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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our God, Creator of life, we come in thankfulness because You have loved us through all the days of our lives. We find peace in the knowledge that You know and accept us as we are. Thank You for enabling us to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint. Keep us always in Your care.

Lord, bless our Senators. Forgive them when they make mistakes, and give them hope when they feel discouraged. Provide them with wisdom and courage to live each day as Your children.

God bless our Nation. Drive back the forces of evil that seek to engulf it. Release the powers of goodness throughout our world.

And, Lord, we pray for Ukraine.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

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

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

THE ECONOMY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this last Friday, we learned that U.S. em-

ployers added another 428,000 new jobs in the month of April. The unemployment rate is down to 3.6 percent, which is just about what it was before the pandemic struck. April marked the 15th consecutive month of job growth under President Biden, and the United States has now recovered more than 90 percent of the jobs that were lost during the coronavirus pandemic. To put it into context, when President Biden took office, 20 million Americans relied on unemployment benefits just to get by. Now that number is down to slightly more than 1 million—from 20 million to 1 million.

This historic progress shows the resilience of American workers and small businesses that battled through more than 2 years of this unprecedented health crisis. This is truly an American success story. It is also the result of bold and decisive economic actions taken by the Democrats in Congress and President Biden.

The American Rescue Plan you will remember well. It passed without a single Republican voting in favor of it last year. That plan helped us get shots in the arms, and it provided economic relief to small businesses and unemployed Americans when they needed it the most.

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and JOBS Act represented a historic investment in America, in our Nation's infrastructure—everything from roads and bridges to expanding broadband and access in underserved communities. This legislation is creating jobs. We see it in the report. It is helping America stay connected at

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



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home, at school, and with their doctors, and it is allowing us to meet 21st century demands like climate change and cyber attacks.

Even with last Friday's good news, we still have more work to do to make sure we have an economy that really works for everyone. Too many American families are still struggling to pay the bills and afford the basics amid global inflation caused by President Putin's unprovoked war in Ukraine and rising COVID cases in China that are disrupting our supply chains.

Last week, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates by half a percentage point. That is the biggest rate hike in 22 years. They are trying to tamp down this inflationary pressure. We know, for many American families, a break in rising prices can't come soon enough, but we also know that the root causes of this challenge are complicated and that it will take a global effort and some good fortune for us to address it successfully.

Democrats are committed to taking action to lower household costs and combat rising prices, get kids back to school, and workers back to work. We need to give families a helping hand when it comes to the basics: medication, housing, gas for your car or truck. We need to think ahead and begin preparing and investing now for future COVID surges so we can save lives and minimize the potential disruption to our supply chains and the economy.

It is incredible to me, after what this Nation and world have gone through and continue to go through with over a million Americans having died from COVID, that we still are in a fierce debate over whether we ought to prepare for the possibility that it could come back. We know it will. Sadly, it will. I hope it is in a manner that we can control. We believe, on the Democratic side, that we should "be prepared." We weren't prepared when it hit initially. With the statements by the former President that this was some sort of a hoax and that it would all disappear someday, we just lulled ourselves into thinking it wasn't serious. Well, a million American lives have been lost to prove just how serious it has been. We need to support workers and families—healthcare workers, too—and small businesses, like restaurants, that are the lifeblood of our economy.

I urge my Republican colleagues to sit down and get real. We ought to face this public health issue for the reality that it is. We ought to face this economy with the challenges we face. We need to boost American manufacturing and jobs. We need to lower costs for families, and we need to insulate our economy against future COVID.

UKRAINE

Madam President, the last few days have revealed a jarring contrast in human decency regarding the war in Ukraine.

Yesterday, on Mother's Day, First Lady Jill Biden visited the Ukrainian

First Lady, Olena Zelenska, in Ukraine, in a moving display of solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

This is an amazing photograph. It is a moment in history I am not sure any of us thought we would ever see. Here is our First Lady, who manages to finally meet with the First Lady of the President in Ukraine. There was some risk associated with it, but thank goodness, everything went well, and at the end of the day, the message was clear: America is standing by Ukraine. It is standing by the First Family of Ukraine with their amazing show of courage.

The two First Ladies met at a school that was converted to help displaced Ukrainians because of the Russian onslaught. During her visit there and at stops just before in Romania and Slovakia, Dr. Jill Biden met with Ukrainian refugees, including many exhausted kids and parents who were on the verge of tears from the horrors that they had lived through.

She poignantly remarked of her visits in the three nations and said:

I thought it was important to show the Ukrainian people that this war has to stop, and this war has been brutal.

Now contrast that humane display, that display of human compassion and grace by the First Lady of the United States, with the actions of Russian war criminal Vladimir Putin yesterday and today.

Over the weekend, Putin's forces continued brutal assaults on civilian targets in Ukraine, including shelling a school used as a bomb shelter, which left 60 or more buried and presumed dead. Putin disgraced himself and the millions of Russians who suffered horribly during World War II by crudely comparing their struggle to his unprovoked, unconscionable assault on Ukraine. In cynically using Russia's World War II Victory Day, Putin described his war in Ukraine as "sacred" and necessary for the "security of our homeland." This is delusional. It is Putin who is now acting in the same way as those who brutally attacked the Soviet Union during World War II.

In one of my first visits to the Soviet Union as a person, as just a civilian on the street who went on a tour and then again as a Congressman, I was struck by how meaningful World War II was to the people of Russia. It was not uncommon for brides and grooms to go to the monument of those who fought and died in World War II in the cities of Russia on the days of their weddings and have photographs taken in memory of the people who were lost in their families decades before.

But Putin has now turned the tables, sadly, on this event with the just incredible, delusional comments that he makes. Here is Putin, reducing Ukrainian towns to rubble if they refuse to surrender, forcibly deporting as many as 300,000 Ukrainians to Russia, trying to erase the Ukrainian identity from seized areas, and praising Russian military units that are accused of blatant war crimes.

A Washington Post editorial on Friday hauntingly noted the historic parallel when they said:

Of the mass deportations carried out by the Soviet regime during the early 1930s as part of the campaign by Joseph Stalin to subdue Ukraine through political repression . . . they used famine.

Today, it is Vladimir Putin who is using terror, murder, and starvation against millions of innocent Ukrainians.

This war is monstrous. It is a threat not only to Ukraine but to the peace and stability of the entire world. If we are going to pay homage to the men and women who fought and to some who died—to the many who died—in World War II, we should remember that they did it to stop Hitler and to stop the Japanese in their efforts to conquer parts of the world.

We thought in the 20th century, at the end of World War II, we had finally turned the page on that sort of conduct. Vladimir Putin is a reminder that those forces of evil are still in the world.

Putin, reportedly, even wanted the Russian military to hold a victory parade in the devastated Ukrainian port city of Mariupol, but the parade plans had to be canceled because Ukrainian soldiers continue to fight against the Russian invaders. Ukrainians just won't give up. And the city itself has been virtually bombed to dust—hardly the backdrop Putin wanted for his evil pretense of a celebration.

Well, I have a message for Vladimir Putin on this Victory Day: You have disgraced yourself by selfishly exploiting the memory of those Russians who protected your nation in World War II, and you do it to defend your own war crimes today. You will not erase Ukraine. You have only strengthened Ukrainian people and the collective will of the global community to defend them against Russian tyranny.

There will be a Victory Day parade one day in Ukraine, and it will be to honor the valiant Ukrainians who sacrificed on the frontlines to defend freedom and democracy in Ukraine and worldwide.

I am proud that the United States, through President Biden and a bipartisan Congress, are standing behind the Ukrainian people at this moment when they are being tested. We are going into the third and fourth week of this Russian onslaught, and they still show remarkable achievement and resistance.

We are going to stand by them. We are going to defend them. We are going to let the world know the brutality that Vladimir Putin has visited on these brave people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

ABORTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, 2 years ago, the Senate Democratic leader rallied a crowd on the steps of the Supreme Court and threatened Justices by name if they did not resolve an abortion case the way he wanted. Here was the quote:

I want to tell you, Gorsuch; I want to tell you, Kavanaugh: You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions.

This incitement triggered rare public rebukes from the Chief Justice himself and even the liberal American Bar Association. But, apparently, the radical left heard their marching orders loud and clear.

Since the precedent-setting leak of a draft opinion last week, the left has set out to harass and intimidate sitting judges as they consider a pending case. We have seen angry crowds assemble at Justices' private family homes. Activists publish a map of their addresses. Law enforcement has had to install a security fence around the Supreme Court itself.

Trying—trying—to scare Federal judges into ruling a certain way is far outside the bounds of First Amendment speech or protest; it is an attempt to replace the rule of law with the rule of mobs.

It appears this may possibly be flatout illegal. There is a Federal law on the books that criminalizes “pickets or parades with the intent of influencing any judge, juror, witness, or court officer” at locations—listen to this—that include a judge’s “residence.”

Last year, Attorney General Garland’s Justice Department was quick to treat the concerned parents of America like potential domestic terrorists. But, curiously, I haven’t heard any announcement about how the DOJ may handle these intimidation tactics aimed directly at Federal judges.

Washington Democrats have gone out of their way to fuel the hysterical, potentially dangerous, climate. The President’s statement about the unprecedented leak didn’t condemn it. His Press Secretary has repeatedly appeared to endorse rallies at judge’s private family residences as long as they don’t turn into outright violence.

The senior Senator from Massachusetts stood on the Supreme Court steps and shouted:

We are gonna fight back.

Democrats are renewing their calls to break the Senate in order to pack the Court. They want to destroy two institutions for the price of one.

One liberal Georgetown law professor helpfully summarized their mission as follows: He explained this past weekend that the key moral difference between this pressure campaign and the Janu-

ary 6 riot is that, in this case—now listen to this—“the mob is right.”

So what has generated this reckless outrage? What is the Armageddon over which Democrats want to break the Senate, pack the Court, and condone potentially illegal rallies outside judges’ family homes? Here is the case in question: whether the State of Mississippi can enact an abortion law that would still be more liberal—more liberal—than laws in Germany, France, and Switzerland.

This is the case that is driving these hysterics, the possibility that abortion laws might begin to move away from China and North Korea and closer to Germany, France, and Switzerland? That is what has prompted the calls to destroy our institutions and surround Justices’ family homes. That is why a pro-life nonprofit in Wisconsin got a Molotov cocktail through its window and activists called for disruptions of Sunday worship.

Today’s Democratic Party is profoundly out of step with the American people on this issue. Their extreme position ignores modern science and public opinion.

Leader SCHUMER wants the Senate to vote again on a Democratic bill that would effectively legalize abortion-on-demand through all 9 months. Their bill is written to protect abortionists rather than mothers. It would roll back health regulations. It would attack America’s conscience rights and religious freedoms. It would overturn modest and overwhelmingly popular safeguards like waiting periods, informed consent laws, and possibly even parental notification. And it is written so that, in practice, it would allow elective abortion until birth.

Democrats’ extreme position is radical on a global scale and wildly unpopular with the American people. Only 34 percent of Americans believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases into the second trimester. That drops to 19 percent in the third trimester, but that is what the Democrats’ bill would allow in practice.

Every Senate Democrat but two and every House Democrat except a handful has put their name on this as cosponsors. That means 97 percent of Washington Democrats support a position that only 19 percent of Americans actually want. I will say that again. Ninety-seven percent of Democrats in Congress are cosponsors of an outcome that has 19 percent public support.

Notwithstanding inflation, energy insecurity, open borders, a violent crime-wave, and a war in Europe, Democrats want to spend this week explaining their extremism. Some Democrats even want to try again to break the Senate in order to ram this through. I have clearly stated I will never, never support smashing the legislative filibuster on this issue or any other. Yet Democrats want to wreck our institutions over their fringe position that Americans do not share.

I can understand why my colleagues want to distract from their governing

record. Their policies have created a living nightmare for working families. But Democrats’ extreme and unpopular position on abortion is not going to bail them out. It just gives Americans yet another reminder that the radicals are running the show.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 848.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alvaro M. Bedoya, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2019.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 848, Alvaro M. Bedoya, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2019.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WOMEN’S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT OF 2022—MOTION TO PROCEED

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 362, S. 4132.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 362, S. 4132, a bill to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 362, S. 4132, a bill to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, John W. Hickenlooper, Jacky Rosen, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 865.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 865, Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 9, be waived.

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

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Madam President, I have just filed cloture on the Women's Health Protection Act. This week, the Senate will be confronted with a simple but urgent question: Do women in this country have a basic right to make their own choices when it comes to seeking an abortion, yes or no? It will be one of the most important questions this Chamber confronts in decades because, for the first time in 50 years, women in America face the real possibility of living in a world where the protections of *Roe v. Wade* are a thing of the past. It will set up a situation where our children, female children, have less rights than their grandparents—something that is so un-American, taking away rights, stepping backward from rights in such a dramatic way.

So, tonight, I will set up a vote for Wednesday on legislation that will codify the fundamental right to an abortion into Federal law. Every American is going to see where every Senator stands on protecting one of the most important rights a woman has regarding her own body.

I want to be clear. This week's vote is not an abstract exercise; this is as real and as high stakes as it gets. And Senate Republicans will no longer be able to hide from the horror they have unleashed upon women in America. After spending years packing our courts with rightwing judges and Justices, after changing the rules of the Senate to push three rigidly conservative Justices, after stealing the nomination of Merrick Garland, the time has come for Republicans, this new MAGA Republican Party, to answer for their actions.

If Senate Republicans allow the Supreme Court's decision to stand, it will be open season—open season—on women's rights in America.

A few days ago, Leader McConnell himself acknowledged that a Federal ban on abortions is now possible should the Supreme Court overturn *Roe* and Republicans take control of the Senate.

Let me say that again because it is so dreadful. In light of the Supreme Court's decision—upcoming decision—Leader McConnell acknowledged that a national ban on abortion is now possible without *Roe* if Republicans reclaim the majority.

Hear that, America? A total ban—a total national ban on abortion, stated

by not any Republican but by the Republican leader. Every single American needs to hear what Leader McConnell said.

For years—for decades—Republicans have tried to disguise their hostility to abortion by claiming that all they really want is to let the States decide for themselves how they will treat the issue. It is an old claim from the right: This is about States' rights. This argument has always been hypocritical, and Leader McConnell's comments make it perfectly clear why.

The game here is not about States' rights; the goal has always been a national ban on abortions altogether. States' rights is a smokescreen, nothing more than a distraction, a ruse to hide from the true claims of the hard right, of the MAGA Republicans: a national ban on abortion.

A Federal restriction on abortion would be among the most extreme ideas ever pushed by Senate Republicans, but in light of *Roe*'s repeal, it seems that is the road the MAGA Republicans want to take our country down. And as scary as that is, I feel it is just the start. Ideas that have long been relegated to the fringes will return to the forefront with a vengeance—forced pregnancies, bans that make zero exceptions for rape and incest, even imprisonment for abortion providers and women who seek them—imprisonment for women who seek them, which is already happening with some State laws.

Republicans are trying in vain to obscure this reality. Last week, the chair of the Senate Republican campaign arm went as far as releasing an absurd collection of talking points trying to convince Americans that, no, Republicans don't want to throw doctors and women in jail for carrying out abortions.

The Republicans should know their position is truly extreme when that has to be one of their talking points. Oh, no, we don't want to throw women in jail. But regardless of what Republicans or the head of the Senate Republican campaign committee might try and claim, the laws being passed at the State level tell a different, much darker story that totally contradicts what he says.

In Arizona, for example, there is a law on the books that states that anyone who performs an abortion could be sentenced to anywhere from 2 to 5 years in prison. The new law in Arizona provides zero exceptions for rape and for incest.

In Oklahoma, a new law just came into effect banning abortion as early as 6 weeks and, like the law in Texas, empowers citizens to police each other's conduct and sue women simply trying to access an abortion and, again, zero exceptions for rape, zero exceptions for incest. If, God forbid, a woman is raped and doesn't want to have that child, the Republicans want to allow some of them to go to jail and some of them to be sued by their fellow citizens. Is that

a disgrace? Is that scary? Does that say we all must fight this tooth and nail?

Now Republicans in Louisiana are even pushing a bill that could throw women and their healthcare providers in prison for life—for life.

This is the America that Senate Republicans have made possible—an America where women in many States could be forced to follow through on their pregnancies against their will; an America where abortions can be all but eliminated in more than half the States in the country; an America where many States provide zero exceptions for something as evil as rape or incest. These laws could put women and girls in serious danger. And none of this is theoretical anymore; it is written into the veracity of the laws that have been passed by the hard right at the State level. And we know more are coming.

All of this I bring to the feet of my Senate colleagues as we prepare to vote later this week. No more running. No more hiding. No more diversions. Leader MCCONNELL can't talk about the actual effects of the law except when he made that one statement. Always diversions. Always about "Oh, look what they are doing" because they don't want the American people to know how hard right, how fiercely anti-women, how vicious some of their laws are.

I ask my colleagues to think carefully about their choice later this week. No more running. No more hiding. The vote will shine light on every single one of us. It will be like a floodlight, and we will each have to make our positions clear.

Again, I ask my colleagues to think carefully about their choice later this week because the consequences of this vote will stay with us for the rest of our time in office. The Nation will be watching. The rights of millions of American women are at stake, and they will be watching. And there will be no hiding from where each of us stands on this most precious, most private, most personal decision that women ever have had to make when it comes to their own lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

INTERNET

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, it has been a wonderful weekend in Tennessee. We had the annual West Tennessee Strawberry Festival out in Humboldt, TN. Quite honestly, I think the strawberries were better and sweeter this year than ever before. There was wonderful strawberry shortcake and deserts. It was a wonderful weekend. It provided such a great opportunity to talk with parents and to hear from Tennesseans, from moms and dads about things that were of concern to them.

I had a mom make a comment to me that I think each of us should listen to and take to heart. I know the Presiding Officer knows how hard a parent's job is because she is a mom.

I look at my children and my grandchildren, and I thought about this lady's comment. She said, you know, when she was growing up, she felt like that when she came home, that was the safe harbor; that is where she knew she was going to be safe. But today, she said she feels like many times, the enemy is within those four walls because of what children are exposed to online.

Like many parents, she began to pay more attention during COVID, and what she has found out has just astounded her. Like many parents, she feels the hardest part of her job is keeping her children safe and providing them with the environment that helps them grow into the very best person they could possibly be.

I really related to that. My husband often would say: We need to teach our children how to love and how to laugh and how to work and how to pray. That is something that we have done. We have raised our children so that they would love one another and their fellow man and love this country and appreciate the opportunities that we are given. We have raised them to believe in their faith and to exercise that faith every single day. We have also taught them and reared them to believe in a very purposeful life—always giving more than you take and leaving things in better shape than you found them.

Now, as Chuck and I reared our family, what we didn't want to do was hand down a bunch of mandates to the kids and not give them explanations. What we tried to do was to teach them and give them the knowledge that they would be able to function without us and would develop that discernment and make those wise decisions. I know that that is something that most parents do: teach those children so that they can make wise decisions on their own and leave the door open so when they feel threatened or vulnerable, they know they can come to you and talk about it.

On this point, Big Tech and the radical left have one thing in common. Their interests are best served if parents are not spending time parenting, because what Big Tech and many of the radicals are doing is using social media platforms to take children who are vulnerable and then push them into actions on social media platforms. It is, indeed, a toxic environment for our children on these platforms. That online element is at the top of a long list of things that have parents really worried about what is going on in this country. Summer is coming on, and parents are paying attention to this.

They are looking at other concerns. Inflation has absolutely decimated their savings accounts. When I talk to Tennesseans, sometimes they will talk about how much money they could save during the Trump years, and they are glad they did because inflation is now eating away at those savings that they had banked. Crime in the streets and drugs in our communities have

turned the nightly news into a horror show. People cannot believe the way crime has grown. Much of it is driven by that open southern border.

Parents are telling me that they are a little bit unsettled that they can't trust what their kids are learning in school in that those lessons are going to be in line with history, with civics, with reality, and this bothers them. It is why we are seeing school board races as the hot races of this year. It is why we have—whether it is Virginia Beach or San Francisco—people being tossed off of school boards. It is because what they were teaching was not in line with our Nation's history.

But, when it comes to the influence of tech, that is where parents feel like they are surrounded. As I said, there is a mom who said she once thought, inside those four walls, there was safety; but now she feels that it is not because of what they are seeing.

It is difficult for parents to understand how all this screen time is affecting their children because Big Tech keeps changing the rules to fit their business strategies. Mind you, that business strategy is, How many eyeballs can they capture, and how long can they hold them? because that means they make more money on the ads that they sell. Indeed, Instagram admits they are an ad company. They are an ad company. They make money by getting you to watch them. The longer you watch or the more deeply you run through a thread, they are making more money.

I would remind my colleagues that many of today's parents grew up alongside the tech companies, and now they are watching these tech companies have a stranglehold on their children's lives. They are the Facebook early adopters, many of today's parents of young children. This means that they learned a long time ago that online interactions bring out the worst in people. They know that "once it is on the internet, it is there forever" is true, and they probably wish their digital footprints were a little bit smaller now that they have children and are looking at it as parents.

The point is these parents are not anti-tech; they are pro-tech, but now their kids are falling into the same traps that they did. They are overwhelmed because Big Tech is actively sabotaging their attempts to pull their children to safety and away from so much screen time. They know that the people who run these social media companies have zero desire or incentive to control the flow of toxic content into the timeline of underaged users. It is just too lucrative an operation for them to give up. As I said, they need those eyeballs; they need them glued to the screen.

Now, when I and other members of the Consumer Protection Subcommittee presented executives from Instagram with evidence that they were actively enabling predatory content, they claimed our evidence was

anecdotal. Parents know this was a falsehood, and so do we. By its very nature, Snapchat is a predator's dream; TikTok is a hot bed of foreign propaganda; Twitter is a free-for-all, and they are going to stay that way as long as their executives keep making money. They are following the dollar.

Of the service they provide, they continue to say: Well, it is free. The service is free.

The sad thing is, it is our children who are the product. Our children and their usage online—that is the product that these tech companies are using to make money and pad their pockets. All you have to do is look around at the state of discourse in this country to know what this kind of exposure will eventually do to an impressionable child, especially after isolation from school lockdowns during COVID.

This isn't a question of bridging a generational divide. Parents understand that they need to be involved in their kids' lives. They want to be involved in their children's lives. It is sad and hurtful and devastating when they are not involved. They accept that times change and that they will have to do their research if they want to keep up and make certain that they are keeping their children safe, but they will never accept Silicon Valley's argument that they aren't smart enough to understand what is going on.

Unfortunately for Silicon Valley, the Senate has done the impossible and rallied behind bipartisan legislation to give parents and kids more control over their online experiences, and you are right—Big Tech is fighting back.

Back in February, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I introduced the Kids Online Safety Act. Here is what it would do:

First, it would force platforms to give minors the ability to protect their information; disable addictive product features; and opt out of algorithmic recommendations.

Next, it would give parents the ability to help control their kids' online experience as well as a dedicated channel to report predatory behavior. Predatory content and content that promotes self-harm, suicide, and eating disorders to minors will now, indeed, be a problem for these platforms to deal with—no more denial or deflection.

We also included requirements for annual risk assessments and access to datasets we can use to assess safety threats to underaged users.

It should be obvious by now that American parents have had enough of powerful people trying to control their children. They have said no time and again to the Biden administration's radical socialist agenda. They have said no to the racial politics the unions want to inject into public school curriculums, and now they are saying no to Silicon Valley.

I think it is our duty to give them the help that they are looking for. I urge my colleagues to join Senator BLUMENTHAL and me and support the

Kids Online Safety Act and to do this in support of parents. They are not going to let this issue go. When I talk to moms, this is one of the things they talk about the most: as I said, inflation, the border, crime in the streets, drugs on the streets, and Big Tech and the harm it is bringing to our children. They are going to stay on this issue because they know their children's lives and safety depend on it.

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

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

ABORTION

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, Republicans continue to be totally shocked by the leak of a draft Supreme Court decision. But what is truly shocking is the fact that we have a radical, rightwing majority now on our Supreme Court, thanks to three Trump Justices who are poised to take away a constitutional right that women in this country have relied upon for almost 50 years.

The Supreme Court has never overturned a constitutional right it has earlier conferred. And yet today, in 2022, women across the country are going to wake up and no longer have control over their own bodies once the Supreme Court stays its course to overturn both Roe and Casey. The Republican Party has sabotaged the Supreme Court, and women and girls across the country are going to pay the price.

In 13 States, the minute Roe is overturned, abortion will be illegal, and dozens of other States will move to do the same. These States are prepared to outlaw abortion with only narrow exceptions, if at all.

Imagine this. If a child is raped, Republicans will force her to give birth. If a woman's life is in danger, Republicans will force her to give birth, despite the fact that the United States already has the highest maternal mortality rate of any developed country. If a woman cannot afford to raise a child, Republicans will force her to give birth anyway. And then, once that child is born, all of a sudden, their concern for that child pretty much goes out the window.

They have done little to support women and families. They have repeatedly blocked Democratic efforts to provide healthcare, childcare, paid family leave, and more. There is nothing pro-life about that. And if a woman chooses to get an abortion for any reason, whether it be rape or medical necessity, Republicans stand ready to throw in jail women, doctors, and even those who help people access the procedure.

And make no mistake, if Republicans take control over the House and Sen-

ate, they will press to pass national legislation that will outlaw abortion throughout the country.

I have been an advocate for reproductive freedom for decades. When I was in college, abortion was not legal. It was the first time I wrote a political letter to the members of Hawaii's congressional delegation asking for their position on abortion. Abortion is one of the reasons I became an activist. And I fought against concerted efforts to limit abortion in Hawaii during the 14 years that I served in the Hawaii State Legislature. I knew then, as I do now, that women should be able to control our own bodies.

And, sadly, the threat to women's freedom is as real today as it was when I was first advocating for this right decades ago.

I am proud that Hawaii was the first State in the country to decriminalize abortion before Roe. So regardless of the Supreme Court decision, women's reproductive freedom in Hawaii will be protected. But for how long? So many women across the country do not live in States like Hawaii that protect the right to an abortion.

Barriers to abortion access have always existed—barriers like finding childcare, taking time off from work and travel and transportation and more. The number of women dealing with the obstacles to get the essential healthcare they need will skyrocket if Roe is overturned.

And we know who is going to be harmed the most: people who can't travel, including people with low incomes, people with disabilities.

Due to systemic barriers and this country's legacy of racism and discrimination, Black, Latino, indigenous, Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and other people of color disproportionately feel the effects of abortion bans and restrictions.

We know this is true because we have seen it play out in Texas. Already, women in Texas have to travel hundreds of miles to seek abortion services. Many women in Texas do not have the means or the opportunity.

When you read Justice Alito's draft opinion, it is quite clear that this Justice has harbored a desire to overturn Roe for the 16 years he has been on the Supreme Court. And, now, thanks to the three Trump Justices, his radical opinion on abortion is no longer dissent but the majority opinion. This is our worst fears coming true.

Meanwhile, I listened to MITCH MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, this morning, who kept calling Democrats "extreme" in our view—in our commitment to supporting a woman's right to abortion. He said that he would never support "smashing" the filibuster on this or any issue. Well, he had no problem smashing the filibuster when it came to Supreme Court Justices, and that is the very reason that three radical Trump Justices got on the Supreme Court in the first place and the reason why women are about

to lose a constitutional right that we have relied upon for almost 50 years.

Make no mistake, these radical Justices are just getting started. Alito's draft opinion, which denigrates any privacy basis for Roe, casts doubt on other privacy rights. Without privacy rights, the States are basically unfettered in what they do.

And now that the radical rightwing Justices are on the cusp of getting what they wish regarding abortion rights, Justice Alito is already signaling what is next: revisiting Obergefell, the marriage equality decision. And we know so much more is at stake.

We cannot sit back and accept this as our new normal. We cannot go back to a time when women had no autonomy over our own bodies. We cannot go back to a time when members of the LGBTQ+ community were treated as second-class citizens. And we cannot go back to a time where basic human rights were left up to the States—to the States—to decide.

Since when do States get to decide whether or not a constitutional right exists? That is what we have the Supreme Court for, and that is what the Supreme Court is not making sure that we continue to protect.

So here we are. Not only do we have to push to codify Roe nationally, but we have to take this fight to the ballots in November. As Justice Alito, in his draft opinion, cavalierly said, basically: All you women out there, go out and vote. So, yes, he is calling on the women of this country to use our energy and our resources to fight for a right, a constitutional right, that women in this country relied on for nearly 50 years. And, yes, that is exactly what we are going to do.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF ANN CLAIRE PHILLIPS

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the nomination of RADM Ann Phillips to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

Rear Admiral Phillips served in the U.S. Navy for 31 years, served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and held leadership positions such as the Director of Surface Warfare for the Chief of Naval Operations. Most recently, she served as special assistant to former Governor of Virginia Ralph Northam, where she focused on coastal adaptation and protection.

This nomination is so important to our maritime industry, especially as we are facing unprecedented challenges in the maritime supply chain. The Maritime Administration is responsible for

supporting America's maritime transportation industry, including supporting the health of the U.S. merchant marine fleet, investing in port infrastructure, supporting American shipyards, and growing and training the maritime workforce.

Never before have maritime and shipping issues been more important to the health of our economy and consumers. Our ports are handling record amounts of cargo as COVID-19 has caused consumers to shift their spending habits to e-commerce. The arrival of these imports has led to record volumes at our U.S. ports.

In 2021, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach moved 10 million containers for the first time ever. In my State, the State of Washington, the Northwest Seaport Alliance saw a 15-percent increase in container volumes over the last year. So this unprecedented volume continues to cause massive challenges of ships backed up offshore and vessels anchoring or loitering in waiting areas near the Ports of L.A. and Long Beach. Twenty-two percent of sales have been lost by agricultural exports due to transportation delays and cancellations, with products like potatoes, milk, wheat, and seafood that are literally rotting on our port docks.

My colleagues and I have been working hard to pass the Ocean Shipping Reform Act. And we did that out of the Senate, and now, obviously, our colleagues in the House—we have different bills—hopefully, will either resolve this in USICA or, with the passage of one of these bills, with the Senate bill maybe being passed by the House.

But the Federal Maritime Commission needs tools to crack down on bad actors in the shipping industry and reduce costs facing consumers. Our bill that passed in March that, as I said, we are working to reconcile, we believe needs to become law as soon as possible.

But the bill is only a piece of the supply chain challenge. We need to make serious investments in our port infrastructure to handle the increasing capacity and get goods moving, and MARAD is charged with overseeing the Port Infrastructure Development Program, the primary grant program used to invest in our ports and help move our products. That is why it is so important to have this position.

President Biden's bipartisan infrastructure law included 2.25 billion MARAD port infrastructure development dollars for the next 5 years. I want to thank my colleague Senator WICKER for working with us on this—this is such critical infrastructure investment—and all my colleagues who supported those programs. This huge economic opportunity and the volume of our trade needs the infrastructure at our ports to continue to increase.

We need Rear Admiral Phillips confirmed to make sure those dollars get out the door and get them to our ports now. We need the leadership of this or-

ganization to improve the resiliency of our ports, which are vulnerable to climate change and extreme storms. And we need Rear Admiral Phillips' experience in coastal resiliency as we have charged MARAD with building a maritime industry for the future that makes sure that we are looking at shore power issues and operating on cleaner fuels.

And we need Rear Admiral Phillips' experience in the Navy that will bring the expertise to the workforce mission. MARAD is tasked with ensuring that the United States has a strong merchant marine workforce to support the U.S. Sealift Program. The events in Ukraine have shown us that we must deal with the shortage of merchant mariners. It is estimated that we are over 1,800 merchant marine officers short of the need in case of a conflict. With the rise of China and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, we cannot take another minute for granted for the need for U.S.-flagged ships and U.S. mariners to support the logistics of the U.S. military. I know the Presiding Officer knows this very well.

In addition to strengthening our workforce, we need to invest in our shipyards, maintain our national defense needs as well as strengthen the U.S. flag fleet. This means investing in modern shipyards and identifying incentives to build new generations of U.S.-flagged ships.

These U.S. merchant mariners are also vital to the maritime industry. My State and various States face a workforce shortage and many of our other maritime sectors also. We need to skill and train a workforce for tomorrow.

Maritime jobs are good, family wage jobs, but we need to have a talented workforce that is inclusive, and we need to have an inclusive environment and work with the Coast Guard and the maritime industry to address issues of sexual assault and harassment to keep people safe in the workplace at sea.

Rear Admiral Phillips is the right person for this job to help the industry, the maritime unions, the shipping companies, and the Coast Guard to foster change. She has been a trailblazer in her career because she has been the first woman to command a destroyer squadron, the first woman Director of Surface Warfare, and now the first woman Maritime Administrator.

I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read the cloture motion 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. 708, Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Patrick J. Leahy, Ron Wyden, Amy Klobuchar, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley.

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 Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The Senior Assistant Executive Clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 161 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Baldwin	Hassan	Risch
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Blunt	Hoeven	Sanders
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Burr	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Sullivan
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Thune
Cramer	Menendez	Tillis
Crapo	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Fischer	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wicker
Graham	Portman	Wyden
Grassley	Reed	Young

NAYS—20

Barrasso	Ernst	Marshall
Boozman	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Cornyn	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lankford	Tuberville
Daines	Lee	

NOT VOTING—8

Cardin	Lummis	Shelby
Cassidy	Murray	Toomey
Kennedy	Padilla	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 20.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk again about the illegal, totally unjustified, unprovoked, and brutal attack on Ukraine by Russian forces.

This is the 11th week in a row I have come to the Chamber to talk about this because I think it is really important that the American people know what is going on over there and that we rally to the defense of our allies in Ukraine.

This week is the 77th anniversary of what is called V-E Day. That is the day the war in Europe ended—World War II—when the United States finally led the allies to defeat the tyranny of Nazi Germany and liberated millions of people. Then, in the Cold War, we led the world again to defeat the encroachment of Soviet communism on Eastern Europe. Again, millions of people were liberated, including Ukrainians.

We cannot forget this because, as we look at Ukraine, what do we see? The same thing—people who yearn to be free. That is all they want is to live in freedom in their own sovereign, independent country. Once again, the United States and our allies in Europe are standing with these Europeans in fighting to hold onto their freedom in the face of this illegal, unprovoked, and brutal attack.

When Vladimir Putin spoke at ceremonies in Russia this week to commemorate the same V-E Day, he used it to justify Russia's invasion, saying:

The danger was growing day by day, [so] Russia [gave] a preemptive response to an aggression.

Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. The Ukrainians were never the aggressors. The Ukrainians just want to live in peace with their neighbors, including with Russia.

Here is a map of Ukraine today, and this is what has been going on.

In the dark red, what you see here is what the Russians took in 2014—the year that Ukraine decided definitively they wanted to turn to the West to be a free, democratic country. Russia responded with this: taking over Crimea and taking over the Luhansk and Donetsk parts of the Donbas.

The light red is what they have taken in this latest invasion, and what they intend to take, according to their military generals who have spoken, is a much bigger area here.

The blue, of course, is where the Ukrainians have pushed back, where they have gone on the counteroffensive. They have actually pushed the Russians out around Kyiv, around the northern part of the country and other parts and, right now, as you can see, in various parts of the Donbas region, including around this town of Kharkiv.

Now, Kharkiv is an interesting situation. It is actually a sister city to Cincinnati, OH, my hometown, and I was on the Sister City Committee decades ago when we developed that relationship. They have a beautiful river running through the city. It was and will

be, in the future, a beautiful city; but now, as these Ukrainians are in the fight of their lives just to keep their democracy, you see what is happening in Kharkiv.

The Ukrainians are beginning to make progress both to the north of Kharkiv and here to the south and to the east. It is possible that the Ukrainians could actually push the Russians back far enough so that the city itself would be out of artillery range of the Russians. That would be great because, right now, the people of Kharkiv, like so many other people in places like Mariupol, of course, are being attacked by the Russians with artillery every night, every day. So, if they could get the Russian forces pushed back beyond that period, they could get relief services in to the civilians—food, water—that were previously denied by the Russians.

I think it might also force the Russians to make a decision. They would have to decide between addressing Ukraine's counteroffensive near Kharkiv—that is here—and expanding their forces over here, which they have said they want to do. I think if they do that—expand their forces—they are going to be risking their communications and supply lines here being cut off by the Ukrainians.

So we will see what happens, but this is a crucial time in the battle. We are at a turning point. I guess that is really my point.

We are being asked to look at legislation that has been sent to us by the administration—called the Ukraine Supplemental Funding bill—at a time when there is a crucial battle going on and when there could be a turning point in this broader war.

Last week, I spoke with the Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States, Oksana Markarova. I will be speaking to her again tomorrow morning. She made the point that the Presidential drawdown authority—that is the funding they are currently using from the United States—is just about depleted. It was about \$3.3 billion in military aid that the President had, with the authority given to him by Congress, to draw down some of our resources to be able to provide to Ukraine. As of last week, she told me that \$3.3 billion is just about depleted; therefore, a new authority is critically needed right now.

You don't want to have a gap—particularly with regard to munitions—in being able to ensure that they have the more effective weaponry—the heavy weaponry—that they are now using in places like this and here and here and can continue to have the ammunition that is needed to be able to continue the fight.

I also spoke late last week to Bridget Brink. She is the current Ambassador to Slovakia and is a seasoned Foreign Service professional whom the Biden administration has now nominated to be the U.S. Ambassador here in Ukraine. We haven't had an Ambassador there for well over a year, maybe

2 years. I have been asking the Biden administration—pushing the Biden administration—to send an Ambassador to Ukraine for over a year. I did the same with the Trump administration when we didn't have an Ambassador there for a while and even with the Obama administration to try to ensure we had a representative.

Why? It is so important to have an Ambassador there. You need somebody at the highest level to be able to have the Ukrainian officials have someone they can work with directly who can answer questions, make commitments, be someone who is authorized by the President. It is also helpful to have that information on the ground being relayed straight back to our teams here in Washington.

At least 17 other countries, by the way, have returned their diplomatic personnel to the capital, Kyiv. We have not. We are, apparently, going to do that soon. I hope so. I hope so. I know that the Ambassador nominee would like to go back to Kyiv. I know that a lot of members of the team would because I have met with them in Poland. They are over here in Poland now, for the most part, and are going into Lviv sometimes; but we need to get back to Kyiv.

In terms of what is going on in the battlefield, let's talk a little more about that and of the importance of the weapons and the materiel support that we have already provided and, therefore, what we must continue to provide.

Since February 24, when this latest Russian invasion began, we have now provided \$13.6 billion in military, economic, and humanitarian aid for Ukraine. This latest request for funding from the White House is for \$33 billion, so it is for even more. There were reports that this latest supplemental would be tied to other things, particularly to the COVID funding that the administration is also eager to get passed. I was strongly against that because, when you tie it up with other things, it inevitably slows it down, and this is absolutely urgent.

I was really pleased to see that about an hour and a half ago, President Biden issued a statement saying he now supports separating the Ukraine funding from the COVID funding. I commend him for that. It is good news. Again, we have seen so many times around here when you combine things, it slows everything down, and it creates a political football that goes back and forth. This is desperately needed assistance that is going to determine whether some Ukrainian civilians and some of their military forces live or die, because this aid is so critical to their success.

After Vladimir Putin's claim of success during this week's V-E ceremony—as we talked about—in Moscow, it is very likely, in my view, that he is now going to feel the need to call up an even fuller mobilization of his military and engage in even more brutality—if

that is possible—against the innocent civilians in Ukraine. So it is all the more reason for us to pass this latest spending request now and get this military equipment to the Ukrainians who need it so desperately.

Some Americans may wonder if we can make a difference in protecting freedom in Ukraine without directly engaging the American military or engaging with Russia. I would say we can, and I would say we have made a difference. The U.S. and our NATO allies and other allies around the world have already made a positive contribution to Ukraine's success in pushing back against the Russians—a much larger army with more weapons of every kind.

Prior to the latest invasion on February 24, the United States and some allies shipped these Javelin anti-tank weapons, Stinger anti-air missiles, and other small arms and munitions to Ukraine to be able to counter what we thought was going to happen and did, which was Russian battalion tactical groups coming into the country. It was effective. It was effective in Kyiv, and it was effective in other areas of Ukraine to be able to push back as you can see. These Russian units were essentially light-mechanized formations which contained armored anti-infantry vehicles and medium to heavy tanks, along with infantry and light artillery. The first 2 months of the war have proven that the Russians were not very effective with their coordination of these groups, and because of their tactical incompetence, they were largely defeated up here by a more proficient and a more effective Ukrainian military.

The mobility at the tactical level among the Ukrainian Armed Forces is at the core of the NATO doctrine in something called “combined arms warfare”—essentially the coordinated employment of the tanks, artillery, and infantry to defend or seize territory. Since 2014, when Ukraine turned away from tyranny and toward the West and Russia immediately invaded, the threat of a larger scale invasion was clear, so Ukraine's forces began to train and learn alongside U.S. troops and other NATO allies. Again, we worked with them to transition from a Soviet-style military to one that emphasized the initiative of noncommissioned officers and mission-style orders and better coordination between these groups.

Thanks to an extensive effort by our military and that of our NATO allies, the Ukrainians were able to build a military that was more proficient and technically agile. It was able not only to withstand the initial Russian onslaught but to defeat Russian forces, including around Kyiv. In the past month, the Ukrainian Armed Forces have repositioned to the east, taking with them that same tactic, that same coordination, and have provided tactical reconnaissance through drones and have used highly accurate artillery. In doing so, they have thwarted

Russian attempts to gain more ground here in the East.

Of course, nothing substitutes for the bravery and grit of the Ukrainian people and particularly of the Ukrainian soldiers—professional and civilian soldiers alike. They are defending their homeland fiercely, and that is the single most important element to their success. But we also owe a debt of gratitude to our troops who trained Ukrainians, many of whom are National Guardsmen, perhaps from your State, and also our British, Canadian, and other NATO partners who helped the Ukrainian military become the effective battlefield force we see today.

I say this because we need to know that the help that we are giving does make a difference, not just in terms of the weapons but also the training.

The training of Armed Forces and equipping them was done through what is called the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, USAI. It was created back in 2016. I actually modified a McCain amendment to create this new initiative. Since 2016, it has provided \$1.6 billion for training, equipment, advisory efforts, command and control functions, cyber defense, and strategic communications. Most importantly, it helped teach Ukraine mobility on the battlefield—again, a model of warfare that was superior to what Russia had.

That first phase of our support included the Javelins and the Stingers we talked about, then a heavy focus on organizing the transfer of existing stocks of Soviet-era weaponry in Eastern Europe—places like Poland or Slovakia—to Ukraine. But these Soviet-era weapons and munitions were always finite, and the war has exhausted a lot of those supplies coming from these other countries in the region. So this Ukraine supplemental request from the White House is understandably a larger amount because Ukraine now requires heavier weaponry and ones that are NATO standard. So more funds are needed to be able to transport these larger weapons at greater distances and to train Ukrainian forces on these weapons and to continue to replenish them with ammunition. So it is more of a traditional battlefield down here requiring that heavier weapon, more expensive weaponry, and now, again, NATO-standard weaponry.

While the United States and our allies are providing significant resources to this cause, the costs imposed on Russia are much greater. What do I mean by that?

Russia has now committed more than 70 percent of its total combat power to Ukraine, and much of that has been degraded and continues to be degraded. This raises an interesting point: Let's remember that Russia directly threatened military intervention against a number of our NATO allies, including the Baltics, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, including Poland, even the UK, and, more recently, two countries that are not NATO but are our allies, Finland and Sweden.

Other allies that they have threatened, we are legally obligated to protect if they are in NATO, under NATO article 5. So downgrading Russia's Army in Ukraine and supporting Ukraine's Armed Forces is a pretty effective way to ensure that Russia does not have the ability to attack NATO and instantly begin a direct U.S.-Russian confrontation—something we have wanted to avoid.

And speaking of NATO, it is encouraging, again, that Sweden and Finland are refusing to be intimidated by these Russian threats and are looking to join the alliance instead. At the end of last week, Finland already conducted military exercises with NATO military units from the United States, the UK, Estonia, and Latvia. I am proud that we are supporting this effort militarily. And Finland is now upgrading its air force. That is good. The Senate should immediately confirm NATO membership of both of these nations as soon as it comes before us.

It is important to note that it is not just the U.S. Government and our allied governments that are supporting Ukraine in its hour of need. Since this terrible conflict began, everyday Americans across the country have stepped up to provide much needed assistance to Ukrainian defenders, refugees, and first responders.

In March, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, sent out a request for surplus or expired personal protective gear to provide to Ukrainian territorial defense forces. They said they needed more protective gear, and we responded. I am proud to say that Ohio answered that call. All together, more than two dozen law enforcement agencies across my home State have donated almost 2,000 pieces of personal protective gear, 71 vest carriers, 45 helmets, and over 1,800 pieces of body armor. With the help of the Fund to Aid Ukraine—a nonprofit based in Parma, OH—this badly needed equipment will soon make its way into the hands of brave Ukrainian defenders who are fighting for their lives as they endure Russia's brutal assault.

This organization has also given 24 pallets of supplies, over 7 tons of medical supplies to Ukraine. I am grateful for everyone who stepped forward, especially to those law enforcement agencies that have stepped forward to help those Ukrainian law enforcement entities and first responders and territorial defense troops who need better protection. And this is happening all over America.

Additionally, there is a group in Cleveland called MedWish. They are amazing. I got to go visit them last month. They are a very effective nonprofit that has worked for years to provide medical supplies, hospital supplies to countries that have suffered, say, from a natural disaster but also in the case of Ukraine, of course, from the war. They have partnered with a group called the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, headed by my friend Marta Liscynsky, to provide indi-

vidual first aid kits and other medical equipment to Ukrainian first responders, defenders, and civilians. And Cleveland-based KOACORE is delivering 17,000 individual first aid kits to the frontlines. This is a company in Cleveland that is a safety management company so it is a good role for them. They are doing it, again, as volunteers and donating this.

When I was on the Polish-Ukrainian border in March, I saw Marta and another Ohio friend Andy Futey, who is president of the Ukrainian World Congress, in action, organizing some of this equipment that was coming into Ukraine and particularly helping our refugees coming from Ukraine.

One of my own staffers, Josh Prest, recently volunteered to transport some of this assistance to Europe. He checked an extra bag on his flight so he could carry more individual first aid kits, and he delivered them as well.

Again, there are thousands and thousands of Americans doing these sorts of things.

As Russian forces intentionally target Ukrainian civilians to spread fear and panic, this display of generosity from the people of Ohio will reassure Ukrainians that America has their back. With this donation, Ukrainian first responders running into the rubble of schools, apartment buildings, and homes will be able to save more lives. I am very proud of how the people of the great State of Ohio have given their time and resources to help those in need.

Tonight in Cincinnati, OH—my hometown—we have organized a fundraiser, under the leadership of Susie DeYoung, for what is called World Central Kitchen. They do great work all around the globe, including here in the United States, in response to natural disasters, working with FEMA. But they are doing amazing things in Ukraine. The funding for the fundraiser tonight is going to go to World Central Kitchen and also to the Kharkiv sister city efforts I talked about earlier.

I have seen the good work that DC Chef Jose Andres, and his brainchild World Central Kitchen, is doing when I volunteered, along with a few of my colleagues, at a World Central Kitchen location, serving food to refugees—one of his 60 popup kitchens—in the border areas between Ukraine and its neighbors.

Tonight, in Cincinnati, chefs from our entire Cincinnati region are volunteering their skills and some great food for the people of Ukraine. All of these donations are a reflection of how the American people are united in support of Ukraine.

On the sanctions front, I hope we can focus more of our attention on energy. I believe the top priority of all Ukraine's allies should be cutting off the funding of Putin's war machine. The single largest source of that funding is, of course, their energy exports from Russia. Europe relies on these energy exports from Russia. They pur-

chase approximately \$870 million of energy from Russia every single day. That is one reason the ruble has regained some of its value—because these energy receipts are coming in to fund Russia's government and fund the war machine.

For Europe, it is about \$22 million worth of coal every day, \$415 million worth of oil, and \$433 million in natural gas every day, again, funding Russia's brutal assault on Ukraine.

I have talked about this on the floor before, but Putin has long used energy as a weapon, and we have got to put an end to it.

I applaud those European nations that have recently taken steps to find alternative sources of energy and transition away from Russia. For example, recently, Italy, which relies on Russia for approximately 40 percent of its natural gas, is actively working to secure new natural gas contracts with African nations.

And in the last month, Lithuania became the first European country to halt the import of all Russian gas.

The EU took its first tangible step away from Russian fuels last month when it finally agreed to ban coal imports from Russia. This is expected to take effect in August.

As part of their efforts to mark V-E Day on Sunday, the G7, which includes, France, Germany, Italy, Britain, Canada, and the United States, pledged to ban Russian oil. Well, that is good. But let's be sure that this pledge is converted into reality. We have seen agreements before with the EU on this topic, and yet we need to be sure we see actual action.

A total embargo on all energy—oil, gas, natural gas, coal—is needed. The United States has the energy resources, especially liquefied natural gas, to be able to substitute for what Russia has been sending to Europe.

To be there for Europe, the United States must immediately expand our oil and natural gas production here and build the associated energy infrastructure that will allow our hydrocarbons to reach the global market.

Reports are showing that last month in April, European LNG import terminals—so bringing liquefied natural gas into Europe from the United States but also from the Mideast—took in a record amount, hitting their highest level since the start of the pandemic. We have got to continue to build on that trajectory. We have already got a general agreement in place with the EU to do that, but certain countries have blocked its implementation.

More generally, we have got to support all of our domestic producers here in the United States through a robust “all of the above” energy policy that includes renewables, fossil fuels, carbon capture technologies, nuclear power, hydropower, hydrogen, and energy efficiency—all of the above.

Instead of making it more difficult for domestic energy production, I urge the Biden administration to reject

their proposed tax increase on energy production proposed in the President's budget; stop restricting new leases on Federal lands and waters for oil and gas production and help with the permitting of the needed infrastructure instead of proposals like rewriting the definitions of the waters of the United States, which would add significant time and complexity to permitting new energy projects. This is a time when we need to focus on how to help Europe get away from their dependency on Russian energy in order to stop fueling the Putin war machine.

I have mentioned sanctions over these past 11 weeks, from trading sanctions and eliminating Russia's preferred tax status with the United States to banking sanctions to crush President Putin's financial services economy. But we should and must go further, especially when Russia not only continues its onslaught on Ukrainians' defensive combatants but on their noncombatants—on civilians. What they are doing, in so many instances, is clearly war crimes.

I call on the International Criminal Court, again, which has announced an investigation, to follow in Ukraine's footsteps and immediately begin a War Crimes Tribunal. The evidence of war crimes is now clear. There should be no delay.

Earlier, I spoke about the investment the United States has made since 2015 in training Ukrainian troops and modernizing its military. We now know that investment is paying off because Ukrainian troops have outmaneuvered and pushed back on Russia's military.

Speaking to the current Russian invasion, one Ukrainian officer told us:

The biggest mistake the Russians made was giving us eight years to prepare for this.

Thank goodness we had that time. We could have used it even more productively, but we were able to make great progress.

I close tonight on this because it shows why U.S. leadership around the world is so important: Without the bipartisan action of Congress and multiple administrations—including the Obama, Trump, and now Biden administrations—what Ukraine is achieving would not have been possible. That is why it is so important we take up this Ukrainian supplemental immediately, this week, and pass it into law. We have made a difference. We can continue to make a difference, but we are at a crucial point in this war.

So much more needs to be done. But do you know what? I am hopeful. I am hopeful because of what we have all seen. Over the past 2 months, the resiliency and fortitude of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Ukrainian people, it has shown the world what patriotism and bravery truly is.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on rollcall vote No. 148 the motion to instruct the conferees of the United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 offered by Senator BARRASSO. The motion would force the administration to immediately develop a 5-year offshore oil and gas leasing plan that includes a minimum of 10 region-wide oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska regions of the Outer Continental Shelf—OCS—with two sales every year.

Had I been present, I would have voted against the motion. Rather than tying the administration's hands with an arbitrary timetable for offshore leases, we should be carefully weighing the risks and benefits of such projects to each offshore ecosystem while diversifying our energy sources, enhancing our energy efficiency, and encouraging the transition to clean renewable energy.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOSH DAVIS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Dr. Josh Davis, of Wichita, KS.

Dr. Davis is an emergency room physician at Ascension Via Christi St. Francis Hospital in Wichita. Like many of us, Josh was deeply disturbed by the widespread human suffering caused by Russia's bloody invasion of Ukraine. What makes him different than most, however, was his resolve to be a part of the solution. After seeing the images of Ukrainian refugees fleeing their homes, Josh knew he needed to help. On April 14, he boarded a plane to war-torn Ukraine, not knowing where he would be going or what he would be doing. All he knew was that he was going to help those in need.

While in Ukraine, Josh helped transport medical supplies and patients, while also providing refugee children with much needed medical treatment. He also brought two suitcases full of gauze, bandages, rubber gloves, and other much-needed medical supplies with him. While in Ukraine, he saw firsthand the destruction and suffering that war brings. The biggest lesson learned for Josh was that this widespread suffering cannot be stopped by the actions of a few, but that change will only come from the actions of many. He has already begun to make

plans to return to Ukraine in order to provide further medical support and relief.

I would like to thank Josh for all that he has done. He has been an exemplary representative for the great State of Kansas, and the United States of America. His service to others makes us all proud. I now ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Josh Davis for his selflessness and service to those in need, as well as in wishing him the best of luck in the future.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN PFEIFER

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Ryan Pfeifer of Topeka, KS.

Ryan was presented with a \$25,000 Milken Educator Award at a recent Washburn Rural High School assembly. This award has an outstanding reputation in the teaching world. To some, it is known as the "Oscars of Teaching." This award celebrates teachers' work with students and shines a light on their future work as educators. In addition to the financial award, he was given mentorship and support, along with an all-expenses-paid trip to a forum where other recipients come together.

The Milken Educator Award looks to honor unrecognized teachers. It has teams of administrators and State education departments vetting out finalists for the award. Teachers are unaware they are nominated, so when Pfeifer was called down to the gym floor to receive the award, he was thrilled. Ryan has a way with his students. Students describe him as reliable and dedicated, which is a great reputation to hold. He even gave up his regular planning and advising period to provide additional support for students. I truly believe that he deserved this award. He has helped so many students live up to their potential. A previous award winner, Brad Nicks, said "He's always stood out as one of those exceptional educators, somebody that builds really important relationships with students." I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful impact Mr. Pfeifer has had on his students and to honor him for this great accomplishment.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EL DORADO BAND

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the 100th anniversary of the El Dorado Band.

The purpose of the El Dorado Municipal Band is to provide musical entertainment in the summer for the city of El Dorado and to provide the opportunity for musicians from high school age and above to perform. The band began as the El Dorado Boys Band in the early 1920s, and is one of the oldest municipal bands in Kansas. The band's first public home was a traditional round band shell at Gordy Park in the

heart of El Dorado. Its current home is a permanent band shell at Forest Park, located at Ninth and Taylor. This outdoor brick and concrete performance space was constructed in 1939 through the Works Progress Administration, WPA.

The El Dorado Municipal Band celebrates 100 years of continuous performances with the 2022 summer concert season. Despite wars, natural disasters, pandemics, and other obstacles, the band continues to bring the young and old together, both on stage and in the audience. The band partners with veterans' organizations to celebrate Flag Day. It also holds old-fashioned ice cream socials and bake sales that help fund music scholarships to deserving youth at Butler Community College. The 2022 performance season will kick off with a director's concert, bringing back all of the surviving directors that have stood before the Municipal Band. It will also feature the world public premiere of "El Dorado Fanfare," a music composition by Ed Hucbey commissioned to celebrate 100 years of music. In addition to local performances each Thursday, the Municipal Band has been invited to perform for the Kansas Bandmaster's Association as a featured ensemble.

I am honored to be from El Dorado and associated with this great band. I remember hearing the band play and have always enjoyed the time shared with my family listening to their music. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this wonderful municipal band and congratulate them in celebrating 100 years of music.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4164. A bill to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds for the establishment or operation of the Disinformation Governance Board in the Department of Homeland Security.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, May 9, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 270. An act to amend the Act entitled "Act to provide for the establishment of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in the State of Kansas, and for other purposes" to provide for inclusion of additional related sites in the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 3522. An act to provide enhanced authority for the President to enter into agreements with the Government of Ukraine to lend or lease defense articles to that Government to protect civilian populations in Ukraine from Russian military invasion, 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-3983. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Current Expected Credit Losses Methodology for Allowances, Related Adjustments to the Tier 1/Tier 2 Capital Rule, and Conforming Amendments" (RIN3052-AD36) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3984. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pesticide Product Performance Data Requirements for Products Claiming Efficacy Against Certain Invertebrate Pests" ((RIN2070-AJ49) (FRL No. 5331-05-OCSP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3985. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3986. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals relative to the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3987. A communication from the Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of selected reserve units, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 3, 2022; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3988. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, an interim response to the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3989. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of eleven (11) officers authorized to wear the insignia of rear admiral or rear admiral (lower half) of general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3990. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Flem B. Walker, Jr., United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3991. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13894 with respect to the situation in and in relation to Syria; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3992. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3993. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13303 with respect to the stabilization of Iraq; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3994. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13067 with respect to Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3995. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3996. 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 "Expansion of the Clarksburg Viticultural Area" (RIN1513-AC62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 28, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-3997. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts for 2022" (RIN2501-AE06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3998. A communication from the Chair and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to South Korea; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3999. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ukraine-Russia Sanctions Regulations" (31 CFR Part 589) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 29, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4000. A communication from the Secretary of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Transfer of Surplus Firearms to the Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4001. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Regulations, Jurisdiction, and Special Park Uses, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Curation of Federally Owned or Administered Archaeological Collections" (RIN1024-AE58) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on April 25, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4002. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Regulations, Jurisdiction, and Special Park Uses, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "St. Croix National Scenic Reverway, Bicycling" (RIN1024-AE64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4003. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Regulations, Jurisdiction, and Special Park Uses, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore; Snowmobiles" (RIN1024-AE53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4004. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Regulations, Jurisdiction, and Special Park Uses, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Colonial National Historical Park; Vessels and Commercial Passenger-Carrying Motor Vehicles" (RIN1024-AE39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4005. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Regulations, Jurisdiction, and Special Park Uses, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustments" (RIN1024-AE69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 25, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4006. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Actions Regarding the Commission's Policy on Price Index Formation and Transparency, and Indices Referenced in Natural Gas and Electric Tariffs" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4007. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Air Quality Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Texas; Control of Emissions From Existing Other Solid Waste Incineration Units" (FRL No. 8798-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4008. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hawaii: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions" (FRL No. 9760-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4009. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Oklahoma; Interstate Visibility Transport" (FRL No. 8688-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4010. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Redesignation of the Revised Door County (partial) Area to Attainment of the 2015 Ozone Standard" (FRL No. 9609-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 3499. A bill to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-107).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 4161. A bill to establish effluent limitations guidelines and standards and water quality criteria for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 4162. A bill to require the Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to publish an annual report on indicators of school crime and safety that includes data on school shootings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4163. A bill to prohibit the imposition of certain substantial burdens, relating to COVID-19 vaccine mandates, on religious exercise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 4164. A bill to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds for the establishment or operation of the Disinformation Governance Board in the Department of Homeland Security; read the first time.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 4165. A bill to amend the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 to establish a CDFI National Crisis Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 623. A resolution calling on the Secretary of State to designate the Russian Fed-

eration as a state sponsor of terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COTTON, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 624. A resolution supporting the mission and goals of National Fentanyl Awareness Day in 2022, including increasing individual and public awareness of the impact of fake or counterfeit fentanyl pills on families and young people; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BURR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. COONS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. Res. 625. A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 23rd annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 8 through May 14, 2022; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 251

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 251, a bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

S. 3410

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3410, a bill to amend section 13 of the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide for equitable relief, and for other purposes.

S. 3417

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3417, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3508, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 3579

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3579, a bill to authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union, and for other purposes.

S. 3726

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3726, a bill to address research on, and improve access to, supportive services for individuals with long COVID.

S. 3742

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3742, a bill to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, and for other purposes.

S. 3846

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 3846, a bill to reauthorize the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3871

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3871, a bill to provide a means for Congress to prevent an organization's designation as a foreign terrorist organization from being revoked by the Secretary of State.

S. 3874

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3874, a bill to amend section 7 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to ensure appropriate compensation for certain hours of overtime work by border patrol agents.

S. 4065

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 4065, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules relating to qualified opportunity zones, and for other purposes.

S. 4109

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4109, a bill to authorize the development of a national strategy for the research and development of distributed ledger technologies and their applications, to authorize awards to support research on distributed ledger

technologies and their applications, and to authorize an applied research project on distributed ledger technologies in commerce.

S.J. RES. 45

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives relating to "Definition of 'Frame or Receiver' and Identification of Firearms".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 623—CALLING ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO DESIGNATE THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AS A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

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

S. RES. 623

Whereas, pursuant to section 1754(c) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)), section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2779A), and section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371), the authority to designate a country as a state sponsor of terrorism rests with the Secretary of State;

Whereas Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, Iran, and Syria are designated as state sponsors of terrorism;

Whereas, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation has and continues to promote acts of international terrorism against political opponents and nation states;

Whereas, under the orders of President Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation engaged in a campaign of terror, utilizing brutal force targeting civilians during the Second Chechen War;

Whereas actions by the Government of the Russian Federation against civilian centers, such as Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, left countless innocent men, women, and children dead or wounded;

Whereas, since 2014, the Government of the Russian Federation has supported separatists engaging in acts of violence against Ukrainian civilians in the Donbas region;

Whereas, since the entry of the Russian Federation into the Syrian Civil War in 2015, the Russian Federation has targeted innocent civilians in Syria with attacks on civilian markets, medical facilities, and schools;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation provides material support to Syria, a nation currently designated as a state sponsor of terrorism, that has been used to target the Syrian people;

Whereas, according to the Congressional Research Service, the Russian Federation spreads terror throughout the world through private military networks of mercenaries, such as the Wagner Group, in an effort to "project power cheaply and deniably";

Whereas the Wagner Group collaborates with the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation to support the foreign policy objectives of the Russian Federation;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury identifies the Wagner Group as "a designated

Russian Ministry of Defense proxy force" and states that "Wagner's activities in other countries, including Ukraine, Syria, Sudan, and Libya, have generated insecurity and incited violence against innocent civilians";

Whereas it was reported in February 2022 that more than 400 Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group were dispatched to Kyiv with orders from the Kremlin to assassinate President Volodymyr Zelensky and members of the Government of Ukraine;

Whereas, on March 14, 2022, Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Zbigniew Rau stated that actions of the Government of the Russian Federation in Ukraine against innocent civilians and civilian infrastructure is "state terrorism";

Whereas, on March 17, 2022, President Volodymyr Zelensky called for the world to acknowledge the Russian Federation as a terrorist state;

Whereas the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has appealed to Congress to encourage the Department of State to recognize the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism noting that "the Russian Federation has for years supported and financed terrorist regimes and terrorist organizations, including being the main supplier of weapons to the Assad regime in Syria and supporting terrorists in the Middle East and Latin America, organizing acts of international terrorism, including the poisoning of the Skripal family in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the downing of a civilian Malaysian airliner and other acts of terrorism";

Whereas, on April 27, 2022, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated before Congress that "there's no doubt in my mind that the Russians are terrorizing the Ukrainian people";

Whereas, at the direction of President Putin, the Russian Federation has and continues to commit war crimes by directing and authorizing the indiscriminate targeting of civilian centers within Chechnya, Georgia, Syria, and Ukraine, resulting in the deaths of countless innocent men, women, and children;

Whereas armed forces of the Russian Federation have committed numerous summary executions against innocent civilians and have attempted to cover their atrocities with mass graves across Ukraine; and

Whereas, when responding to questions regarding designating the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism, the spokesperson for the Department of State stated that "we are going to look at all potential options—options that are available to us under the law, options that would be effective in holding Russia to account—and if a tool is available and effective, we won't hesitate to use it": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) views the actions of the Government of the Russian Federation, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin, as acts of terrorism; and

(2) calls on the Secretary of State to designate the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism.

SENATE RESOLUTION 624—SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY IN 2022, INCLUDING INCREASING INDIVIDUAL AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF FAKE OR COUNTERFEIT FENTANYL PILLS ON FAMILIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COTTON, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KELLY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 624

Whereas drug traffickers are mass-producing fake or counterfeit pills and falsely marketing them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the people of the United States;

Whereas many fake or counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription name-brand opioids or stimulants;

Whereas drug traffickers are using fake or counterfeit pills to exploit the opioid crisis and prescription drug misuse;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Agency (referred to in this preamble as the “DEA”) has observed a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing not less than 2 mg of fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose;

Whereas 4 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl tested by the DEA contain a potentially lethal dose;

Whereas counterfeit pills may also contain fentanyl-related substances and methamphetamine;

Whereas the number of counterfeit pills with fentanyl seized by law enforcement agencies has increased by nearly 502 percent since 2019;

Whereas more than 9,500,000 counterfeit pills were seized within the last year, which exceeds the total number of seizures for the previous 2 years combined;

Whereas fake or counterfeit pills have been identified in all 50 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas illicit fentanyl has also been detected in street drugs such as heroin and cocaine;

Whereas, for the 12-month period ending in October 2021, more than 105,000 individuals in the United States died of drug-induced deaths, and 69,000 of those deaths involved illicit fentanyl;

Whereas, over the last 20 years, drug-induced deaths among individuals aged 15 to 35 has increased 6-fold, largely driven by the increase in illicit fentanyl drugs;

Whereas, for the 12-month period ending in April 2021, the leading cause of death for individuals in the United States aged 18 to 45 was illicit fentanyl;

Whereas fake counterfeit pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them accessible to teens and youth;

Whereas illicit fentanyl is involved in more deaths of youths than all other drug types combined;

Whereas, in 2020, drug overdose and poisoning deaths for individuals aged 14 to 18 grew by 94 percent, which was more than 3 times as fast as the national rate and faster than any other 5-year age group;

Whereas, in 2020, fentanyl involvement in drug overdose and poisoning deaths for individuals aged 14 to 18 grew by 169 percent, which was more than 3 times as fast as the national rate and faster than any other 5-year age group; and

Whereas, in 2020, there were 56,516 reported overdose deaths due to synthetic opioids; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the recognition and goals of National Fentanyl Awareness Day, which include increasing individual and public awareness of the impact of fake or counterfeit fentanyl pills on families and young people;

(2) applauds the work of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies that work to combat the proliferation of counterfeit pills;

(3) encourages the use of existing authorities to proactively stop and prevent the spread of illicit counterfeit pills; and

(4) designates May 10, 2022 as “National Fentanyl Awareness Day”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 625—CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 23RD ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK, TO BE HELD MAY 8 THROUGH MAY 14, 2022

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BURR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. COONS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 625

Whereas charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition and enroll any student who wants to attend, often through a random lottery when the demand for enrollment is outmatched by the supply of available charter school seats;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools deliver a high-quality public education and challenge all students to reach their potential for academic success;

Whereas public charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas public charter schools throughout the United States provide millions of families with diverse and innovative educational options for the children of those families;

Whereas high-performing public charter schools and charter management organizations are increasing student achievement and attendance rates at institutions of higher education;

Whereas public charter schools are authorized by a designated entity and—

(1) respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States; and

(2) promote the principles of quality, accountability, choice, high-performance, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for flexibility and autonomy, public charter schools are held

accountable by the authorizers of the charter schools for improving student achievement and for sound financial and operational management;

Whereas public charter schools are required to meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools;

Whereas public charter schools often set higher expectations for students, beyond the requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), to ensure that the charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 44 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico have public charter schools;

Whereas, as of the 2020–2021 school year, more than 7,700 public charter schools served approximately 3,600,000 children;

Whereas enrollment in public charter schools grew from 400,000 students in 2001 to 3,600,000 students in 2021, a more than ninefold increase in 20 years;

Whereas in the United States—

(1) in 234 school districts, more than 10 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools; and

(2) in at least 27 school districts, at least 30 percent of public school students are enrolled in public charter schools;

Whereas public charter schools improve the achievement of students enrolled in the charter schools and collaborate with traditional public schools to improve public education for all students;

Whereas public charter schools—

(1) give parents the freedom to choose public schools;

(2) routinely measure parental satisfaction levels; and

(3) must prove the ongoing success of the charter schools to parents, policymakers, and the communities served by the charter schools or risk closure;

Whereas a 2015 report from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University found significant improvements for students at urban charter schools, and, when compared to peers in traditional public schools, each year those students completed the equivalent of 28 more days of learning in reading and 40 more days of learning in math;

Whereas a 2020 study from the Program on Education Policy and Governance at Harvard University found greater academic gains for students in charter schools than for students in traditional public schools who took the reading and math assessments administered by the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in fourth and eighth grade between 2005 and 2017, and African American and low-income students attending charter schools were almost 6 months ahead of their peers in reading and math compared with students in traditional public schools over the 12-year span of the study;

Whereas parental demand for charter schools is high, and there was a 7 percent growth in charter school enrollment between the 2019–2020 and 2020–2021 school years; and

Whereas the 23rd annual National Charter Schools Week is scheduled to be celebrated the week of May 8 through May 14, 2022: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the students, families, teachers, leaders, and staff of public charter schools across the United States for—

(A) making ongoing contributions to public education;

(B) making impressive strides in closing the academic achievement gap in schools in the United States, particularly in schools

with some of the most disadvantaged students in both rural and urban communities; and

(C) improving and strengthening the public school system throughout the United States;

(2) supports the ideals and goals of the 23rd annual National Charter Schools Week, a week-long celebration to be held May 8 through May 14, 2022, in communities throughout the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for public charter schools.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4164

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4164) to prohibit the expenditure of Federal funds for the establishment or operation of the Disinformation Governance Board in the Department of Homeland Security.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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

SUPREME COURT POLICE PARITY ACT OF 2022

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 4160 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4160) to amend title 40, United States Code, to grant the Supreme Court of the United States security-related authorities equivalent to the legislative and executive branches.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 4160) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4160

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 “Supreme Court Police Parity Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO PROTECT FAMILY MEMBERS.

Section 6121(a)(2) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by adding “and” after the semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following: “(C) any member of the immediate family of the Chief Justice, any Associate Justice, or any officer of the Supreme Court if the Marshal determines such protection is necessary.”.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 624, 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. 624) supporting the mission and goals of National Fentanyl Awareness Day in 2022, including increasing individual and public awareness of the impact of fake or counterfeit fentanyl pills on families and young people.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 624) was agreed to.

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

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 23RD ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 625, 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. 625) congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 23rd annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 8 through May 14, 2022.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 625) was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 10; 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 Phillips nomination postcloture; further, that the confirmation vote on the Phillips nomination occur at 11:45 a.m. and that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Berhe nomination until 2:15 p.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the Berhe nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 2:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:03 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DONALD R. CRAVINS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

DAVID P. PEKOSKE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

REBECCA LEE HAFFAJEE, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE RICHARD G. FRANK.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HUGO F. RODRIGUEZ, JR., OF PENNSYLVANIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA.