpayers with taxable incomes below \$400,000 in order to protect low- and middle-income earning American taxpayers from an onslaught of audits from an army of new Internal Revenue Service auditors funded by an unprecedented, nearly \$80,000,000,000, infusion of new funds.

S. 4818

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4818, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal and local funds to impose or enforce a COVID-19 vaccine mandate in District of Columbia schools, and to repeal the Coronavirus Immunization of School Students and Early Childhood

Workers Regulation Amendment Act of 2021 enacted by the District of Columbia Council.

S.J. RES. 56

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 56, a joint resolution directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

S.J. RES. 61

At the request of Mr. BURR, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 61, a joint resolution to provide for the resolution of issues in a railway labor-management dispute, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 754

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 754, a resolution designating November 13, 2022, as "National Warrior Call Day" in recognition of the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 4823. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to remove the overtime wages exemption for certain employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Guaranteeing Overtime for Truckers Act, which I introduced today.

America's truckdrivers are on the frontlines of keeping goods and our economy moving. More than 70 percent of goods across the United States are shipped by truck.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting supply chain crisis exacerbated longstanding challenges for truckers, including long hours away from home and time spent waiting—often unpaid—to load and unload at congested ports, warehouses, and distribution centers.

As our Nation makes historic investments in our port and supply chain infrastructure through the bipartisan infrastructure law, we should also improve wages and working conditions for essential workers and ensure they are paid for all of the hours they work.

However, for more than 80 years, Federal law has denied truckers guaranteed overtime pay benefits that are afforded to nearly all other professions.

This means that if a truckdriver experiences delays due to congestion or weather, they are often not paid even though they are working.

The motor carrier exemption is exacerbating trucking workforce challenges. Additionally, research suggests that when truck labor rates are fair, there is less driver fatigue, fewer regulatory violations, and lower crash rates.

That is why I am proud to introduce this bill to repeal the overtime exemption for motor carriers.

I want to thank Senator MARKEY for co-leading this bill with me, and I hope our colleagues will join us in support of this bill that will ensure that trucker compensation reflects the fact that these jobs are essential.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4826. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to modify the definition of the term "at-risk community"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Community Wildfire Protection Act, bipartisan legislation that Senator DAINES and I are introducing today.

This bill would ensure that those communities that are deemed to be under the greatest threat from wildfire are eligible to receive existing Federal wildfire grants. This sounds obvious but unfortunately is not the case under existing law.

This will help more communities in our home States of California and Montana and others throughout the West access Federal grants to reduce hazardous fuels around their communities and reduce the threat posed by wildfire. In particular, it would protect areas at risk of a large-scale wildfire that would significantly threaten human life and property.

Aligning the definition in law for at-risk communities to today's environmental realities is more important than ever given the increased spread, frequency, and destructiveness of wildfires, especially in the West.

The current definition of an "at-risk community" was codified in the 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act. That law requires that, other than experiencing significant wildfire risk, an eligible community must either be adjacent to Federal land or included on a list generated in 2001 consisting of voluntary input from States and Tribes.

To be clear, including a town on this list was not based on an objective evaluation of wildfire risk or threat to life and property, only whether an individual Governor or Tribal leader decided to add it. There are obvious omissions from the list that show its inadequacy, and in fact, 19 States and territories never submitted a single community.

For example, in California, big cities like Fresno, Fairfield, and Napa are not included, all of which have experi-

enced major wildfires in recent years, nor are countless small towns that are at great risk of wildfire. The town of Grizzly Flats, CA, which was devastated by the 2021 Caldor Fire, is also notably absent from the list.

The exclusion of these communities means that they are not eligible for Federal grant funding that would help them develop and implement wildfire resiliency plans, such as hazardous fuels reduction, nor can they utilize critical authorities to expedite wildfire mitigation projects on nearby Federal lands.

Our bill would simply end the practice of making Federal grants contingent on being this outdated, incomplete list. Instead, our legislation would allow communities to be included based on the most up-to-date quantitative wildfire risk data for the entire United States—data that are already maintained by the U.S. Forest Service.

Our bill would also allow communities not immediately within or adjacent to Federal lands to qualify as "at risk" of wildfire. This is important given a recent survey of more than 22,000 fires that indicated that wildfires are more likely to start on private lands and burn into Federal forestlands than the reverse. Federal policies must adapt to recognize this fact, not prevent funding from going to where it would be most effective.

Better tailoring Federal grants to the areas at greatest risk of wildfire is particularly essential given congressional funding of wildfire resilience projects, including \$1.8 billion that passed as part the recently enacted Inflation Reduction Act.

I am proud that our bill has received the support of the National Association of Counties, Rural County Representatives of California, the National Association of State Foresters, the Pacific Forest Trust, and the California Fire Safe Council.

I am pleased to work with Senator DAINES on this commonsense bill that will save lives, save communities, and ensure that Federal dollars are spent as effectively as possible.

Mr. President, my bill is simple—just three lines long—but it would ensure that our Federal policies enable billions in wildfire resiliency funding to be applied where it is needed most.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

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

S. 4832. A bill to temporarily prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until a certain level of taxpayer services have improved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

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

S. 4832

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 “Increase Reliable Services Now Act”.

SEC. 2. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL TAX ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Internal Revenue Service may not hire any person for the purpose of conducting enforcement activities during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the first date after such date on which—

(1) the Internal Revenue Service has maintained, for 6 consecutive months—

(A) a level of service for accounts management phone lines of not less than 70 percent; and

(B) an average speed of answering calls in 5 minutes or less; and

(2) not less than 90 percent of the regular employees of the Internal Revenue Service perform work in person at their job sites.

(b) ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of this section, the term “enforcement activities” means activities described in section 10301(a)(1)(A)(ii) of Public Law 117-169.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF ADDITIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FUNDS FOR TAXPAYER AUDITS.

Section 10301(a)(1)(A)(ii) of Public Law 117-169 is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: “: *Provided further*, That the Internal Revenue Service shall not audit taxpayers with taxable incomes below \$400,000 at a greater rate than such taxpayers were audited for the most recent taxable year beginning before the date of the enactment of this Act”.

SEC. 4. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE HIRING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Internal Revenue Service may not hire any person (other than for activities related to return processing and call center operations) during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the first date after such date on which the Internal Revenue Service meets the requirements of subsection (b).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) With respect to the processing of taxpayer correspondence, tax forms, and payments, the Internal Revenue Service has a backlog not in excess of 1,000,000 cases.

(2) With respect to tax returns eligible for a refund, refunds are issued to taxpayers on average within six weeks or less of the receipt of the return.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4833. A bill to improve the health and resiliency of giant sequoias, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of legislation that I introduced today along with Senator PADILLA to preserve the enduring legacy of California’s giant sequoias: the Save Our Sequoias Act. I thank Senator PADILLA for working with me on this important bill, as well as the bipartisan sponsors of similar legislation in the House.

The Save Our Sequoias Act would charge a dedicated group of Federal, State, local, and Tribal land managers

known as the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition with developing wildfire resilience projects to help save these magnificent trees.

The bill would also provide Federal Agencies with narrow, targeted authorities to implement these projects quickly and protect our remaining sequoias, as well as create a strategy to enhance sequoia reforestation.

Giant sequoias are one of the most iconic plants in the world. The sequoia known as General Sherman is the largest tree on Earth at more than 100 feet in circumference and 275 feet tall.

Sequoias grow quickly, producing a 50-foot tree’s worth of wood each year, yet can live to be thousands of years old. They are also remarkably fire-adapted, with spongy bark that can be up to 2-feet thick.

Perhaps most importantly to me, these incredible trees only grow in my home State of California. Just being around these trees is a humbling experience. Their immensity puts them in a class by themselves, and it is no wonder that they have been the source of reverence and amazement.

For many years, sequoias were considered nearly immune to the effects of wildfires, but unfortunately devastating fires in recent years have overwhelmed even their potent defenses. Officials have estimated that 20 percent of all mature giant sequoias have been destroyed just since 2020.

Scientific research has additionally suggested that without significant action, another 20 percent could be lost in the next 3 years. This would be a staggering tragedy and demands action. As former President Theodore Roosevelt himself put it, “A grove of giant redwood or sequoias should be kept just as we keep a great and beautiful cathedral.”

The vast majority of giant sequoias live on Federal land, and I thank President Biden and his administration for using existing authorities to try to save these magnificent trees. Nevertheless, Congress can and should enact legislation to protect sequoias long into the future.

Our bill would accomplish this goal by first codifying the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition, an existing group of public land managers with jurisdiction over sequoia groves, and requiring it to develop a strategy to make sequoia groves more resilient to wildfire. It would also provide congressional support for the Biden Administration’s current actions under an emergency declaration to expedite sequoia wildfire resilience projects.

Federal agencies should not be reliant on emergency authorities, however, in order to implement necessary wildfire resilience projects in the future. To that end, our bill provides those Agencies with narrow, targeted authorities to continue making progress on those projects and authorizes funding for dedicated personnel. It also establishes a grant program for sequoia resilience projects that occur off of Federal land.

Lastly, our bill ensures that we do not simply mitigate future sequoia losses but also begin the process of regrowth. Since sequoias can live to be thousands of years old, it is never too early to begin rejuvenating these majestic trees.

Mr. President, giant sequoias are one of the great treasures of the world, not just of California. It is incumbent upon Congress to pass our bill to ensure they are protected and can be cherished for thousands of years to come.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 757—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN SUPPORT OF THE PEACEFUL DEMOCRATIC AND ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE SRI LANKAN PEOPLE

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 757

Whereas Sri Lanka gained its independence peacefully in 1948, bringing an end to British colonial rule;

Whereas, more than 100,000 Sri Lankans died or went missing in subsequent decades of ethnic conflict, most acutely at the end of the civil war in May 2009;

Whereas the roots of the conflict, including historical inequalities, remain largely unresolved;

Whereas the period of peace, which began in 2009, contributed to Sri Lanka’s high growth and economic development, building on a tourism-based economy;

Whereas Gotabaya Rajapaksa was elected as Sri Lanka’s President on November 16, 2019, and on November 21, 2019, he appointed his brother, Mahinda Rajapaksa, as Prime Minister;

Whereas Sri Lanka’s governance under President Rajapaksa was highly corrupt, nepotistic, and lacked transparency;

Whereas on August 8, 2020, Human Rights Watch described President Rajapaksa’s rule in 2020 as “a campaign of fear and intimidation against human rights activists, journalists, lawyers, and others challenging government policy”;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka declined \$480,000,000 in United States assistance in 2020 in the form of a grant from the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which was designed to reduce poverty through economic growth;

Whereas, the Government of Sri Lanka, under the rule of President Rajapaksa—

(1) devoted state resources for personal political purposes with little transparency;

(2) implemented misguided agricultural policies; and

(3) borrowed billions of dollars from China to develop economically unviable mega projects;

Whereas, since 2019, Sri Lanka has faced an economic crisis, only further exacerbated by predatory loans from the People’s Republic of China as part of its debt trap diplomacy;

Whereas Sri Lanka’s economic crisis caused millions of Sri Lankan citizens to live in extremely dire conditions, with severe shortages of medicine, food, and fuel;

Whereas many Sri Lankans have immigrated in search of income to support their

families as a result of the ongoing crises, often separating spouses and parents from children;

Whereas, beginning in March 2022, the citizens of Sri Lanka courageously exercised their fundamental freedoms of speech and assembly to peacefully protest the government's failed economic policies and repression;

Whereas, the Government of Sri Lanka failed to make its bond and loan payments in April 2022, resulting in the country's first financial default in May 2022;

Whereas tens of thousands of Sri Lankan citizens rallied in largely peaceful protests on July 9, 2022, to which the government responded with live fire and tear gas;

Whereas the events of July 9, 2022, demonstrated that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has lost the confidence of the Sri Lankan people;

Whereas, on July 20, 2022, the parliament of Sri Lanka elected Ranil Wickremesinghe as President of Sri Lanka;

Whereas the current Government of Sri Lanka has thus far failed to respond to public concerns, including establishment of transparent investigations into credible allegations of corruption;

Whereas, on July 13, 2022, amid mounting public protests, Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled Sri Lanka for Singapore where he formally resigned as president, only to return to Sri Lanka on September 3, 2022;

Whereas the Government of Sri Lanka has used the country's Prevention of Terrorism Act to target peaceful political opposition;

Whereas the United States cosponsored United Nations Human Rights Council resolution, HRC 46/1 (2021), includes strengthening the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to collect, analyze, and preserve information and evidence for future accountability processes for gross violations of human rights in Sri Lanka;

Whereas the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, issued a report on February 25, 2022, noting setbacks in efforts to hold individuals accountable for human rights violations in Sri Lanka and highlighting the need for "deeper institutional and security sector reforms that will end impunity and prevent the recurrence of violations of the past";

Whereas the September 2022 Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Report on Sri Lanka stated, "[f]or sustainable improvements to take place, however, it is vital to recognize and address the underlying factors which have contributed to the economic crisis, including embedded impunity for past and present human rights violations, economic crimes, and endemic corruption";

Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Council will discuss the human rights situation in Sri Lanka at its upcoming 51st regular session in September 2022; and

Whereas President Wickremesinghe announced that Sri Lanka—

(1) would restart bailout negotiations with the International Monetary Fund in August 2022; and

(2) had reached an initial agreement on September 1, 2022: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the peaceful democratic and economic aspirations of the Sri Lankan people;

(2) urges Sri Lankan security forces to respect the legitimate rights of Sri Lankans, including to protest peacefully;

(3) urges Sri Lankan President Wickremesinghe to work with opposition parties on behalf of all Sri Lankans, including Tamils, Muslims, and other religious and ethnic minorities;

(4) commends the United States Agency for International Development for announcing more than \$92,000,000 in economic and humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka since June 2022;

(5) commends the International Monetary Fund for calling for structural reforms to address corruption vulnerabilities that hamper Sri Lanka's long-term potential growth;

(6) commends the Government of India for providing more than \$3,500,000,000 in lines of credit to the Government of Sri Lanka for food, medicine, and fuel;

(7) commends the Government of Japan and the Government of Australia for providing urgent medicine, food, and health care assistance for the Sri Lankan people;

(8) calls on the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue nations to mobilize additional humanitarian assistance, provide desperately needed fuel, and offer economic support and advice to the Government of Sri Lanka;

(9) urges the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Government of Sri Lanka to implement the recommendations detailed in the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' report that was published on February 25, 2022; and

(10) calls on the United Nations Human Rights Council to extend and reinforce the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' mandate from HRC 46/1 (2021) for an additional 2 years and to fully resource the Sri Lanka Accountability Project.

SENATE RESOLUTION 758—DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2022 AS "MACEDONIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH" AND CELEBRATING THE LANGUAGE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE OF MACEDONIAN AMERICANS AND THEIR INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BRAUN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 758

Whereas there is evidence that the earliest Macedonians in the continental United States arrived on or around the year 1492;

Whereas, since the 1880s, tens of thousands of Macedonians fled to the United States seeking civil liberties, human rights, religious freedom, and economic opportunities and in response to the 1903 Ilinden Uprising against the Ottoman Empire, the Balkan Wars, the 2 World Wars, the Greek Civil War, and the communist policies of Yugoslavia;

Whereas the Macedonian community in the United States is a vibrant community that is embedded within the mosaic of the United States, partaking in all walks of life, business, medicine, law, technology, civic engagement, government, the military, education, the arts, culinary world, athletics, and more;

Whereas the United Macedonian Diaspora estimates there are 500,000 individuals of Macedonian heritage living in the United States, with sizeable communities in Michigan, New York, Ohio, New Jersey, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Florida, California, Arizona, Texas, and Virginia;

Whereas Macedonian-American immigrants contributed to building monumental transportation routes in the United States, including the Great Northern Railroad;

Whereas, in 1922, Macedonian-American immigrants Tom and John Kiradjieff, using old Macedonian recipes passed down by their parents and grandparents, developed the recipe for Cincinnati chili, a beloved dish in the

United States, which, in 2013, was named one of the "20 Most Iconic Foods in America" by Smithsonian magazine;

Whereas, in the early 20th century, Macedonian immigrants created their own version of the famous Coney Island hot dog, which remains a staple dish at Coney Island-style restaurants throughout the Midwest;

Whereas Macedonian-American Stoyan Christowe, who immigrated to the United States in 1911, was an author, journalist, World War II intelligence officer, Vermont State Representative from 1961 to 1962, and Senator from 1963 to 1972 and wrote the book entitled "This is My Country", which was a favorite of President Franklin D. Roosevelt;

Whereas Macedonian-American Michael Alexander (Lazaroff) of Pittsburgh and New York City was a renowned international attorney who served as a legal adviser to many British and Irish government organizations and corporations for which he was honored by Her Majesty Elizabeth II as a Commander of the British Empire and, as a nonalcoholic, served in Alcoholics Anonymous from the mid-1950s through 1993 as legal adviser, chairman of general services board, trustee, and trustee chairman;

Whereas Macedonian-American Judge Jimmy N. Dimos served as a district judge for the 4th Judicial District Court of Louisiana from 1999 to 2006 and member of the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1976 to 1999, serving as Speaker of the House from 1988 to 1992;

Whereas, in 2018, Macedonian-American Judge Phillip Naumoff of Mansfield, Ohio, was elected as Richland County Common Pleas Court Judge;

Whereas, in 1995, Macedonian-American Ljubica Z. Acevska of Mansfield, Ohio, and Washington, D.C., became the first Ambassador of North Macedonia to the United States;

Whereas Macedonian Americans have greatly contributed to the economy of the United States, creating countless jobs for the people of the United States in Macedonian-American communities;

Whereas Macedonian-Americans Mike Ilitch, recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and Marian Bayoff Ilitch, who played a significant role in the civil rights movement and paid rent in Detroit for activist Rosa Park for more than a decade—

(1) opened the first mom-and-pop Little Caesars pizza shop in 1959, which grew into the third-largest pizza chain in the world;

(2) are owners of the Detroit Red Wings—coining Detroit as "Hockeytown"—and the Detroit Tigers; and

(3) in 2015, made history by giving Wayne State University \$50,000,000, the largest donation ever made to the school, highlighting their lifelong dedication to promoting entrepreneurship, education, and the revitalization of Detroit;

Whereas Macedonian-American Christopher Ilitch, president and chief executive officer of Ilitch Holdings, Inc., and chairman of Ilitch Charities, which has given more than \$220,000,000 in grants since 2000 for causes from youth development to community revitalization, has continued the tradition and vision of his parents Mike and Marian Ilitch to further the global standing of Detroit by developing The District Detroit, which has grown into a dynamic sports and entertainment district featuring award-winning theaters, 4 professional sports teams, and 3 multi-use sports venues, including the state-of-the-art Little Caesars Arena, home of the Detroit Red Wings and the Detroit Pistons, and world-class entertainment and community events;

Whereas 4 of the 8 names of women ever engraved on the Stanley Cup are Macedonian-Americans Marian Ilitch, Denise Ilitch,

Lisa Ilitch, and Carole Ilitch Trepeck, whose names were engraved in the Stanley Cups won by the Detroit Red Wings in 1997 and 1998;

Whereas Macedonian-American Andrew Peykoff, Sr., of California—

(1) founded Niagara Bottling, LLC, in 1963, which is one of the largest private water bottling companies in the United States;

(2) through the Andrew D. Peykoff, Sr., Scholarship Program has awarded more than \$2,000,000 to college students in the United States;

(3) through Niagara Cares, has delivered millions of bottles of clean water for disaster relief efforts in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and Mexico City; and

(4) provided a \$10,000,000 grant for the Jaime Peykoff Follicular Lymphoma Initiative to fund follicular lymphoma research grants, international scientific workshops, and clinical awards;

Whereas Macedonian-American George Atanasoski of Ormond Beach, Florida, who immigrated to the United States in 1970 and was a recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, founded Microflex Inc., a manufacturer that supplies a wide range of flexible metal products to large clients such as General Electric, Ford, Siemens, General Motors, Rolls Royce, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

Whereas Macedonian-American Katrina Markoff, originally of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was recognized by President Barack Obama as a Champion of Change in Small Business and founded Vosges Haut-Chocolat, which was named one of the 10 Best Chocolatiers in the World by National Geographic;

Whereas Macedonian-American Mike Zafirovski of Forest Hills, Illinois, recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and former presidential appointee to the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee—

(1) served on the board of Boeing;

(2) was President and Chief Executive Officer of Nortel, a global communications technology company;

(3) was President and Chief Operating Officer of Motorola; and

(4) during a 25-year career at General Electric, served as president and chief executive officer of 5 subsidiaries of General Electric in the consumer, industrial, and financial services sectors;

Whereas Macedonian-American Dr. Leon Speroff of Portland, Oregon, who was recognized as a giant in obstetrics and gynecology, made significant achievements in reproductive endocrinology, changing how medicine is practiced;

Whereas Macedonian-American Dr. George Daicoff of St. Petersburg, Florida, a renowned cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon, was a maverick in his field of pediatric heart surgery which was an emerging, unknown field in the 1970s, installed a pacemaker in the smallest premature infant in 1984, and conceived and performed important research that advanced the field of pediatric heart surgery;

Whereas Macedonian-American Dr. Peter T. George—

(1) won 3 Olympic Medals for the United States and 5 world championships in weightlifting;

(2) was the middleweight champion at the Pan-American Games; and

(3) became a doctor in oral medicine and pioneered treatments for obstructive sleep apnea;

Whereas Macedonian-American Dr. Jovan Laskovski, of Akron, Ohio, was inducted into the International Society for Hip Arthroscopy (commonly known as “ISHA”) in 2013 and became 1 of 26 surgeons in the United States inducted into ISHA;

Whereas Macedonian Americans have tremendously contributed to athletics and professional sports in the United States, including—

(1) Vlatko Andonovski, the head coach of the United States Women's National Soccer Team;

(2) Sasho Cirovski, the Head Men's Soccer Coach of the University of Maryland Men's Soccer Team;

(3) Dino Delevski, a former soccer player for the Milwaukee Wave and a former coach for the Chicago Inferno of the Major Arena Soccer League;

(4) Stefan Kozlov, a professional tennis player;

(5) Kevin Kouzmanoff, a former professional baseball player and current coach in the Oakland Athletics organization;

(6) Cedi Osman, a basketball player for Cleveland Cavaliers;

(7) Jovan Kirovski, a former soccer player and the current Technical Director for the Los Angeles Galaxy;

(8) brothers George and Louis Nanchoff, former soccer players in the North American Soccer League and the Major Indoor Soccer League (commonly referred to as “MISL”);

(9) Sandre Naumovski, a MISL soccer player for the Philadelphia KiXX;

(10) Pete Stoyanovich, a former professional football player for the Miami Dolphins, Kansas City Chiefs, and St. Louis Rams;

(11) Paul Naumoff, a former All-Pro linebacker in the National Football League (commonly referred to as the “NFL”) for the Tennessee Titans and the Detroit Lions; and

(12) Mike Vrabel, a former All-Pro, 3-time Super Bowl Champion, NFL football player for the New England Patriots and Kansas City Chiefs, and current head coach for the Tennessee Titans;

Whereas Steven Stamkos, an immigrant from Canada of Macedonian heritage, is captain of the Tampa Bay Lightning, the 2021 Stanley Cup Winner;

Whereas Macedonian-American Pandel Savic—

(1) served with the First Marine Division in the South Pacific theater during World War II, fighting in the Battles of Peleliu and Okinawa;

(2) was quarterback for The Ohio State University Buckeyes football team, taking the team to victory in the 1950 Rose Bowl; and

(3) played an important role in the golf community and served as the longtime chairman of the Professional Golfer's Association Memorial Tournament, which Savic founded with Jack Nicklaus;

Whereas Macedonian-American Nick Vanoff directed and produced famous musicals, movies, and television shows in the United States, including “Kiss Me Kate”, “The Tonight Show”, “City of Angels”, “The Sound of Christmas”, and “The Julie Andrews Hour”, and created and produced the annual “Kennedy Center Honors”;

Whereas Macedonian-American Dimitri Dimitrov, former maitre d' at Tower Bar in Los Angeles and San Vicente Bungalows, is Hollywood's most famous maitre d' according to Bon Appetit and the Hollywood Reporter;

Whereas Macedonian-Americans Klime and Anita Kovaceski of Miami, Florida, have earned notable recognition for their restaurant CRUST, which was named one of the “100 Best Restaurants in America” for 2017 and 2019 by OpenTable, one of the “Top 25 restaurants around the world” for 2019 by OpenTable/KAYAK, and one of the “101 Best Pizzas in America” in 2020 by The Daily Meal, and was voted “Miami's #1 Italian restaurant” on TripAdvisor from 2015 to 2020;

Whereas Macedonian Americans contributed to the construction of several dozen

Macedonian Orthodox churches throughout the United States as part of the American-Canadian Macedonian Orthodox Diocese, under current auspices of His Grace Metropolitan Metodi, and have played a major role in other Orthodox Church communities throughout the United States for more than a century;

Whereas 2022 marks the 10th anniversary of the Congressional Caucus on North Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans, which was founded by former Representative Candice S. Miller and is currently co-chaired by Representatives Brendan F. Boyle, Claudia Tenney, Debbie Dingell, and Lisa McClain;

Whereas 2022 is significant for Macedonian Americans because September 8, 2021, marked the 30th anniversary of the independence of a Macedonian country; and

Whereas the incredible contributions and heritage of Macedonian Americans have helped improve the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2022 as “Macedonian American Heritage Month”; and

(2) expresses warm congratulations and best wishes to all Macedonian people around the world as they mark Macedonian Independence Day;

(3) esteems the integral role of Macedonian Americans in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(4) urges the people of the United States to observe Macedonian American Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that celebrate the contributions of Macedonian Americans to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 759—HONORING BOSTON CELTICS LEGEND BILL RUSSELL, 11-TIME NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPION, FIRST BLACK HEAD COACH OF THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION, AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 759

Whereas William “Bill” Felton Russell was born on February 12, 1934, in West Monroe, Louisiana;

Whereas, after graduating from McClymonds High School in Oakland, California, in 1952, Russell was recruited to play basketball at the University of San Francisco;

Whereas, in 2 seasons, Russell led the University of San Francisco Dons men's basketball team to a combined record of 57-1 and 2 national championships and was named most outstanding player of the 1955 National Collegiate Athletic Association Basketball Tournament;

Whereas, in the 1956 draft for the National Basketball Association (commonly known as the “NBA”), the Boston Celtics acquired Russell, who the St. Louis Hawks had selected with the second overall pick in the draft;

Whereas, at the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, Australia, Russell was the captain of the United States Men's Olympic Basketball team, averaged a team-high 14.1 points per game, and led the United States to a gold medal victory over the Soviet Union;

Whereas, throughout his career in the NBA as a player and a coach, Russell earned an unprecedented number of awards and accolades, including—

(1) a record 11 NBA championships, received in years 1957, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968, and 1969;

(2) five Most Valuable Player awards, received in years 1958, 1961, 1962, 1963, and 1965;

(3) twelve All-Star designations, received in years 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, and 1969;

(4) three All-Star Game Most Valuable Player Awards, received in years 1959, 1963, and 1965; and

(5) an NBA Lifetime Achievement Award, received in 2017;

Whereas, in Game 7 of the 1957 NBA Finals between the Celtics and the St. Louis Hawks, during the final minute of regulation, Russell, who scored 19 points and had 32 rebounds, hit a left-handed lay-up and then chased down and blocked a shot in transition, forcing the first of 2 overtimes;

Whereas the Celtics won the game and championship in what fellow Celtics player Tom Heinsohn called the “greatest game ever”;

Whereas Russell was a player-coach for the Celtics from 1966 to 1969, making him the first Black head coach in the history of the 4 major professional sports leagues;

Whereas the strength, courage, and leadership of Russell extended beyond the basketball court to the fight against racism and for civil rights in the United States;

Whereas, in 1961, Russell led his teammates in a boycott of an NBA game in Lexington, Kentucky, to protest racism and discrimination after a local coffee shop refused to serve 2 Black Celtics players;

Whereas Russell marched with the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom;

Whereas, in 1963, Russell offered support for demonstrations against segregation in Boston public schools and addressed Black students taking part in a sit-in;

Whereas, on June 4, 1967, Russell took part in the Cleveland Summit, where he joined other prominent Black athletes to express solidarity with Muhammad Ali’s decision to refuse to join the Armed Forces upon being drafted to fight in the Vietnam War;

Whereas, on February 15, 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Russell the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, stating that “Bill Russell, the man, is someone who stood up for the rights and dignity of all men. He marched with King; he stood by Ali. When a restaurant refused to serve the Black Celtics, he refused to play in the scheduled game. He endured insults and vandalism, but he kept on focusing on making the teammates who he loved better players, and made possible the success of so many who would follow. And I hope that one day, in the streets of Boston, children will look up at a statue built not only to Bill Russell the player, but Bill Russell the man.”;

Whereas, on August 11, 2022, the NBA announced that it will honor the life and legacy Bill Russell by permanently retiring his uniform number, 6, throughout the league, making Russell the first player to have his number retired across the NBA;

Whereas Russell has earned the love, respect, admiration, and gratitude of the city of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the United States; and

Whereas Russell passed away on July 31, 2022, at age 88: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the legendary life of William “Bill” Felton Russell, a giant on and off the basketball court; and

(2) expresses sincere condolences to the family and friends of Russell as the city of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachu-

setts, and the United States mourn with them.

SENATE RESOLUTION 760—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17 AS “PATRIOT WEEK”

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 760

Whereas the events that led to the signing of the Constitution of the United States by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, have significance for every citizen of the United States and are honored in public schools across the United States on Constitution Day, which is September 17 of each year;

Whereas the rule of law, the social compact, democracy, liberty, equality, and unalienable human rights are the essential values upon which the United States flourishes;

Whereas diversity is one of the greatest strengths of the United States, and the motto inscribed on the Great Seal of the United States, “E pluribus unum”, Latin for “out of many, one”, symbolizes that individuals in the United States from all walks of life are unified by shared values;

Whereas exceptional, visionary, and indispensable individuals such as Thomas Paine, Patrick Henry, John Adams, John Marshall, George Washington, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison founded or advanced the United States;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions signed in Seneca Falls, New York, the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the “I Have a Dream” speech delivered by Martin Luther King, Jr., express sentiments that have advanced liberty in the United States; and

Whereas the Bennington flag (commonly known as the “76 flag”), the Betsy Ross flag, the current flag of the United States, the flag of the women’s suffrage movement, the Union flag (commonly known as the “Fort Sumter flag”), the Gadsden flag, and the flags of the States are physical symbols of the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as “Patriot Week”;

(2) recognizes that understanding the history of the United States and the first principles of the United States is indispensable to the survival of the United States as a free people;

(3) acknowledges, in great reverence to the victims of the September 11, 2001, attacks, that citizens of the United States should take time to honor the first principles, founders, documents, and symbols of their history;

(4) recognizes that each generation should renew the spirit of the United States based on the first principles, historical figures, founding documents, and symbols of the United States; and

(5) encourages citizens, schools and other educational institutions, and Federal, State, and local governments and their agencies to recognize and participate in Patriot Week by honoring, celebrating, and promoting the

study of the history of the United States so that all people of the United States may offer the reverence that is due to the free republic.

SENATE RESOLUTION 761—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 24, 2022, AS “GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK”

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 761

Whereas the last Sunday in September—
(1) is designated as “Gold Star Mother’s Day” under section 111 of title 36, United States Code; and

(2) was first designated as “Gold Star Mother’s Day” under the Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution designating the last Sunday in September as ‘Gold Star Mother’s Day’, and for other purposes”, approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895);

Whereas there is no date dedicated to families affected by the loss of a loved one who died in service to the United States;

Whereas a gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States;

Whereas the selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the families of those individuals, inspires all individuals in the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces and the families of veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 18 through September 24, 2022, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Week”;

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by—

(A) the families of members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(B) the families of veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Week by—

(A) performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) celebrating families in which loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 762—HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HER FAMILY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ON HER PASSING

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RISCH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr.

CORNYN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. COONS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MORAN, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KING, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BURR, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 762

Whereas Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born on April 21, 1926, to the Duke and Duchess of York;

Whereas, during the Second World War in 1945, then-Princess Elizabeth joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service and became the first female member of the Royal Family to join the Armed Services as a full-time active member;

Whereas, following the death of King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II ascended to the throne on February 6, 1952, as sovereign of the United Kingdom;

Whereas Queen Elizabeth II conducted her first state visit to the United States in October 1957, where she met with President Dwight D. Eisenhower;

Whereas, during her reign, Queen Elizabeth II has—

(1) visited the United States on 4 state visits, participated in 5 state dinners, and conducted 2 unofficial visits; and

(2) met with 13 United States Presidents, more than any other head of state;

Whereas, during her reign, Queen Elizabeth II bore witness to significant scientific and diplomatic advances, such as the first moon landing and the fall of the Berlin Wall;

Whereas, on May 16, 1991, Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch to address Congress, where she celebrated the longstanding partnership between the United States and the United Kingdom;

Whereas Queen Elizabeth II has invited 15 British prime ministers to form a government in her name, bearing witness to historic and enduring political, diplomatic, and economic relations with the United States and mutual allies;

Whereas, during her reign, Queen Elizabeth II witnessed the self-determination of former British colonies around the world;

Whereas His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, served the British people and the Commonwealth of Nations alongside Queen Elizabeth II for their 73 years of marriage;

Whereas Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8, 2022, at Balmoral in Scotland; and

Whereas Queen Elizabeth II, on her passing, was the longest reigning monarch in the history of the British monarchy, serving 70 years, 7 months, and 3 days: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and her more than 70 years of service

in support of the British people and the Commonwealth of Nations;

(2) expresses gratitude to Queen Elizabeth II for her efforts to maintain strong bilateral relations between the United Kingdom and the United States; and

(3) extends condolences to the family of Queen Elizabeth II, to the people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and to the peoples of the Commonwealth of Nations.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 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 Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Claire Gute and Ashley Martin, interns in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, introduced earlier today: S. Res. 759, S. Res. 760, and S. Res. 761.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to re-

consider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The resolutions (S. Res. 759, S. Res. 760, and S. Res. 761) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, were printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117-81, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on the National Defense Strategy: The Honorable Alissa M. Starzak of the District of Columbia.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HER FAMILY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ON HER PASSING

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 762, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 762) honoring the life and accomplishments of Queen Elizabeth II and expressing condolences to her family and the United Kingdom on her passing.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 762) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 14, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Montecalvo nomination postcloture; further, that all

postcloture time on the Montecalvo nomination be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. For the information of the Senate, there will be two rollcall votes starting at 11:30 a.m., with additional votes possible later in the day.

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 6:20 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 13, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRUCE I. TURNER, OF COLORADO, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be rear admiral

MIRIAM L. LAFFERTY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO SERVE AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE COAST GUARD RESERVE IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 309(B):

To be rear admiral (upper half)

REAR ADM. MIRIAM L. LAFFERTY

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

E. MARTIN ESTRADA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

GREGORY J. HAANSTAD, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.