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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray. Eternal God, our help and strength, we bow in awe and reverence before You. You are the mighty fortress in whom we find refuge. You do for us more than we can ask or imagine.

Lord, strengthen our Senators for today's journey and all the changing scenes of their lives. Help them to bear in mind that You will empower them to meet every challenge. Give to them the abiding awareness that nothing can disturb their peace if they put their trust in You. May our Senators live in the sure faith that You can enable them to live worthy of Your grace.

We pray in Your loving 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 pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nancy G. Abudu, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The majority leader is recognized.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so, on AI, yesterday, I met with a bipartisan group of Senators—two Democrats, including myself, and two Republicans—to talk about spearheading our bipartisan efforts to focus on comprehensive AI legislation.

Our group agreed that because AI technology is developing so quickly, Congress has to move fast. Over the past several weeks, my staff and I have met with close to 100 CEOs of companies who do AI—scientists, AI academics, leaders in the industry of many different viewpoints, and critics of AI. And I plan to continue to do this.

If harnessed responsibly, AI has the power to do tremendous things for the public good. It can unlock unimaginable marvels in medicine, business, national security, science, and so many other areas of life; but if left unchecked, AI has the power to do tremendous, tremendous harm.

It can accelerate misinformation, breed new forms of racial prejudice, create severe economic disruptions, and hinder human agency in the most severe of ways.

So let me make a few observations in light of my conversation and our meeting.

First, as I said a month ago, Congress must move quickly. Many AI experts have pointed out that the government must have a role in how this technology enters our lives; even leaders of the industry say they welcome regulation. So if we were to fulfill our role properly, our approach to AI must be

fast-moving. We can't move so fast that we do flawed legislation, but there is no time for waste or delay or sitting back. We have to move fast.

Second, our group also agreed that any approach must be bipartisan. AI technology already touches virtually every industry, field, and facet in our society, so our process must be collaborative and must draw from a broad and bipartisan range of views and issues.

And, third, we think we have a good case study for how the bipartisan process can work: CHIPS and Science. When the Senate passed CHIPS and Science, both sides came together on an issue that impacted the Nation and involved a lot of committees, inputs, and views—much like AI will. And because there was so much bipartisan overlap in CHIPS and Science, as there is in AI, it makes it a lot easier to do this in a way that brings bipartisan groups together from the very beginning.

So I hope CHIPS and Science can be a model for how we approach AI. I thank my colleagues—so many of my colleagues—not just the four of us who met, for their attention on this pressing issue, and I look forward to continuing to work with a wide range of Senators for many committees and from both sides of the aisle as we move forward.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. President, default, all week long, both sides have kept talking about the future of our Nation's budget, while at the same time moved closer to fulfilling our responsibility to preserve the full faith and credit of the United States.

Avoiding default is non-negotiable. It must be our north star, and that cannot change. I am pleased that over the course of this week, everyone has acknowledged that allowing the country to default would be a catastrophe. I am also pleased that the other side has recognized that the best way forward is a bipartisan piece of legislation that

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



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can secure enough votes to get through both the House and the Senate.

Partisan legislation just won't produce the result we need. I am hopeful that soon, both sides will find an agreement that keeps default completely off the table. We have made good progress this week, but the work continues. No one will get everything they want.

From the beginning, Democrats have said—I have said—that this process demands bipartisanship. It is how we avoided default under President Trump. It is how we avoided default under President Biden, and it is how we should avoid default this time too.

Brinksmanship, hiding plans, hostage-taking, none of that will move us any closer to a solution, but working together and accepting that nobody will get everything they want is the way to go.

Since the founding of our country, one thing has remained constant: When it is time to pay the bills, America has followed through. It is one of the cornerstones of our Nation's success.

If America would ever fail to pay its bills, the consequences would be horrific. Default would bring recession. Default would kill 8 million jobs. Default would send soaring costs on credit card payments, mortgages, small businesses, loans, and erode people's 401(k)s. Nobody—nobody—wants that. Americans certainly can't afford it; so we in Congress must avoid it at all costs.

I hope that negotiations continue in the right direction.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Last week's inflation report reinforced what working families across America already know: Washington Democrats' inflation is still packing a punch. Prices climbed 4.9 percent from this time last year. Just in the last month, they accelerated nearly half a percentage point. The Biden administration called the news "welcome breathing room for families."

Welcome breathing room for families? According to the latest data, families have paid thousands of dollars more just to put food on the table on his watch. In Colorado, your average family has paid over \$2,000 in additional food costs since 2021. In Arizona, those same groceries have cost households \$1,800; in Montana, over \$1,700; in my home State of Kentucky, families have paid \$1,600 more, on average, since President Biden took office. It doesn't sound like breathing room to me, especially at a time when workers' wages are failing to keep pace with out-of-control prices.

Meanwhile, confidence with President Biden to do the right thing with the economy is at its lowest point since the great recession. That is hardly surprising when his top economic

advisers refuse to even admit there is a problem. The President's latest pick to lead his Council of Economic Advisers has repeatedly said this administration didn't miss a thing on inflation.

So, while the Biden administration pats itself on the back for a job well done, let's remember where we were just 2 years ago. Since the President took office, prices have climbed a staggering—listen to this—16 percent—16 percent since the President took office. Gasoline is up 54 percent, electricity is up 22 percent, groceries are up 20 percent, and higher interest rates are making it harder for working families to borrow and save for the future. Washington Democrats' reckless spending and green energy fantasies are sending our economy deep into the red.

For 2 straight years, Americans have had to tighten their belt just to get by. It is time for this administration to wake up and do more of the same.

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Mr. President, on another matter, as our Nation observes Police Week, cities across America continue to grapple with the rising tide of violent crime, and our Nation's Capital is certainly no exception. This year, Washington has already endured the deadliest first 4 months of any year in the last decade. Motor vehicle theft in the District is up 115 percent from this time last year. And now, the leftwing DC Council wants to make the tough job facing the brave men and women of the Metropolitan Police even tougher.

With violent crime spiraling out of control, the council proposed a new law that strips police officers of collective bargaining rights, makes more of their information available for public harassment, and adds new hurdles for the use of force in defending themselves and the public. Remember, Congress already had to step in when the council tried to go even softer on felony sentencing with another bill earlier this year. Even President Biden balked at such a radical measure.

The latest law, which is already in effect on an emergency basis, has had a devastating impact on local law enforcement. The local police union reports 1,200 officers have chosen to leave the force since it took effect—1,200 officers left the force since this took effect. In a city that is facing its worst bout of violent crime in at least a decade, the police chief estimates he has fewer officers to fight it than at any time since the 1970s.

To make matters worse, the Department is fighting a losing battle against the city's soft-on-crime prosecutions. Last year, Washington's U.S. Attorney's Office declined to press charges on—listen to this—on two-thirds of the arrests made by the police department. In other words, two of every three times an MPD officer risks their safety to take a suspect into custody, the suspect walks free.

No wonder, as Chief Contee reports, the average homicide suspect the department encounters already has a rap

sheet of 11 previous arrests. Leftwing officials in our Nation's Capital are taking a cue from the Democrats' approach to border security: catch-and-release—catch-and-release. It is simply unacceptable.

This Police Week, the junior Senator from Ohio brought forward a resolution to say enough is enough. After a bipartisan vote in the House, our colleagues on both sides of the aisle voted yesterday to reject—to reject—the DC Council's new law. I am grateful to Senator VANCE for his leadership, and I am proud to join colleagues in continuing to back the blue.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, on another matter, this week, some of America's closest European allies have continued preparations to equip Ukraine with new weapons ahead of a planned counter-offensive, including long-range cruise missiles and American-made fighter aircraft that would require authorization from the United States.

As President Biden meets in Japan with our strongest economic partners, I hope he will build on the West's support for Ukraine by clearing the way for the transfer of F-16s, long-range fires, and cluster munitions that will help Ukraine win.

As Ukraine prepares to liberate territory from Russian occupation, its friends must move at the speed of relevance to approve the transfer of critical weapons and munitions to help those efforts succeed.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL CASASCO

Mr. President, on one final matter, today, the Senate will bid farewell to a longtime member of our institutional staff. After 37 years of service, the senior audio operator for the Senate Chamber, Paul Casasco, is embarking on a well-deserved retirement.

Paul arrived in the Senate in the spring of 1986, just in time to help stand up the audiovisual production that would broadcast all proceedings to the American public. In the years since, I understand he has had a hand in just about every facet of the Senate's multimedia recording operation, from committee hearing rooms to the affectionately named "crow's nest" in the Gallery of this very Chamber.

Paul has had a front-row seat to decades of Senate history. He has captured consequential debates and preserved crucial records.

So I know my colleagues will join me in thanking Paul for his devoted service to our institution and in wishing him much happiness in his retirement.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

DEBT CEILING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it may have taken a while, but it looks like

the White House may finally be coming to the debt ceiling negotiating table in a more serious way.

The President has now appointed members of his staff to negotiate directly with Speaker MCCARTHY's team—a logical and overdue step since the passage of debt ceiling legislation depends on an agreement between the President and the Republican-controlled House of Representatives.

I was also encouraged by the White House's statement after Tuesday's debt ceiling meeting, which noted that the President is "optimistic that there is a path to a responsible, bipartisan budget agreement if both sides negotiate in good faith and recognize that neither side will get everything it wants."

"[A]nd recognize that neither side will get everything it wants"—that part is very important because previously the Democrats' and the President's position was that Democrats should get everything they want and that Republicans should get nothing—an extremely unrealistic position and one that suggested Democrats did not understand the nature of divided government.

So I am grateful that the President seems to be taking a more realistic view of what is necessary for an agreement. It is unfortunate that it has taken the White House this long. Speaker MCCARTHY has been ready to negotiate for months, and the President should have engaged seriously months ago, but better late than never.

I hope that over the next few days, the two sides will be able to swiftly reach an agreement. A good place to start would be with a good, long look at the policies in the House Republicans' Limit, Save, Grow Act, which pairs a debt ceiling increase with commonsense spending reforms, things like reclaiming unspent COVID money; modestly strengthening work requirements in Federal entitlement programs for able-bodied Americans—a move, I might add, supported by more than 60 percent of the American public—in order to help individuals move from welfare to work; capping discretionary spending for next year at the fiscal year 2022 discretionary spending level—the same level we were successfully operating at mere months ago; repealing the green energy subsidies in the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, whose estimated cost has ballooned since the bill was passed; passing permitting reform—a bipartisan priority—to help get both conventional and green energy projects off the ground more quickly, which could help grow our economy; repealing the President's reckless student loan giveaway, which could otherwise end up costing American taxpayers close to \$1 trillion; and other commonsense measures.

The provisions of the Limit, Save, Grow Act have been the subject of a lot of fearmongering from Democrats, who have been set against including any spending reforms as part of a debt ceiling package, but these are responsible

ideas worthy of consideration as part of a debt ceiling agreement or, for that matter, in any other context.

Our Nation has a massive national debt—\$31 trillion and counting—and a serious spending problem, and the Limit, Save, Grow Act is a reasonable and responsible attempt to get our Nation back on a more fiscally sustainable path, saving on the order of \$4.5 trillion over the next 10 years.

While, as the President pointed out, neither side will get everything it wants in negotiations, I hope ideas from the Limit, Save, Grow Act will make it into a final debt ceiling agreement.

Despite the President's attempts to claim the mantle of fiscal responsibility, the truth is that spending under the Biden administration has reached staggering levels compared to prepandemic Federal budgets, and if we don't get spending under control, we are going to be facing some very serious economic consequences.

So, as I said, I am pleased that the President seems to be taking negotiations a little more seriously. I hope he will not allow himself to be distracted by extreme members of his own party, like the individuals who are suggesting that the President attempt to raise the debt ceiling on his own, using a dubious interpretation of the 14th Amendment, if Democrats don't like the debt ceiling agreement.

Debt ceiling increases have a long history of being paired with deficit reduction measures or other budgetary policy changes. In fact, 7 of the last 10 debt ceiling increases have been accompanied by budgetary reforms and policy changes.

It is time for all members of the Democratic Party to recognize what the President appears now to be recognizing, and that is that in divided government, both parties have to compromise to reach an agreement, so credit to the President for acknowledging this fact. I hope—I hope—that over the next few days, we will see a deal emerge that not only raises the debt ceiling but also puts us on a more sustainable fiscal path moving forward. 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). The Senator from Indiana.

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

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

MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, Boston is perhaps a surprising place to begin a tribute to Indiana's veterans on the occasion of Memorial Day, but there, on Augustus Saint-Gaudens' magnificent memorial to the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, their names are etched.

Maybe the coast of South Carolina is no less unexpected a place to continue

that tribute, but there, on the shore, they fell, the men who helped save our Union, who forever ended its greatest scourge, who fought for the Declaration of Independence, though they had been denied the unalienable rights it promised.

Seldom have American soldiers taken up arms and laid down their lives with such selflessness and yet so much at stake. Many Hoosiers were among their ranks. Their names should be known, their stories told. As Proverbs 10:7 says, "the memory of the just is blessed."

Abraham Lincoln described the Emancipation Proclamation as "an act of Justice." One of the greatest instruments of that justice was embedded at the end of the document. It read "that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States." "Such persons" were Black Americans.

Lincoln's words spread far and fast and wide. In my capital city of Indianapolis, Pastor Willis Revels petitioned Governor Oliver Morton to raise a fighting force, and when the request was denied, rebels encouraged Hoosiers to join the first all-Black regiment forming near Boston.

Unable to fulfill its recruitment goals at home, the Massachusetts 54th Infantry sought and welcomed volunteers from across the Union, and Hoosiers answered the call. There were men—men like George Broady, George Charles, Alfred Lewis, George McGowan. They came from across the great State of Indiana, from places like Newport, Richmond, Louisville, and Centerville. They were farmers, blacksmiths, barbers, laborers, and, soon enough, they were soldiers for the Republic.

There was no doubt of that when the 54th appeared on the dunes of Morris Island, before the twilight on July 18, 1863. They were in South Carolina to take Battery Wagner, a seemingly insurmountable obstacle between the Union Army and the port of Charleston.

When the 54th had marched to within 300 yards of the fort, shots streaked overhead. They were ordered to the ground until the fire had passed. Then they rose. They charged forward, through sand and marshy water, as the sun sank in the western sky.

As they reached the fort, Battery Wagner exploded with fire. The 54th was razed, "like grass before the mower's scythe," one Hoosier survivor wrote afterward.

In the end, the regiment lost nearly 300 men that night—over 40 percent of its ranks. Fort Wagner remained in Confederate hands. Among the dead were Hoosiers Thomas Ampey and John Wilson.

They didn't simply fall for a good cause. Their bravery at Battery Wagner turned a tide. You see, it shattered prejudices about the supposed inferiority of Black soldiers and debunked foolish notions about their ability or willingness to fight.

Indeed, inspired by their example, additional Black regiments formed across the North. And by the end of 1863, Indiana had authorized the formation of the 28th U.S. Colored Troops.

Old Willis Revels, he was at work recruiting Hoosiers to fill its ranks. "Your country calls you," he declared—"your country."

Initially, over 500 men enrolled, forming 6 companies. The gallant 28th fought during the siege of Petersburg in Virginia. Its men fell at the Battle of the Crater.

When the Union Army marched into the fallen Confederate capital of Richmond, in the spring of 1865, the 28th was there. They helped bring the rebellion to its knees and slavery to its end.

And they were present in Galveston, TX, too, when General Order No. 3 was issued on June 19, 1865, ending legalized slavery, an event we now celebrate as Juneteenth.

Over 1,500 Black Hoosiers served in the Civil War in the Massachusetts 54th and 55th, the Indiana 28th, and across the Union Army. As President Lincoln acknowledged, the bravery of Black soldiers from Indiana and across the Union helped preserve the Union.

Offering an appropriate tribute to the fallen on Memorial Day can be a very difficult task. How can we, after all, express sufficient thanks to those who died for us?

To paraphrase President Lincoln, "the world will little note, nor long remember what we say here," but it will never forget the sacrifice of the men who fought in the 54th Massachusetts or the 28th Indiana.

It took great courage for these Black Americans to believe in the goodness of this country, its people, and the promise of its founding. The reason we build monuments and memorials to those fighting dead is so their examples live, so that we might draw inspiration from these heroes who did incredible things and fought for a more perfect Union and a world at peace.

So I close where I began, in Boston, because there, on the memorial to the 54th, the names of fallen Hoosiers Thomas Anthony and Elisha Burkett can be found. Their legacy lives on.

We remember these men and all who paid the ultimate price for our freedom on this Memorial Day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

ENERGY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we are coming down to the wire here. June 1 looms over us and the threat that on that date, unless Congress takes action, the United States will default on its debt for the first time in the history of our Nation. All the people who are in the know tell us it would be a disaster of such proportion that it would harm individuals, families, and businesses across the United States and would ultimately diminish the United States reputation for the most stable currency—the U.S. dollar—in the world.

Individual families would see their 401(k)s and savings accounts diminish, the interest rates for purchases go even higher; businesses would fail, and workers would lose their jobs.

You have to ask yourself: Why would we even consider approaching that kind of calamity? Well, you take a look at the agenda that is being offered by Speaker MCCARTHY in the House of Representatives, and he spells out exactly what his goals are. First, he wants to cut spending in areas that he thinks are wasteful. For example, he would wipe out 30,000 law enforcement and Border Patrol jobs.

How many times has the Speaker's party reminded us that we have a crisis on our southern border and need to marshal our resources to protect America? Whether he is exaggerating or simply stating a fact is your own decision, your own conclusion; but can any part of his warning be answered by eliminating our personnel—our national personnel—on the border? I don't think so.

This approach by Speaker MCCARTHY would also threaten housing and food security for tens of thousands of American individuals, including many veterans. It would deprive 1 million senior citizens of access to Meals on Wheels. That is what his goal is in terms of cutting the budget.

And I might add a couple of other things for your consideration. He would cut money for medical research in the United States by 25 percent. I have tried to work over the last 6 or 7 years with the goal of increasing medical research spending by 5 percent real growth every single year. We have gone from \$30 billion to \$48 billion in annual appropriations for what is considered the most sophisticated and successful medical research program in the world.

And, now, the Speaker has told us: We want to cut back on medical research. Tell that to the families of cancer victims. Tell that to the families who are trying to cope with diseases that are life-threatening on a daily basis. The breakthroughs that come about because of this medical research should inspire us to spend even more—even more—on research.

To think that we may be close to a vaccine against pancreatic cancer. That was unthinkable a few weeks ago or months ago, but now there are reports that NIH research is leading in that direction with some promising conclusions.

To think that we have the possibility of finally dealing with those maladies of the brain which haunt us in every family in this country. The notion that the researchers, because of NIH grants, at Northwestern University in Chicago have now found a successful way to breach the blood-brain barrier and have medications go directly into the brain, what can that do? Well, it might deal directly with brain cancer—glioblastoma and similar maladies. But, in addition, they are looking at the possibility that it has applications for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's and other

brain-related diseases like Lou Gehrig's.

Do we want to stop research on that? I ask the Speaker: Do you really want to achieve that? That is your goal: to slow down and stop research by the U.S. Government which leads the world in these fields?

Mr. President, I think what really is at stake here is the Speaker is calling for these dramatic cuts in critical American programs in an effort to preserve the tax cuts that were instituted during the Trump administration. These are tax cuts that benefited corporations which were not paying their fair share of taxes and continue to receive blessings from the Trump administration to pay even less; and wealthy individuals who were doing quite well for themselves got a tax break at that time. Speaker MCCARTHY wants to preserve those tax breaks even at the expense of law enforcement, Border Patrol, helping our veterans, Meals on Wheels, and medical research. Well, that is not my priority in serving in the U.S. Senate.

There is one other item that I want to mention that is part of the Speaker's agenda that is bringing us to the brink on our national debt, and that is that the House Republican bill is really a gift-wrapped present for the fossil fuel industry. The bill that they are proposing guts critical environmental protections to fast-track new fossil fuel projects. It mandates the sale of new oil and gas leases and accelerates drilling both on- and offshore.

That is not just bad for the planet; it is bad for our people, our economy, as well as our Nation and the hopes of becoming energy independent. If this MAGA manifesto becomes law, it would eliminate 140,000 clean energy jobs across America, jobs which were promoted with the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Republican proposal would cut billions of dollars in clean energy investments, the majority of which benefit businesses and workers in their own States. Importantly, these investments are not only job creators; they are vital to our Nation's capacity to remain resilient in the face of an environmental crisis.

Just yesterday, the World Meteorological Organization warned that the next few years will be the warmest on record for planet Earth. Temperatures may even breach the targets set by the Paris Agreement—not in the next five decades but in the next 5 years. What we see coming from this are not only warmer days but more extreme weather events. You have to be sensitive to that if you are paying any attention at all. We need to make sure that every community in America is prepared for this challenge.

The House Republican proposal would make us more vulnerable in a climate crisis. It would cut funding for projects that expand access to clean air and clean water, especially in western States with chronic drought, and it

would roll back programs to curb pollution in low-income communities across America.

Whenever we debate energy policy in Congress, Republicans tend to revert to the same old arguments. They say: Think about the economy.

These Republicans insist that, if we want to become energy independent, we have no choice but to invest more in oil and gas. In their view, America is hopelessly addicted to fossil fuels, and forcing us to remain beholden to foreign oil giants is the Republican answer to this challenge.

But, the truth is, they are wrong. Fossil fuels are not the future. We will need a transition; that is for sure. The future is going to be seen in communities like my own hometown of Springfield, IL. Last month in Springfield, an American-owned solar company broke ground on a project called Double Black Diamond.

Now, if you are a skier, you have to wonder what that has to do with flat land in Springfield, IL. Well, it has nothing to do with skiing. What they are talking about is building one of the largest solar farms in America in the area, and the energy produced will be sent to the residents of Chicago. It is amazing. These communities that have committed themselves to green energy are making massive investments in clean, sustainable, renewable energy.

Solar is the fastest growing, most affordable source of new electricity in America. Last year, my wife and I decided to install solar panels on our home in Springfield. It was a decision which was guided more by determination to see if it worked and to do something positive in our family to help with the climate crisis that we face. Well, we installed them, and the good news is this: In the first couple of months, we started to see our electricity bill disappearing. What was \$115 a month turned into \$15 a month. And, of course, there were tax credits available for that decision for our family and for every family that moves in that direction.

We estimate that 230,000 homes in Illinois will do what we did: put solar panels on the roof. With net metering, they will find it is a benefit in their monthly utility bills and a benefit to our environment.

Right now, if we don't do this, China and other countries will. They are going to pursue solar energy and the next generation of technology, and we will be left behind if the Republicans have their way with their budget bill.

So I would conclude by saying fossil fuels had their day. There is still a transition period where they will be needed, but we have got to point to the future where we can tell our kids and grandkids: We are sensitive to this climate crisis. We are investing in the right kind of energy for the future. We are not going to have America take second place to China or any other country when it comes to competition for this technology.

The Republican approach is yesterday. We have got to think about tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, debt is front and center in the national conversation again. That is entirely reasonable. We have a debt ceiling conversation right now about America taking care of our debts and our responsibilities, which we are a responsible nation, and we are going to do. But we should also have a grownup conversation about our spending to say: Are we spending on our priorities? Because when you have \$31 trillion—actually, scratch that—\$31.4 trillion because \$400 billion is not a rounding error—\$31.4 trillion in total national debt, we should pay attention to this, especially when we are currently adding \$1 trillion in new debt every single year, and it continues to accelerate.

Recently, someone asked me: When does it get hard? When do we pass the point?

And I actually had to painfully say to them: 10 years ago because in the last 10 years, our debt has continued to accelerate like a rock rolling downhill, and it is going to be harder and harder to be able to manage this. At some point, we have got to be able to stop and say: Inflation is going up; challenges that are in our economy are increasing; we are spending almost as much on interest as we are on defense. At what point do we stop and say: We have got to be able to fix this?

Well, I have a perspective. The first step on actually talking about debt and deficit is actually taking it seriously and saying: What are we spending on that is a priority, and what are we spending on that is not a priority? Again, it is not unreasonable to be able to say that would be nice to do, but we don't have the money to do that. Let's set that aside.

And for whatever reason, in this town, anytime you talk about reducing spending of whatever percentage or whatever amount, everyone freaks out immediately, like, oh, you can't; there is no way we can reduce spending in government.

So we started, 7 years ago, a habit of our staff that we produce a book called "Federal Fumbles." Every year we put out the "Federal Fumbles" guide, and that is just a set of ideas to say these are areas we believe the Federal Government has dropped the ball.

The Federal Government, and our Agencies, we had a responsibility to handle American taxpayer dollars prudently and wisely, but that didn't happen. So we asked the question: Is this really what we need to spend for? In a nation that is keeping up with our infrastructure, of our national defense, of education, of so many different expenses, and things that are truly governmental, we asked a simple question: With \$31.4 trillion in total debt, is that what we need to spend our dollars on?

Now, just to set context because, again, this is difficult to be able to do, when you talk about millions and billions and trillions, it gets easy to go, those all sound alike. So they are similar. So people throw out millions of dollars or billions of dollars or trillions of dollars, and you just think, OK, I don't even understand what that is anymore.

So I break it down, as I have in the past—I break it down to seconds because that is something I can understand. A million seconds is 12 days—12 days. That is a million seconds. A billion seconds is 32 years.

So there is a big difference between a million and a billion: 12 days in 32 years; a trillion seconds is almost 32,000 years.

So let me knock that past us again. A million seconds is 12 days; a billion seconds, 32 years; a trillion seconds, almost 32,000 years.

And to put this into context of \$31.4 trillion in total debt, that is 995,000 years—almost a million years of seconds—to get to \$31.4 trillion.

The numbers here are large, and they are overwhelming. So again, why don't we talk about ways that we can actually save money. My reasonable conversation with "Federal Fumbles" every year is just to say: Let's talk about it. Is this really how we want to be able to spend Americans' taxpayers dollars?

We set up a top 10 list that we listed out some of the things that we just say, OK, of the 50 different examples—and we don't try to go into every single spending area, but we lay out in the guide for fumbles 50 different examples and just try to ask the question: Is this the best way to be able to spend America's dollars? Again, we have all got different perspectives and different ideas on it. I am just asking the question.

For instance, last year, the State Department did a grant to Ecuador to host 12 drag shows in Ecuador with American tax dollars. Now, we may have different opinions in this room on drag shows. I am just asking the simple question: Is the best use of American tax dollars to actually fund drag shows in Ecuador with U.S. tax dollars? I don't believe that it is.

Last year, we actually did a different funding through the State Department that was actually done—actually, this was the National Science Foundation. Excuse me. Strike that. It seems like a State Department thing. The National Science Foundation last year did a study of butterflies in Europe. So we funded, with American taxpayer dollars, a butterfly study in Germany where we paid a Swedish scientist to study butterflies in Germany.

I am not real sure American tax dollars was the best use of that, but that was one of the grants that was done last year.

Last year, there was also an NEA grant that was done to set up a display in Brooklyn for the Sergeant Pepper's

Lonely Hearts Club Band, which, by the way, is not even an American band. And I am not sure why we had to pay Federal tax dollars to be able to do that. My simple question is always: Why are tax dollars being taken out of Oklahoma to be able to do that?

Always popular, we had a \$350,000 grant to study smart toilets. That was one of the grants that we actually paid for with our Federal tax dollars last year.

We also had a grant that was done studying Colonial Mexican Soundscapes. I am sure Colonial Mexican Soundscapes are fascinating, but we paid for a researcher to travel to Mexico and then to be able to write a series about the sounds of Colonial Mexico and how they could be used to be able to influence communities.

We, last year, did a study on helmets and seatbelts in Ghana to be able to study whether seatbelts and helmets were effective for saving lives in Ghana. Can I just go ahead and answer that question for free? Seatbelts and helmets are a good idea. They save lives—free. I can go ahead and give you that advice.

How do I know that? Because we have already spent millions of dollars in other studies here in the United States, but, instead, we spent money in Ghana studying helmets to see if they are actually a good idea there. And amazingly, they discovered, yes, they are.

There was also a grant that was done last year—I have to just walk this one through. This was at the Springfield Art Museum in Missouri. There was a grant to be on a display, an installation of the exhibit at a museum called “Yoko Ono: Mend Piece.”

Now, let me just read this to you. It is a simple white room where shattered cups and saucers are placed on a table and participants are asked to mend the fragments together using common household items like twine, glue, scissors, and tape, and the resulting works are displayed on nearby shelves as evidence of the power of collective action.

Again, I am not opposed to fixing broken saucers in a public place and displaying them. All I am asking is: Why did Oklahomans work overtime last year to pay their tax bill to fund doing the Yoko Ono white room, where people fixed broken saucers? I don't have a good answer for that yet, by the way. I am still trying to be able to get that.

If you like wine country, great. You helped pay for it—one of the highest income areas in the world is Napa Valley, CA—one of the highest income areas in the entire world.

The good folks of Oklahoma helped pay for a wine pedestrian trail through Napa Valley because apparently Napa Valley didn't have enough cash to be able to pay for the 8-mile walking trail through wine country—some of the most expensive real estate in the entire world. So the taxpayers in Oklahoma had to pay for that wine country tour trail.

If you like traveling to Hawaii, enjoy the trip. When you get there, if you go to a farmers market, you will find out that you helped pay for that farmers market because the farmers markets in Hawaii received \$3.4 million to be able to fund the farmers markets.

If you go to New York City and pay for a very high-dollar ticket to get into a private location in the Metropolitan Opera to be able to watch the opera, you will feel safer, I am sure, when you go to the Metropolitan Opera because almost three-quarters of a million dollars was given to the Metropolitan Opera in New York to help them install a new fire-suppression system with Federal tax dollars.

If you like traveling to Paris and you go to a butcher shop in Paris, you may be fascinated to know that since the 13th century, apparently butchers in Paris have come up with their own private language. It is like a supersecret private language among butchers in Paris. It is fascinating for the French to study, but unfortunately the American taxpayers paid for a study of French butchers' private language for fear that it is diminishing and fading away. So American tax dollars paid for this study in France to study the secret language of butchers in Paris. I can't tell you why.

You may know the story of the—let me see if I can pull this out—the parable of the sower. It is a famous Biblical story, the parable of the sower. This particular version of the parable of the sower was actually a little bit different. What your tax dollars paid for is actually an event that was done to teach climate futurism and to be able to use the parable of the sower from the Bible but to reteach a new religion called Earthseed, using the Biblical story of the parable of the sower and talking about humanity's destiny to be able to leave Earth for other planets. It wasn't the writing of a book; it was a conference for teachers to make sure teachers know how to teach this new version of the parable of the sower and about the religion of Earthseed to their kids. That was done with your tax dollars.

Not leaving Ghana alone, there was also a study done in Ghana last year—not only did we do one on seatbelt studies and helmet studies in Ghana, we also did an interview project that was almost \$200,000 in Ghana to interview taxicab drivers and truckdrivers to ask them about how difficult driving has become with climate change, if it is harder to drive now in Ghana based on climate change. Your tax dollars paid for that.

If you don't like that I am discussing anything on climate change and you may disagree with that, well, perfect, because there was also a fund that was done with your tax dollars in the National Science Foundation to study how to influence people who disagree on the issue of climate change, with a study that was done for \$400,000. It was a study on pluralistic ignorance gaps in

climate change and to be able to determine how to speak to people, as the study says, who are “ignorant” on climate change and to be able to reeducate them on that. So if you disagree on this issue, we are also studying how to be able to reeducate you on this issue.

Last year, we also spent \$991 million on soft-sided facilities—those are called tents—along our border with Mexico. Now, best estimates on this: There are about 2 million people who illegally crossed the border last year. If you run the numbers on it, we spent somewhere around \$500 a person on the tent facility they were processed through just to travel across the border.

Listen, we have differences of opinion on lots of issues. I am respectful of that. I understand the people of Oklahoma don't think like people in other areas of the country. I also understand that not everyone in Oklahoma thinks the same way, and I am respectful of that. But I have yet to find anyone who wants their tax dollars wasted. People literally work overtime to be able to feed their families. They are working two and three jobs. In April, when they pay their taxes, they want to know it went to roads and infrastructure and national security. What we reveal in “Federal Fumbles” is, yes, some of that was done, but also some of it was done because we lacked oversight, and things were just wasted and thrown out the door.

We did a multithousand-page omnibus bill at the end of last year that literally no one had read—no one. There were no committee hearings in the Senate on appropriations at all last year, and trillions of dollars were spent, and no one knows what they were spent on.

We try to bring here some of the ways American tax dollars were spent. I am not just complaining about it; we bring this up to say: What are we going to do about it? Are we going to do more oversight, to ask more questions, and to spend money on our priorities and not spend money on what is not?

So we put out “Federal Fumbles.” You can go to the website [Lankford.senate.gov](https://www.lankford.senate.gov) to be able to download it and to be able to look at it. The goal of this is to get us all thinking about \$31.4 trillion in Federal debt. Can we focus on spending on our priorities and target areas that are not?

Mr. President, can I do one quick addendum to my protracted speech on “Federal Fumbles”? I have a staff member named Phillip Moran who worked like crazy this year actually pulling all these details together and some other team members who really help me a tremendous amount to do the research on this. As you can imagine, it is not one person who does this. I have a fantastic team that works very hard on this.

I want to say from this floor so the Oklahomans back home can also know,

there are some great people working for them every single day. I appreciate that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the brave men and women in North Carolina and across the Nation who serve in law enforcement.

This is a particularly emotional week for law enforcement. The law enforcement community has thousands of officers, and their families are in the Nation's Capital for National Police Week. They are paying a tribute to the brave officers who were killed in the line of duty while protecting our communities. I want to welcome all North Carolinians who are in Washington right now.

Unfortunately, our State is all too familiar with law enforcement officers having to make the ultimate sacrifice, losing their lives in the line of duty. Over the past year, North Carolina has lost three law enforcement officers who were killed by others in the line of duty, in addition to a number of other officers who died from other causes. I would like to take a moment to honor the service of those North Carolina law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty.

In late August, we lost Sergeant Matthew Ryan Fishman—he was 38 years old—of Wayne County Sheriff's Office. He was one of three deputies shot after attempting to serve a warrant. They were met with gunfire, and the incident caused a 10-hour standoff. Sergeant Fishman died a day later.

He had been a deputy since 2010. Before that, he was an officer in the Mount Olive Police Department. Officer Fishman is survived by his wife Sarah, two children, his parents, and two brothers.

That same August, we also saw the death of Deputy Sheriff Ned Byrd of Wake County. Deputy Byrd was with his K-9 when he heard six gunshots and drove past a vehicle on the side of the road. Deputy Byrd stopped and backed up his vehicle. He was shot several times by two criminals.

Unfortunately, the killing of Deputy Byrd revealed numerous failures. The criminals who killed him were not in the United States legally. One of them had been previously deported but was able to illegally reenter the country.

When we talk about “got-aways,” this is a very important point because it happened just a couple of weeks ago in Texas. Someone who was illegally present in this country—was deported four times—got back into this country a fifth time and murdered a family in Texas, including an 8-year-old child. That is another face of a “got-away.” And it was a “got-away” who killed this officer.

Following their arrest for the murder of Deputy Byrd, one of these criminals managed to escape prison for several

days, and we had to apprehend him again in Mexico.

Part of seeking justice must be looking at these failures and making sure they don't happen again.

Deputy Byrd was an Air Force veteran and served Wake County Sheriff's Department for 13 years. He is survived by his sister, brother-in-law, four nephews, as well as his beloved K-9 Sasha.

Last December, less than 2 weeks before Christmas, we lost Deputy Sheriff Bolanos-Anavisca of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office. He was 23 years old and served the office for 2 years. He was struck and killed by a car while investigating a robbery at 3 a.m. The driver ran through a red light and struck him and then fled the scene. They eventually located the driver, and he was highly intoxicated.

In the wake of these tragic losses in North Carolina, I am proud to say that we saw the very best of our local communities. While we have some communities calling for defunding the police and making contributions to a website supported by ActBlue—I looked it up today, Mr. President. I am shocked that it is still there. During Police Week, there is a website out there called ACAB. Send your money. What does “ACAB” stand for? “All Cops Are Bastards.”

You would think that at least in a week when we are looking at the sacrifice these officers made, they could take the website down, but they are still proudly raising money. If you don't believe me, just Google “ActBlue,” “All Cops Are Bastards.” Donate today. Harass the police. Look past the sacrifice they are making every single day.

On the other hand, our communities had an outpouring of love and support for the families and colleagues of those fallen officers. Most Americans proudly support men and women in blue. But there are some who feel emboldened by the disgusting anti-police rhetoric.

Disrespect and denigration of law enforcement officers only contribute to an environment that makes our officers and communities less safe and far fewer people willing to even sign up to do the job. If you don't believe me, ask local law enforcement. We have historic lows for people signing up to go to academies and historic highs for people retiring early, as soon as they are eligible. This is happening across the Nation.

In 2021, the intentional killings of law enforcement officers reached a 20-year high. While the number went down in 2022, it is still well above what we have seen in years past. We need to take threats and acts of violence against law enforcement seriously. That is why I will reintroduce the Protect and Serve Act in this Congress. This legislation will make it a Federal crime to intentionally assault a law enforcement officer. It is amazing that it is not on the books already today. It sends a strong message to criminals that targeting and assaulting law en-

forcement officers is inexcusable, and you will be punished. I will continue to work across the aisle to get this legislation enacted into law.

And I am committed to supporting our brave men and women in blue. This bill has earned broad support and has the full support of the Fraternal Order of Police and many of the Nation's leading law enforcement groups.

Each year, we take this week to celebrate those who serve us and protect us in public safety. This would be a great year to come back next year's Police Week and say that we got this bill passed.

Law enforcement has our backs every time and every day they put on a uniform. The least Congress can do is to support the Protect and Serve Act. They need your support more than ever, and you need their support more than ever.

To the men and women in blue in North Carolina and across the country, I want to say thank you for what you do and the sacrifice you make.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Each May, we celebrate and remember the many contributions that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have made to our history and continue to make today.

As a nation, we have made significant progress with respect to the inclusion and representation of the AAPI community across the many facets of our society, from actress Michelle Yeoh's barrier-breaking accomplishment this year as the first Asian-American winner of the Oscars' Best Actress award to Maryland's very own Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, who was sworn in just a few months ago as Maryland's first immigrant and first Asian American to be elected to state-wide office.

AAPI children are finally getting to grow up seeing faces that look like theirs in film, music, sports, politics, and every other arena of public life.

This progress didn't just happen overnight; it is the fruit of labor of generations of AAPI activists and leaders, along with their allies. A labor that, in some cases, cost them their lives.

I think of the Chinese laborers, for instance, who played a critical role in building America's first transcontinental railroad, yet they were met with discrimination and exclusion at every turn.

They faced hardship, hard working conditions, and were paid only half as much as their White counterparts.

In June of 1867, 3,000 Chinese railworkers began a highly organized strike, demanding equal wages and shorter hours. Though they were initially unsuccessful in their demands,

the strike demonstrated that the Chinese workforce could not be taken for granted. Over the next few months, the rail company began raising railworker wages.

This is just one example of a historic legacy of the AAPI activism against discrimination, whether perpetrated by the U.S. Government, as with the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, or by individuals like the racially motivated murder of Vincent Chin in 1982, which ignited the modern Asian-American civil rights movement. But there is still much progress we need to make.

Stereotypes like the “model minority” myth continue to perpetrate the idea that the AAPI community is a monolithic, hard-working, and successful racial bloc, which served as a model for how other minority groups should “pull themselves up by their bootstraps—if they just try hard enough.” Stereotypes erase the diversity within the group we refer to as the AAPI, which has the highest income inequality across ethnic groups of any race in America.

Today, AAPI women are still earning, on average, 85 cents for every dollar earned by a White male. If you break that down into just Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, the number drops even further to just 60 cents for every dollar.

The “model minority” myth attempts to pit AAPI people against Black and Latino Americans by blaming these groups for their own struggles, rather than acknowledging the role of discrimination in America’s socioeconomic and racial inequality.

In spite of all of this, there is a great historical legacy, rarely taught in our classrooms, of Asian-Black and Asian-Latino solidarity. Frederick Douglass, renowned abolitionist, writer, and Marylander, gave a speech in 1867—the same year as the Chinese rail strike—opposing restrictions on Chinese immigration in a time when xenophobia and racism toward Chinese workers was rampant.

He said—and, remember, this was in 1867:

There is such a thing in the world as human rights. They rest upon no conventional foundation, but are external, universal, and indestructible. Among these is the right of locomotion; the right of migration; the right which belongs to no particular race, but belongs alike to all and to all alike. It is the right you assert by staying here, and your fathers asserted by coming here. It is this great right that I assert for the Chinese and Japanese, and for all other varieties of men equally with yourselves, now and forever.

I know of no rights of race superior to the rights of humanity, and when there is a supposed conflict between human and national rights, it is safe to go to the side of humanity.

Human rights has been a key focus of mine during my entire congressional career. Imagine, Frederick Douglass, over 150 years ago, proclaimed the very same rights that we are still fighting for today. He was truly a man ahead of his time.

In the 1960s, 100 years after Douglass’s speech, Filipino-American Larry Itliong led the Delano Grape Strike alongside Mexican-American labor icon Cesar Chavez. Their efforts led to raises, healthcare benefits, and pesticide protections for the striking grape workers, who were primarily of Filipino and Mexican descent. These examples show that there is power in solidarity towards a common goal.

Even as we celebrate the historic accomplishments of these and many more members of the AAPI community, we must also maintain a sense of urgency about how we as members of Congress and as Americans are meeting the needs of this community today.

Just a few months ago, many East and Southeast Asian communities who were celebrating the Lunar New Year with their families suddenly had to fear for their safety following the back-to-back mass shootings targeting Asian elders in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay.

What should have been a time of celebration became a time of fear, anguish, and grief, instead. And these shootings were just the most recent in a string of violent crimes motivated by anti-Asian racism and xenophobia, particularly in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a study led in part by Janelle Wong, a University of Maryland professor of Asian-American studies, 16 percent of Asian-American adults and 14 percent of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander adults reported experiencing a hate crime in 2021. These statistics are appalling and unacceptable.

Over 500,000 Asian Americans and 11,000 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders join me in calling Maryland their home. They are a vital part of our State’s economy and our communities, and Maryland is better off because of them. I particularly want to highlight the AAPI community in Frederick County, MD. In the fiscal year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations bill, I was proud to work with my colleague, Senator VAN HOLLEN, to secure a \$375,000 earmark for the Asian American Center of Frederick. The AACF provides vital services to lower-income, minority, and immigrant groups in their community—services including health insurance enrollment, interpreter and translation services, English as a Second Language, citizenship classes, business development services, and so much more.

Because of the funding, Senator VAN HOLLEN and I were able to obtain, the center will be able to increase programming for language-appropriate and culturally relevant early childhood education.

This is crucial in a county like Frederick, where 13.5 percent of the residents speak a language other than English at home. Research shows that high-quality early childhood education increases the children’s readiness for school and narrows the achievement gap by half. And I am inspired every day by the AAPI-run organizations like

the AACF who are fighting for the futures of their children.

There is still work to be done. I am committed to the ongoing movement for the AAPI equality and justice, in Congress and beyond. I hope the Senate will use this Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an opportunity to recognize this community’s many accomplishments and to continue to work hand in hand towards equality and justice for all Americans.

AMERICAN WETLANDS MONTH, WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY, AND ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

Mr. President, I rise to celebrate wetlands and the many species they sustain. This past Saturday, May 13, was World Migratory Bird Day. This year’s theme is “Water: Sustaining Bird Life.” World Migratory Bird Day is officially celebrated on the second Saturday of May in Canada and the U.S. and the second Saturday of October in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean as part of a global campaign to raise awareness of migratory birds and the need to protect and conserve them.

Migratory birds rely on water and its associated habitats—lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, swamps, marshes, and coastal wetlands—for breeding, resting, and refueling during migration; and for wintering. Yet increasing human demand for water, along with climate change, pollution, and other factors are threatening these precious aquatic ecosystems.

Global headlines are sounding alarms: 35 percent of the world’s wetlands, critical to migratory birds, have been lost in the last 50 years. May is American Wetlands Month. Observing it helps draw attention to our wetlands. We cannot afford to lose them. Wetlands provide some of nature’s most valuable ecosystem “services.” They serve as nurseries and habitat for wildlife, mitigate hurricane damage, and sequester carbon.

Wetlands also remove excess nutrients, toxic substances, and sediment from the water that flows through them, helping to improve downstream water quality and the overall health of waters in our communities. They are so effective at improving water quality, scientists refer to them as the “kidneys” of a watershed. Wetlands can absorb excess rain or river water, so they protect against flooding. We haven’t idly stood by as wetlands—and the services they provide—disappear. Instead we are investing in programs to protect and restore them. It is imperative that we strengthen the resilience of our natural infrastructure, particularly in my State of Maryland, which has over 3,000 miles of coastline. Last month, Vice President HARRIS announced that the Department of Commerce has recommended \$15.2 million for projects across Maryland to make communities and the economy more resilient to climate change.

Across Maryland, four projects will create jobs and boost economic and environmental outcomes for coastal communities. The awards were made under the Biden administration's Climate-Ready Coasts initiative funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—BIL—with additional funds leveraged from the Inflation Reduction Act, IRA. These projects are part of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's nearly \$6 billion total investment under BIL and IRA. These investments will have a ripple effect. The Middle Branch: Patapsco Delta Sustainable Fishery and Ecosystem Resilience Project—"MBRI"—in Baltimore City, for instance, will restore marsh habitat in an urban ecosystem. The MBRI is part of a larger project called "Reimagine Middle Branch," which is a community-led initiative to reconnect South Baltimore residents to the nearby Middle Branch River.

The NOAA investments will help, but wetland loss is challenges that requires an interagency response. I am proud to have reintroduced the Coastal Habitat Conservation Act with Senator GRAMHAM. Our bipartisan, bicameral legislation would authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife—FWS—Coastal Program. The Coastal Program was first established in the Chesapeake Bay in 1985 to address wetlands degradation and the resulting impacts to fish and wildlife. Since its inception, the program has expanded to 2 dozen priority coastal areas in all coastal States.

Today, the Coastal Program is a voluntary, partnership-based, habitat conservation program focused in 24 priority coastal areas along the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, and in the Caribbean, including the Chesapeake Bay.

Within these areas, a national strategic plan guides FWS conservation efforts, integrating Service priorities with the shared goals of conservation partners and stakeholders. These goals often include preserving biodiversity and preventing species loss.

On the third Friday in May—this Friday—we celebrate National Endangered Species Day, which highlights the importance of protecting species such as the threatened eastern black rail. This secretive marsh bird is the smallest of its kind in North America and is part of Maryland's unique identity that we risk losing to climate change. Over the past 10–20 years, 75 percent of the eastern black rail population has declined. Primary causes of declination include rising sea levels, tidal flooding, and habitat loss and destruction.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, ESA. We should be strengthening implementation of the law, including on critical habitat. For each threatened or endangered species, the Services may designate "critical habitat." Scientists have identified these areas as crucial to the species' recovery and are the focus of conservation efforts. This concept is particularly important as species are forced to adapt.

Even our marshes themselves are on the move. The Global Change Research Wetland located at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD, is dedicated to unraveling the complex ecological processes that confer stability on coastal marshes as they respond to global environmental change. This 2,650-acre brackish marsh, which contains 15 miles of protected shoreline along the Rhode and West Rivers—two embayments of Chesapeake Bay—is home to several long-term experiments designed to predict what the future holds for coastal wetland ecosystems as they cope with accelerated sea level rise.

Trying to anticipate and prepare for a future shaped by climate change is the reason I recently opposed S.J. Res. 23, a Congressional Review Act—CRA—joint resolution disapproving the National Marine Fisheries Service—NMFS—rule relating to "Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants and Designating Critical Habitat."

On June 24, 2022, the NMFS and the FWS issued a joint final rule to rescind a Trump administration rule on designating critical habitat under the ESA. The Trump rule included a restrictive definition of "habitat" that limited where the Services could designate critical habitat. Specifically, it barred designating critical habitat in areas that are not currently suitable habitat, even if those areas could become suitable in the future. Such a restriction would limit the Services' ability to designate critical habitat based on the best available science. For example, the Services would not be able to designate critical habitat in areas where species are expected to shift to as a result of natural disasters, in response to climate change, or after environmental restoration.

I regret that the Senate passed S.J. Res. 23 by a vote of 51–49. I am relieved that President Biden intends to veto the resolution, and I am confident Democrats in the Senate will sustain the veto. I was particularly disappointed in this attack on the Services' mission, given the popularity and economic activity of wildlife refuges in my State and across the Nation.

I am pleased the FWS proposes to create a new National Wildlife Refuge to conserve currently unprotected, high-priority fish and wildlife habitats across southern Maryland. In collaboration with landowners, outdoor enthusiasts, conservation partners, and local communities, the Service proposes to identify lands for protection as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System in southern Maryland. These lands would be incorporated into a new National Wildlife Refuge that encompasses portions of Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's, Prince George's, and Anne Arundel Counties.

A wide-ranging, collaborative effort over the past 15 years demonstrated that currently unprotected habitats in

these counties support significant populations of fish and wildlife appropriate for protection under the National Wildlife Refuge System, primarily threatened and endangered species like the black rail, waterfowl, and migratory birds of conservation concern. These species face habitat loss from land use changes, climate change, competition from invasive species, and other stressors. Collaborative land management is a primary reason why Maryland has an excellent track record of recovering species. We have demonstrated we can solve wildlife challenges on a bipartisan basis. Knocking out the critical habitat rule—and any future rule like—is not the answer.

The Delmarva fox squirrel was federally listed as an endangered species in 1967, but thanks to conservation efforts, it was removed in December 2015. Loss of habitat is believed to be the major reason for the Delmarva fox squirrel's demise. By the early 1900s, it was extirpated from all States except Maryland. In 1967, its range was narrowed to only four Eastern Shore counties: Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, and Dorchester—less than 10 percent of its former reach.

Efforts to restore the population began in 1945 when the Maryland Department of Natural Resources purchased LeCompte Wildlife Management Area in Dorchester County as a refuge for the Delmarva fox squirrel. Through an active reintroduction program in the 1970s through the early 1990s, several additional populations of Delmarva fox squirrels were established in Caroline, Kent, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties in Maryland and at a few locations in Delaware and Virginia. Natural expansion of the population has also occurred on the Delmarva peninsula. Today, the Delmarva fox squirrel exists in numerous small pockets of suitable habitat.

Bald eagles have staged such a remarkable population rebound and recovered to the point that they no longer need protection under the ESA. The Chesapeake Bay region today is home to more than 3,000 mating pairs, which represents the largest concentration of eagles in the lower 48 States. They may actually be doing a little too well. According to Chesapeake Bay Magazine, they seem to be running out of room in the bay region. The typical number of chicks per nest has declined since 1999 from two to one, as the male eagles in a breeding pair are forced to stay home and protect their nest from "floaters" without a nest of their own; as a result, they bring less food back. Not to worry, however; scientists don't see a problem with fewer young eagles being produced in the bay's tidewater region, nor do they see a need for human intervention as the eagles reach equilibrium.

The population is going to remain large because the bay can support it. The bay is one of the most productive aquatic ecosystems in the Nation, thanks in large part to its wetlands.

That is something I take pride in and call on my Senate colleagues and all Americans to celebrate this month, American Wetlands Month.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. President, I rise today to recognize May as Jewish American Heritage Month. My good friend, Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and the late Senator Arlen Specter introduced the first resolution to recognize Jewish American Heritage Month in 2006. President George W. Bush then recognized the occasion through a presidential proclamation, which every subsequent administration has since renewed. I am proud to join Senators ROSEN, TIM SCOTT, and RICK SCOTT in introducing S. Res. 203, this year's resolution to recognize Jewish American Heritage Month.

Jews have turned to America as a place of refuge for more than 360 years, from when the first 23 Jews fled the Inquisition in Brazil to the pogroms in Eastern Europe, the Holocaust, and many other instances of violence and discrimination.

Jewish American Heritage Month gives us an opportunity to celebrate the contributions that American Jews have made to our country. The list is long and illustrious: there is Albert Einstein, the theoretical physicist who devised the theory of relativity, which expanded our understanding of the universe; the trailblazing women's rights advocate, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was the second woman to sit on the Supreme Court, and the first female Jewish justice; Dr. Jonas Salk, who created the polio vaccine, saving countless lives; Emma Lazarus, who gave us the poem inscribed on the Statue of Liberty that reads, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

The list goes on and on and includes Nobel Laureates, scientists, writers, musicians, entertainers, businessmen, academics, athletes, and more.

As we commemorate Jewish American Heritage Month and celebrate the contributions of American Jews, we must also remain committed to countering antisemitism both at home and abroad. Last year, we saw a 36 percent increase in antisemitic incidents nationwide, according to the Anti-Defamation League. In my home State of Maryland, the numbers are even more alarming, with antisemitic incidents nearly doubling from 2021 to 2022. That is why I have prioritized addressing the rise of antisemitism and hate-fueled violence. As Co-Chair of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and as the Special Representative on Antisemitism, Racism, and Intolerance for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in the European Parliamentary Assembly, I have held hearings on the alarming increase in antisemitism and its threat to democracy.

Last November, I convened a working group of high-level officials from across the government and non-profit sector to enhance coordination in

countering both domestic and international antisemitism.

The Biden administration has also acted to address antisemitism head-on. In December 2022, the President established an inter-agency group led by Domestic Policy Council staff and National Security Council staff to increase and better coordinate U.S. Government efforts to counter antisemitism, Islamophobia, and related forms of bias and discrimination within the United States. The group's first mandate is to develop a national strategy to counter antisemitism, which would help bring awareness to, address, and prevent antisemitic incidents. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues and the Biden administration to ensure that we use every tool available to confront this growing threat.

Awareness through education is a critical component of the effort to combat prejudice. We must educate members of the public, especially our young people, on the dangers of antisemitism and intolerance.

One of our best resources for doing this is the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. This past April, I led my colleagues in introducing a resolution to recognize the 30th anniversary of the Museum's founding. This national institution has welcomed over 47 million visitors during the past 30 years. It confronts hatred and Holocaust denial and preserves the history of the Holocaust. Visitors in person or online can hear stories of survivors, victims, and those who tried to help. Through teaching about the Holocaust, the Museum challenges the public and world leaders to take action against hate in their own communities.

The history of persecution of Jews and continued violence against Jewish communities in the United States and around the world today highlight the importance of the Jewish homeland, the State of Israel, and the U.S.-Israel relationship. Last month, Israel celebrated its 75th anniversary as an independent state. To mark this milestone, I am leading legislation with Senator TED CRUZ to direct the Treasury Department to mint a commemorative coin honoring Golda Meir, the first female prime minister of the State of Israel.

American Jews have had a strong bond with Israel since its inception as a Jewish homeland. But all Americans benefit from the special relationship between the United States and Israel. Together we face the common enemies of terrorism and extremism and are stronger and safer because of our relationship.

We also benefit economically from our partnership. More than 2,500 U.S. companies do business in Israel. Not only does America invest in Israel, but Israel invests in America, creating jobs in the United States and spurring innovation. Americans enjoy many technical innovations that came from Israel, such as USB drives, instant

messaging, medical cameras small enough to swallow, irrigation systems, and much more.

To me, one of the most important aspects of being an American Jew is the opportunity to apply Jewish values to my daily life. Jewish values like *Tikkun Olam*, which in Hebrew means "repairing the world," have helped inspire and guide my life in public service. My Jewish upbringing taught me to give back and that I have a responsibility to make a difference in the world. It's why I have pursued a career as an elected official since I was a law school student.

This Jewish American Heritage Month, let us honor the values and contributions of Jewish Americans who are a vital part of the American story and stand together to make clear that evil, hate, and antisemitism will not prevail.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Connecticut.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, one of the benefits of sitting in the chair, as the Senator from Maine is currently, is you get to hear a wide variety of views from our colleagues. And I have had the opportunity over the past several weeks, while sitting in the chair, to hear my Republican colleagues talk about their concerns regarding the lifting of title 42. They are concerns that are very often shared in many respects by Democrats as well.

But it is really important that we level set the facts when we are talking about what is happening at the border right now, as the pandemic authority to stop people from applying for asylum is—as required by law—being lifted.

It is really important that we understand that in this debate, there are a lot of spinning; there are a lot of myths; there are some just outright mistruths that are being spread about what is happening at the border and what has been happening at the border.

And so I am down on the floor just for a few minutes today to try to talk about a short list of those myths and untruths that are being spread, sometimes on this floor, but very often on social media and on cable news, so that we can find a way to have a functional conversation between Republicans and Democrats of good faith who actually want to make progress.

First, my sense is that there were a lot of conservatives out there and a lot of haters of President Biden who were kind of rooting for chaos at the border, who were hoping that there was just going to be this overwhelming flood of crossings and apprehensions at the border when title 42 was lifted.

Here is maybe the most important thing to say: It didn't happen. In fact, if you look at the number of people who were showing up at the southwest border right before title 42 expired—

and I will admit that number was elevated—we have seen half as many people crossing in the last 4 days as were crossing right before title 42 expired.

Four thousand, five thousand people—that is still a lot of people per day who are being apprehended at the border, but it does not match the doomsday predictions that many on the right were making.

So I think it is just important to acknowledge that fact. Because if you read the newspapers, if you paid attention to cable news, you would have thought that the minute that title 42 ended, there was going to be a doubling, a tripling of the number of people who showed up at the border. That didn't happen, in fact—52 percent less people are showing up.

Now, that may not hold. I can't promise that that is the future trajectory. But I am going to tell you a story today about why that happens, and it is connected to things Joe Biden did.

The second level-setting exercise I want to engage in is this idea that we should be in just lockdown fear of all these people who are coming to the United States at the southern border, that there is something uniquely dangerous about immigrants writ large, but, more specifically, undocumented immigrants.

Now, this is a trope that has been around for as long as the United States has existed, that we should fear immigrants coming to this country. But we now have data to tell us whether or not people who are coming to this country as immigrants or people who are even coming to this country as undocumented immigrants are a risk, a threat, to the United States compared to natural-born citizens.

This is a study that Donald Trump's Department of Justice released. This isn't Joe Biden; this isn't Barack Obama. This is Donald Trump's Department of Justice that released a study that found that “undocumented immigrants had substantially lower crime rates than native-born citizens and legal immigrants across a range of felony offenses.”

That is the truth. It is Donald Trump's truth that, in fact, people who come to this country, whether they are legal immigrants or without documentation, are not committing crimes at a greater rate than natural-born Americans.

That doesn't excuse our broken system. That is not an argument to continue to allow so many people to come to this country without documentation. It just means that we shouldn't set on fire these arguments that we have something unique to fear.

Why? Because these people are coming to the United States for a better life, because people are coming to the United States to flee terror and torture, persecution, violence, and economic destitution.

There are criminals amongst their midst. There are individuals who end up committing crimes but at no great-

er rate of offense than people who are born in this country. It is just important to acknowledge that.

I want to talk about four of these myths very quickly.

The first one is that President Biden had the authority to keep title 42 in place. That is just not true. For the better part of the last 2 years, Republicans, conservatives, and the broader right have been pillorying President Biden for not lifting COVID authorities fast enough: The pandemic is over, the right says. Why do we still have restrictions on our movement? Why are there still restrictions on air travel?

Interestingly, the only restriction Republicans wanted to keep in place was the one at the border to stop people from coming into the United States who looked different from them.

The pandemic is over. Title 42 can't stay in place. The President doesn't have the legal authority to continue to turn people around and deny them the right to apply for asylum. So it is just not true that this is President Biden's choice. And if you are a constitutionalist, if you are somebody that believes that the President cannot and should not exceed his constitutional statutory authority, then you have to support the lifting of title 42. Now, we could change the law, and there are proposals to do that, but President Biden cannot keep title 42 in place any longer than he declares a public health emergency.

The second myth—and I have heard this from some of my colleagues here—is that everything was great under President Trump and it exploded under President Biden. In fact, sometimes you hear this stat: that crossings were at a historic low under President Trump.

Well, that is true to the extent that gas prices were at a historic low under President Trump, because crossings were at a historic low for 1 year, for 2020, when we were in the middle of the teeth of the pandemic, and nobody was going anywhere. Yes, during that period of time, when we shut down the border, when nobody in the United States was moving, when nobody in Mexico was moving, we did have a relatively low number of crossings. But just before the pandemic, when President Trump was in office, we had a historically high number of crossings.

In 2019, 800,000 people showed up at the border. That was twice the number for the previous decade, on average. During President Obama's time in office and the first few years of President Trump, 400,000 people were showing up. Then, in 2019, the number spiked to 800,000. They go down for 1 year, but they came back up as soon as the worst of the pandemic abated.

So it is just not true that this problem was a creation of President Biden's swearing-in. Numbers were abnormally high right before the pandemic, and they started jumping back up once the pandemic started to lessen in its severity.

The third myth is that President Biden didn't prepare for the end of title 42. That is also not true, and I gave you that statistic to show that. In fact, crossings right now are half what they were right before title 42 expired. I can't define all the reasons for that and maybe those numbers are temporary, but it is definitely true that President Biden has taken extraordinary steps to be ready for this moment.

Even while Congress refused to act and give him any help, President Biden surged thousands of troops to the border. He put more asylum officers there. He moved Border Patrol. He signed agreements with Mexico in which Mexico agreed to take a certain number of individuals who were coming from countries like Venezuela and Cuba. And he implemented a really tough new asylum rule—a rule that, frankly, many people on his political left say went beyond his statutory authority. That rule says that you actually cannot apply for asylum at the border unless you have applied beforehand in a safe third country or you made an appointment. That is a really innovative, tough new approach to try to reduce the number of crossings and presentations at the border—a step that, frankly, President Trump didn't even entertain.

So it is just not true to say that President Biden hasn't done anything. In fact, he has taken extraordinary steps to try to be as ready as he can, which leads me to the fourth and final myth, which is that this is all President Biden's problem. It is not. It is our problem. We haven't significantly updated the immigration laws of this country since the 1980s or 1990s. It has been 30 years since we have changed the law in this Nation to reflect the changing nature of migration globally and the changing nature of migration to the United States. We, through our inaction, have left President after President, Republican and Democrat, with a mess because our laws don't work; our immigration system is broken. Yet we blame the President for failing to be able to work miracles out of a system that has been fundamentally rendered ineffective.

Let's be very clear. Republicans have had ample opportunity to fix the laws of this Nation. In 2013, when the Presiding Officer and I got to the Senate, there was a deal on the table to fundamentally and comprehensively reform our immigration laws. Republicans in the Senate joined with Democrats to get that done, but the Republican Speaker of the House refused to have a vote on it in the House.

Since then, there have been a number of efforts to reach out and try to find compromise with Republicans, and it has generally been the Republican Party writ large that has decided that there is too big a political cost for them to take in trying to find common ground on immigration reform.

Now, I say that this is a position from the Republican Party writ large

because I do know and believe that there are individual Republican Senators in this body who do want to find compromise, who do want to recognize that this cannot be solved by any President so long as the laws of this Nation don't provide resources to move asylum claims faster, don't give Border Patrol what they need, don't allow enough people to come into this country through legal pathways.

Part of the reason that I am down here on the floor today trying to correct these myths and untruths is because I think it is a necessary predicate in order for us as a body, Republicans and Democrats, to sit down and talk about solving this problem.

The lack of action in Congress has left President Biden an impossible task. He has done the best that he conceivably can with a set of broken laws. But instead of spreading these myths and often outright lies about what is happening at the border and the consequences of lifting title 42, we should, as body, instead, do our job and fix our broken immigration laws.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to unmask one of the major players behind the Republican debt limit brinksmanship.

With renewable energy outcompeting fossil fuels, Big Oil is worried that its oil well has run dry and wants to keep pumping the American people dry for all that they are worth. So the oil and the gas industry is running its tried and true playbook with Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY taking the snap as their quarterback.

The Republicans all voted against the Inflation Reduction Act. They turned away from its provisions to create a livable future, its millions of new, clean energy jobs, its investments in environmental justice communities. The only thing Republicans haven't turned away is the billions of dollars in new investments unleashed in their States and districts from this landmark legislation, with \$150 billion in investments already announced across the country because of the IRA, because of the largest climate bill in American history.

I have seen Republicans on TV fearmongering about the Inflation Reduction Act, but I haven't seen a single Republican turn down any of those \$150 billion or any of those jobs, or all those benefits for those communities in red States.

But the fossil fuel industry itself is actually scared that something might happen to their season of record-shattering profits. They are scared that utilities will finally wake up and realize that installing new renewables is cheaper and more cost effective than running existing coal plants.

Natural gas plants are also set up to go the way of the dinosaur. In fact, we won't have to dig up any more dino-

saurus in order to create the fuel. Building new solar and wind, instead of new natural gas, could save American energy customers nearly \$30 billion on their energy bills.

Renewables are outcompeting fossil fuels. The average levelized cost of energy for coal and gas is much higher than wind and solar. How much? Well, coal is nearly double the cost of solar. Natural gas is almost 1.5 times more costly than wind. And this is not accounting for the new IRA subsidies, the new climate bill subsidies from last year.

These statistics are the real fear of fossil fuel executives. These clean energy gains threaten Big Oil's massive bonus and even bigger profit margin.

Big Oil more than doubled its profits in 2022, making nearly \$220 billion in that year alone and paying out \$110 billion to their investors. Those are windfalls made on the backs of American family budgets. Republicans say they care about budgets, but the only budget they are committed to protecting is the one of the big oil and big gas industry across our country.

That is why attacks on clean energy and climate action are on the Republicans' debt limit and budget agendas. That is why Republicans are attacking tax credits for the American-made clean energy that makes us more secure, saves money, and protects our health and our climate. That is why Republicans are reportedly trying to jam a Big Oil and Natural Gas wish list masquerading as a so-called permitting package through debt limit negotiations, instead of going through regular order on the floor of the United States Senate.

The Republican permitting package would give fossil fuels even more of a leg up while their repeal of the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy provisions would hold our clean energy future hostage. Republicans don't want to use the budget to give students and children a head start. They want to give Big Oil a headstart over clean energy.

So just as we cannot default on our national debt, we cannot default on our debt to society. That means we cannot default on climate action for a livable future.

Climate should be off the table in debt limit negotiations—no repeal of the Inflation Reduction Act, no provisions to fast-track fossil fuel permitting in our country.

We know we need to build a clean energy future, but the Republicans' permitting proposal wouldn't help build on the IRA. It would bury the IRA. The Republicans' permitting priorities are a carbon bomb designed to unleash fossil fuels to push renewable energy off the grid, to stall the progress that was made.

Their priorities, apparently, don't include fixes for the electric transmission issues in this country, when transmission is what could improve reliability and deliver affordable energy

to all Americans. In other words, they want to have permitting for more oil and gas drilling, but they don't want to fix the transmission issues. None of that is on the table that the Republicans are asking for in order to solve the problem of moving renewable energy across the country.

Permitting should be about transmission lines, not pipelines.

And combined with their attacks on the Inflation Reduction Act, their priorities will devastate our climate, take away good-paying jobs, and cost Americans billions of dollars.

The Inflation Reduction Act is projected to save households more than \$1,000 every year by 2030. It is projected to create 550,000 clean energy jobs, and it is projected to give us a fighting chance at meeting our climate targets. We cannot throw that away.

We have a climate test for success—jobs, justice, and emissions reductions. That is our climate test. If we negotiate on the Inflation Reduction Act and permitting as part of debt limit conversations, we will fail that climate test, and the end result will be an environmental and climate catastrophe.

Climate action and clean energy progress can't be held hostage in this debate. Fast-tracking fossil fuels while attacking renewables is and always has been and always will be the Big Oil game plan. We can't play their game. We can't play with our future.

We cannot default on our debt, and we also cannot allow the destructive Republican budget to be implemented. That is why I have joined some of my Democratic colleagues in calling on President Biden to utilize his authority under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, which clearly states:

The validity of the public debt of the United States . . . shall not be questioned.

It is in the U.S. Constitution. Using that authority would allow the President and the United States to continue to pay the country's bills on time and without delay. It will ensure that we prevent a potential global economic catastrophe.

But let's not forget that it is the Bush and Trump tax cuts for the wealthy that are the driving force behind the debt that the Republicans are now crying crocodile tears over.

Speaker MCCARTHY says he wants to limit, save, and grow. What he and the Republicans really want to do is to cut, gut, and slow: cut taxes even more for the wealthy and corporations; gut programs like Medicaid, Head Start, Meals on Wheels, Pell grants, and community health centers; and slow the pace of clean energy and climate action—wind, solar, all-electric vehicles, and battery storage technologies that will revolutionize energy consumption in our country—all to protect Big Oil buddies, gas buddies, all across the country.

A livable future and affordable clean energy are budget realities. We can save money for American families and save our planet at the same time.

The IRA's climate provisions and fossil fuel permitting should be off the table during this negotiation.

We cannot allow the well-being of American families or our planet to be held hostage to a radical, rightwing, conservative House of Representatives that is out of control in terms of its relationship with reality.

I appreciate the attention of the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

LOUISIANA HOUSE BILL 12

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am going to talk for a few minutes today about HB12. That is not HB12 from the U.S. House of Representatives; that is HB12 from the Louisiana House of Representatives. Why do I want to talk about it? Because it is important. It is important for my State, and I think it is important for other States.

HB12 passed the Louisiana House of Representatives yesterday—maybe it was the day before—by a vote of 88 to 15, and it is headed to my senate.

As the Presiding Officer knows, it is frustrating in that the American people can do things that take your breath away—we can unravel the human genome; we can take a diseased human heart—we can do that in America—and replace it with a new one and make it beat; we can send a person to the Moon—but we can't seem to teach our children how to read and write when we have 18 years to do it.

I don't come here this morning to assess blame. Our problem is shared in other countries. That is no excuse. Our problem is caused by a multitude of factors, but I believe and I will bet the Presiding Officer believes that every child can learn—that every child can learn. It is harder for some than others. I recognize that some of our children do not have a supportive home life, not just in America but in other parts of the world. It seems commonsensical to me that if parents do not love their child, the child is not going to stop loving the child's parents; the child is going to stop loving himself or herself. But I don't know how to fix that. All we can do is continue to believe that every child can learn—every child.

My State, like other States, has a problem with elementary and secondary education. Over half of my children—my young people—in Louisiana are not reading at their grade levels, and at some point, as a child is socially promoted in school and progresses, it almost becomes impossible for a child to learn if the child can't read.

It is not just money. Go look at a list of what States spend on elementary and secondary education—and not just States but local governments and the Federal Government as well. One of our States in America is spending \$54,000 a year on their public schools. I mean, God bless them, but that is a lot of money. It is not just money. We have to try and we have to be courageous

enough to try new things that we think will work.

Now, what does that have to do with HB12 in the Louisiana State Legislature? Here is what HB12 would do. It would say: Look, we are not blaming anyone, but if you are a child in the third grade in Louisiana and if you can't read, according to objective standards, at an acceptable level, then you are going to stay in the third grade. We don't care if you are 16 years old. We can hold you until you are 18. But we think you can learn, and you can't learn if you can't read.

Now, that doesn't mean that the child just repeats the third grade with no help. We will assign that child special tutors. We will assign that child special attention. We will give that child a number of efforts to demonstrate that child's proficiency after getting this special tutoring and attention. But we think every child can learn.

This approach has been tried in two other States—Mississippi and Florida—and it has worked in both States—in both States. We have copied it from Mississippi and Florida. We take no pride of authorship. I am always willing to copy other people's ideas that work and give them full credit. Let me just mention the success in Mississippi, and I hope my colleagues in the Louisiana Legislature—I love every one of them—are listening to me.

After Mississippi implemented its requirement that kids can't advance until they can read, this is what one analysis says of the results of that effort:

The results are stunning: In sixth grade, three years after the intervention, retained students outperform similar students by 1.2 standard deviations (a 0.8 effect size is generally considered "large"), with no measurable impact—

None—

on student absenteeism or special education classification, negative indicators sometimes associated with retention.

Those aren't my words; that came from an in-depth study at Boston University.

This analysis goes on to say:

The magnitude of Mississippi's accomplishments with early reading is truly impressive and rightly deserves attention and replication by other states. For low-income, Black, and Hispanic students, by 2019, Mississippi had risen to the top five of all the states on the fourth grade NAEP, with each group showing more than a year's additional progress since 2013.

I could go on. I could cite you similar analyses and statistics for the State of Florida.

Every child can learn. It just requires a little extra attention and love for some of our children.

Now, HB12 in the Louisiana Legislature would copy the program in Mississippi and Florida. It has passed, as it did last year, overwhelmingly, as I mentioned, in the Louisiana House of Representatives. Last year, in the Louisiana House of Representatives, it passed overwhelmingly. This year, just

recently, it passed by a vote of 88 to 15. Last year, when the bill went to my State's senate, the bill died. We are on our second try, and the bill is now before the Louisiana State Senate.

I know every member of my Louisiana State Senate. I respect all of them, and I am pleading with them. Please, please, please, pretty please with sugar on top, pass this bill. It has worked in other States. If it doesn't work in Louisiana, I will come right to this lectern and say it didn't work, that we tried it. We gave it our best shot, but it didn't work.

But I think it will, and I think our kids deserve the chance. Every child can learn. Every child can learn, but some of our children need special attention. This bill, HB12, before the Louisiana State Senate will provide that attention.

Please, members of my Senate, pass this bill.

I yield to my colleague from Hawaii.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, May is Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

This month is an opportunity to celebrate the many contributions of AANHPI communities and the critical role we have played throughout our Nation's history.

From trailblazers like Patsy Mink and Anna May Wong to our own Vice President HARRIS, members of our community have long been leaders in government, science, business, the arts, and more. But while we celebrate our community, this month is also a reminder of how much work remains to advance equality and equity for our community.

The AANHPI community has long been the target of racism and discrimination in this country. Among other challenges, our communities are still combating anti-Asian violence, suffering from health disparities, and experiencing sex trafficking and violence at alarming rates.

The AANHPI community is the fastest growing demographic group in the United States. In the past 20 years alone, the number of Asian Americans in the United States has nearly doubled.

But we are not a monolith. AANHPI communities come from dozens of countries and speak countless languages. The diversity makes our community and our country stronger. That is why, in a moment, I will seek unanimous consent to pass a resolution recognizing AANHPI Heritage Month.

This resolution highlights many of the leaders of our community throughout history and some of the triumphs and challenges we have faced throughout the years. It affirms the important

role our communities continue to play in the story of our Nation and has bipartisan support.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 209.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 209) recognizing the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States.

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

Ms. HIRONO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the Hirono amendment at the desk to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 209) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 90) to the preamble was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the eighth whereas clause, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike “important milestones for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community” and insert “anniversaries”.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 209

Whereas the people of the United States join together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States;

Whereas the history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Asian American population grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group over the last decade, surging nearly 55.5 percent between 2010 and 2020, and during that same time period, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population grew by 30.8 percent;

Whereas there are approximately 24,000,000 residents of the United States who identify as Asian and approximately 1,600,000 residents of the United States who identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, making up more than 7 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the

United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and requests the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas 2023 marks several anniversaries, including—

(1) the 125th anniversary of United States v. Wong Kim Ark, 169 U.S. 649 (1898), a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States that determined that the 14th Amendment grants birthright citizenship to all persons born in the United States, regardless of the national origin of their parents;

(2) the 80th anniversary of the Act entitled “An Act to repeal the Chinese Exclusion Acts, to establish quotas, and for other purposes”, approved December 17, 1943 (commonly known as the “Magnuson Act of 1943”) (57 Stat. 600, chapter 344), which formally repealed the Act entitled “An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese”, approved May 6, 1882 (commonly known as the “Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882”) (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126);

(3) the 35th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. 4211 et seq.), which granted reparations to Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II; and

(4) the 30th anniversary of the enactment of Public Law 103-150 (107 Stat. 1510), which acknowledged the 100th anniversary of the January 17, 1893, overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and offered an apology to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the United States;

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions to the United States at all levels of the Federal Government and in the Armed Forces, including—

(1) Daniel K. Inouye, a Medal of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient who, as President pro tempore of the Senate, was the then-highest-ranking Asian American government official in the history of the United States;

(2) Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American elected to Congress;

(3) Patsy T. Mink, the first woman of color and Asian American woman elected to Congress;

(4) Hiram L. Fong, the first Asian-American Senator;

(5) Daniel K. Akaka, the first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry;

(6) Norman Y. Mineta, the first Asian-American member of a Presidential cabinet;

(7) Elaine L. Chao, the first Asian-American woman member of a Presidential cabinet; and

(8) Kamala D. Harris, the first woman and the first Asian American to hold the Office of the Vice President;

Whereas the 118th Congress includes 21 Members of Asian or Pacific Islander descent;

Whereas, in 2023, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a bicameral caucus of Members of Congress advocating on behalf of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, is composed of 72 Members, and other congressional caucuses work on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander issues also;

Whereas, in 2023, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are serving in State and Territorial legislatures across the United States in record numbers, including in—

(1) the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho,

Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming; and

(2) the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders represent more than 6 percent of Federal judges and 7 percent of Federal employees, including hundreds of staffers of Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander descent who serve as staff in the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Whereas, since March 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including—

(1) a 339-percent increase in anti-Asian hate crimes in 2021, and a 124-percent increase in 2020;

(2) according to Stop AAPI Hate, over 11,000 hate incidents reported since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic through March 2022, and countless others that have not been reported;

(3) on March 16, 2021, the murder of 8 people, including 6 Asian women, at 3 separate Asian-owned businesses in the Atlanta, Georgia, region; and

(4) on May 15, 2022, the shooting of 5 people in Laguna Hills, California, in which the Taiwanese congregation at Geneva Presbyterian Church was targeted;

Whereas the incidence of hate crimes against Asian Americans continues to be above levels observed before the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas discrimination against Asian Americans, especially in moments of crisis, is not a new phenomenon, and violence against Asian Americans has occurred throughout United States history, including—

(1) the enactment of the Act entitled “An Act supplementary to the Acts in relation to Immigration”, approved March 3, 1875 (commonly referred to as the “Page Act of 1875”) (18 Stat. 477, chapter 141), which restricted entry of Chinese, Japanese, and other Asian women to the United States and effectively prohibited the immigration of Chinese women, preventing the formation of Chinese families in the United States and limiting the number of native-born Chinese citizens;

(2) the enactment of the Act entitled “An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese”, approved May 6, 1882 (commonly known as the “Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882”) (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126), which was the first law to explicitly exclude an entire ethnic group from immigrating to the United States;

(3) the issuance of Executive Order 9066 in 1942, which authorized the forced relocation and incarceration of approximately 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II, the majority of whom were citizens of the United States;

(4) the murder of Vincent Chin;

(5) on January 17, 1989, the Cleveland Elementary School shooting in which a gunman used an AK-47 to kill 5 children, 4 of whom were of Southeast Asian descent;

(6) the rise in discrimination and violence against Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Americans following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; and

(7) on August 5, 2012, the mass shooting at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, in which a White supremacist fatally shot 6 people and wounded 4 others;

Whereas, in response to the uptick in anti-Asian hate crimes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (Public Law 117-13; 135 Stat. 265), which was signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden on May 20, 2021;

Whereas, in celebration of the contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders in the United States, Congress passed the Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act (Public Law 117-140; 136 Stat. 1259) to establish a commission to study the creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture, which was signed into law by President Biden on June 13, 2022;

Whereas, as part of the American Women Quarters Program, the United States Mint has issued, or will issue, commemorative quarters honoring the contributions of—

(1) Chinese American film star Anna May Wong;

(2) Native Hawaiian composer and cultural advocate Edith Kanaka'ole; and

(3) Congresswoman Patsy Mink;

Whereas there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the Federal Government and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

Whereas celebrating Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of, and to understand the challenges faced by, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; and

(2) recognizes that Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities enhance the rich diversity of and strengthen the United States.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the negotiations are currently making progress. As Speaker MCCARTHY has said, he expects the House will vote next week if an agreement is reached, and the Senate would begin consideration after that.

Following the vote on the Abudu nomination, Members should remain aware and be able to return to the Senate within a 24-hour period to fulfill our responsibilities to avoid default.

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.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. 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 NANCY G. ABUDU

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, today I rise to oppose the nomination

of Nancy Abudu as President Biden's nominee for appointment as a U.S. circuit judge for the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Now, in a government as divided as ours is at this time, we expect to have some controversial nominees that come before us at the Judiciary Committee. We expect debate; we do expect disagreement; but what we should never expect or tolerate is a nominee who has proven herself completely unfit for the role she is asking.

Ms. Abudu has shown us that there is no such thing as a good-faith debate. She views disagreements over policy as evidence of bigotry. She describes herself as a radical legal activist and has compared her fellow Americans to Jim Crow-era racists and endorsed political violence against conservatives.

She has stated that policing is—and I am going to quote her here—the true threat to our collective safety. Hear me out on this. She has said that policing is—and I quote her—the true threat to our collective safety. She has embraced lawless sanctuary city policies and compared our criminal justice system to the horrors of slavery. These are her statements and her positions.

I would be doing a disservice to our Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers if I didn't point out the rank hypocrisy of my Democratic colleagues' attempt to force this nominee through during National Police Week.

Now, as I said, she feels like policing is a threat to our collective safety, but my Democratic colleagues, during this National Police Week, are choosing to push her forward.

She used the significant power of her position within the Southern Poverty Law Center to weaponize charges of hate against her political opponents, all the while covering up blatant discrimination within her organization.

Indeed, the Southern Poverty Law Center, every year, issues their "hate" list. This should give everyone pause, but perhaps the most egregious example of Ms. Abudu's hostility toward the rule of law involves this very Chamber, those of us of each party who sit in this Chamber.

In 2021, she engaged in a vicious mudslinging campaign in an attempt to manipulate the U.S. Senate into abandoning the filibuster and endorsing a radical overhaul of our Federal elections. Her campaign was so full of misrepresentations—and we will just call them falsehoods—that even some of the most progressive Members of her party balked at what she was doing. This is the conduct that the Biden administration is seeking to reward.

Justice is to be evenhanded; equal justice for all; one system of justice, not two tiers of justice. We must not tolerate what is happening here, and we must not approve this nominee.

We had a great discussion in the Judiciary Committee about people who are unfit for the bench, unfit for public service, and the need to make certain that people are fit for this service. Ms.

Abudu, by her actions, has proven herself to be unethical, unscrupulous, and completely untethered from any acceptable philosophy of law.

To approve this nominee would be to rubberstamp a nominee who terms herself a "radical leftist activist." It would rubberstamp a radical agenda. It would rubberstamp an activist judge. We don't want that on our courts, and this is something the American people have rejected repeatedly.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following articles be printed in the RECORD following the conclusion of my remarks.

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

NANCY ABUDU, ANOTHER CONCESSION TO THE FAR LEFT AND TO ONE OF ITS MOST DISREPUTABLE ORGANIZATIONS

(By Carrie Campbell Severino)

President Biden's judicial gifts to dark-money groups do not end with Ketanji Brown Jackson or other far-left nominees he picked for lower courts. Eleventh Circuit nominee Nancy Abudu made her career in the dark-money realm since 2005, when she joined the American Civil Liberties Union. She worked for several years for the group's Voting Rights Project, leaving just as another future Biden nominee—Dale Ho—became its director. From there, Abudu assumed the post of legal director of the ACLU of Florida.

In 2019, after over a decade with the ACLU, Abudu joined the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), a once admirable group that in recent years has been mired in scandal and recognized as a racket that betrays its stated principles—not least by vilifying those it disagrees with as "hate groups." A number of liberals have acknowledged this, with Nathan J. Robinson, founder of the left-wing Current Affairs, calling the group's signature "Hate Map" an "outright fraud."

Abudu is the group's director for strategic litigation. A wide-ranging coalition of over 50 organizations and individuals protested her nomination in a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Richard Durbin and Ranking Member Chuck Grassley. They stated bluntly: "Ms. Abudu works for a disreputable organization that has no business being a feeder for positions to any judicial office—not even of a traffic court—let alone the second highest court system in the United States. She is a political activist not a jurist and is unfit to serve at the federal appellate level."

The Family Research Council (FRC) circulated the letter. They have good reason to have sounded the alarm. They know the real danger of being labeled a "hate group" by the SPLC. As their letter to Durbin and Grassley explains:

These destructive accusations have done real harm to many people. In the first conviction under the post-9/11 District of Columbia terrorism statute, the convicted terrorist was shown to have been motivated by the SPLC's "hate group" designation and related identifying information.

In that case, SPLC materials facilitated a troubled young man's delusional, and thankfully unsuccessful, plan to commit mass murder. Using the SPLC "hate map," this native of northern Virginia targeted the Family Research Council (FRC) and two other nearby groups in August 2012 for having beliefs supporting traditional marriage. Fortunately, no one was killed, although he did shoot and critically wound FRC's unarmed building manager who subdued him while wounded.

To make matters worse, the SPLC's leadership—Abudu included—apparently haven't learned their lesson. “[O]ver the past decade the SPLC has targeted an increasing number of policy groups with whom it has policy disagreements. Any group that disagrees with the SPLC about positions it advocates is deemed to be evil and worthy of destruction,” laments the coalition letter.

In addition to its inflammatory designations, the SPLC has amassed a war chest to fund its left-wing activism totaling \$570 million as of October 2020. Its holdings are, to put it mildly, highly unusual for an American non-profit company. Among investments listed in its 2020 financial statements are \$162 million in non-U.S. equity funds, \$23 million in “arbitrage funds,” \$89 million in private equity funds, and \$7 million in long-short funds. The coalition letter observed, “The SPLC looks more like a hedge fund than a public interest legal and political activist group.”

Amy Sterling Casil, the CEO of the consulting firm Pacific Human Capital, remarked regarding its transfer of millions of dollars to foreign bank accounts that “I’ve never known a US-based nonprofit dealing in human rights or social services to have any foreign bank accounts.” She added, “I know of no legitimate reason for any US-based nonprofit to put money in overseas, unregulated bank accounts” and called the SPLC’s practice “unethical.” The watchdog group CharityWatch gave the SPLC a grade of “F.”

In addition to Abudu’s shady professional associations, she consistently has taken far-left positions in litigation. Perhaps the most prominent were cases Abudu argued while at the ACLU’s Voting Rights Center, for example, making unsuccessful challenges to felon voting provisions in Mississippi, Arizona, and Tennessee. As legal director of the ACLU of Florida, Abudu unsuccessfully challenged the state’s requirement that a felon’s voting rights could be restored only after all fines, fees, and restitution imposed as part of the felon’s sentence had been paid. The Eleventh Circuit, sitting en banc, found no evidence to support Abudu’s claim of intentional racial discrimination. Undeterred, Abudu joined several other groups to submit Florida’s law to the United Nations Committee on Human Rights for review of human rights violations.

Since joining the SPLC, Abudu has maintained her ties with the ACLU of Florida and continued her losing track record in court with an unsuccessful Eighth Amendment claim against Florida’s Department of Corrections for not fully accommodating a transgender inmate’s “social-transitioning” requests.

The Biden administration and congressional Democrats continue to make scurrilous allegations of suppression of voting rights in Republican-led states, cherry-picking them over Democrat-led states with more stringent election rules and brazenly trying to weaponize the courts to do their partisan bidding. And Biden’s Department of Justice has specifically targeted Georgia, where Abudu would sit if confirmed, alleging the state’s recent election law violated the Voting Rights Act and engaged in racial discrimination. If you believe a Judge Abudu would fairly evaluate Georgia’s voting integrity laws according to the rule of law rather than her own agenda, I have a bridge to sell you.

[From AMAC, Feb. 15, 2023]

BIDEN’S RADICAL JUDGES

(By Robert B. Charles)

Watch the flank! Sometimes an assault on vital interests and values does not come head-on, but from an angle, on the flank. We just saw the Chinese slip a balloon across the

continent, figurative knife between the ribs. Domestically, the judiciary is a flank—but it matters. Biden and Democrat Senate are loading the federal judiciary with leftists, and it matters.

In the first year of his White House, Biden got the largest number of Article III federal judges confirmed of any president since Ronald Reagan. The difference is that many of Biden’s nominees aspire to concentration of federal power.

Broadly speaking, they tend to tip against traditional understandings and caselaw tied to unfettered speech, free exercise of religion, gun ownership, traditional understandings of family, parental prerogatives, due process, equal protection, and the 4th, 5th, and 6th amendments.

His recent nominees are often openly pro-abortion, no apologies for opposing Dobbs, happy to be activists—as they think that is what courts are for, correcting errors of the Founders, Congress, strict constructionists, textualists, and those who dare to think words have meaning.

While Trump got 234 federal judges appointed, that was playing catchup after Obama’s 329 judicial confirmations. Now, continuing the leftist attack on our judiciary, Biden has pressed increasingly radical judges—and one radical justice—to the federal bench.

When a Supreme Court nominee considers it controversial to publicly define a woman, simply declines to do so, something is wildly wrong with the process. Imagine Justices Sandra Day O’Connor (appointed by Reagan) or Ruth Bader Ginsburg (appointed by Clinton) not knowing what a woman is.

Indeed, I think one can say—for very different reasons, but with a basic understanding of and respect for biology—O’Connor, Ginsburg, Reagan and Clinton ALL knew the difference between men and women.

Now comes the latest rash of leftist nominees. After Biden nominated 98 Article III judges in his first two years, 51 still awaiting confirmation, his left-lurching party now controls the Senate, which is in charge of judicial confirmations.

Beyond this, we face 10 vacancies on federal circuit courts—a bench that manages all federal appeals short of the Supreme Court, plus 75 US district court vacancies. An added 27 federal judicial vacancies will arise before end of Biden’s term (four appeals, 23 district).

The part that causes a shiver is not these numbers, but the under- and un-qualified nature of those being nominated to important judgeships. As one observer noted, this seems to be Biden’s means for “paying back the left-wing dark money groups who spent over a billion dollars to help elect him.” He will get the Democrat-controlled Senate to sweep a raft of leftists onto the courts.

Can he really do that? Yes and no. On the one hand, another collection of unabashed leftists is about to be swept into available openings, likely soon confirmed by the Democrat Senate, most with a rich history of working with and for leftist causes.

These include nominees proud to have worked on left-leaning cases that pushed pro-abortion, antigun, anti-free speech, and anti-conservative causes and cases. They include those who championed radical positions advanced by Planned Parenthood, gun control groups, and those working to punish free speech and worship.

Last week two dozen nominees got through the Senate Judiciary Committee, headed for floor votes. Among those to watch are judges like Julie Rikelman, who was the “litigation director” for the “Center for Reproductive Rights,” headed for the First Circuit Court of Appeals. She literally litigated against Dobbs, and lost.

Another to watch is Nancy Abudu, who was a litigation director for the Southern Poverty Law Center—after time with the ACLU. She is destined for the 11th Cir. Court of Appeals.

Even the typically quieter Republican National Lawyers Association spoke against her which wrote that, “Her views goes beyond ... even progressive activists, and we see no reason to believe that she will be an impartial judge on the hot button’ issue of election law.”

A reality check will lower the blood pressure a bit, as these judges will not—in one fell swoop—tip the balance of these circuits, but the idea that judges who are unable to be impartial on such a basic issue as “election law” are being nominated—and confirmed—is worrisome.

In the end, the core question is—what can be done, in an age of polarized, often strangely off-the-mark thinking—to protect the federal bench from becoming, over time, radicalized?

The answer is a few important things. First, level-headed Senators can put holds on some of these nominees, tabling them for a time, if not indefinitely. This will also send a signal. For votes needed to tip the Senate balance, possibly on fossil fuels, law enforcement, support for Ukraine, and illegal immigration limitation—the point can be made to centrists like Joe Manchin: Radicals must be kept off the federal bench.

In the event that radical appointees violate ethical norms on the bench, impeachments can be initiated, driving home the point that political activism is disallowed for federal judges.

Additionally, hard-hitting hearings of nominees should be the norm, with radical, non-judicial behaviors, statements, and past actions forcing Senate Democrats to tough decisions. While accountability is hard, the effort is worthy—and even some Democrats may balk.

Last, all Americans need to think harder about the flanks. As the Communist Chinese continue testing our national security, the radical left tests our commitment to individual liberty. Good judges are “judicial” in temperament, not activist, not partisan, not political. Watch the flank!

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from California.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today as chair of the Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife to express my strong disapproval of Republican efforts to undermine the integrity and authority of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Now, around the world, scientists tell us that 1 million species face extinction, including 40 percent of animals in the United States. This is nothing short of a biodiversity crisis, one that will have dire impacts on the ecosystems around us and the clean air and clean water that we need to survive.

Yet, last week, for the second and the third time in just 2 weeks, Republicans passed a Congressional Review Act resolution to constrain the Fish and Wildlife Service and their ability to protect our planet.

Three times now we have had to stop all other business of the Senate and devote valuable floor time that we could have used to pass legislation to confirm or promote military leaders and

otherwise do the people's business. Instead, we had to stop to debate the merits of protecting threatened and endangered species from extinction. That is not a joke—for the folks watching at home—and this is not an exaggeration either.

Let's review. It was a half a century ago that Congress acknowledged the reality of habitat destruction and the threats to America's unique biodiversity. And, yes, Congress gave the Fish and Wildlife Service the power to administer a process for designating and protecting newly endangered species. Congress intentionally and purposefully handed the power over to experts in habitat loss and wildlife biologists—who are actually educated and trained—to determine which species are most at risk and what we need to do to protect them.

It is no different than how we regulate prescription drugs, for example. We rely on the FDA and their experts and their scientists to protect the American people rather than trying to individually legislate every single medication. Imagine trying to legislate every single medication in this body.

So the real effect of these CRAs is to set a precedent for personal grievances and for the folks who deny the science and prefer gridlock to prevail. Passage of these CRAs is the equivalent of saying that, whenever a powerful industry or a lone Member of Congress dislikes a rule that scientists at the Fish and Wildlife Service issue in the future, they are entitled to a vote to second-guess and overturn the actual experts.

I may be wrong, but I am not aware of any wildlife biologists currently serving in this Senate. At a time when more and more wildlife species are at risk of extinction, we can't constrain the ability of the Fish and Wildlife Service from following the science and issuing rules to protect them or, in the case of the critical habitat designation CRA, my colleagues are blatantly ignoring the realities of climate change and limiting our Nation's ability to react and respond in the years ahead.

I suggest that, rather than grinding Congress to a halt, those of us who voted to follow the process that Congress itself created is the responsible way to allow the scientists and experts to do their job. Rather than ignore the science of the climate crisis, I voted to live up to the responsibilities that we have as stewards of this great land.

And while this last week Senate Republicans got their way, I am proud to have a President in the White House who takes seriously our sacred responsibility to our planet and who refuses to overrule the experts and the scientists. But I also know that this is not the end of the CRAs and that our Republican colleagues will attempt to overrule the Fish and Wildlife Service and choose to put their personal grievances over progress in Congress.

So when that day comes again—because there will be future attempts—I will proudly, once again, stand with the experts and vote no.

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.

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

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

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, this week is National Police Week. It is an opportunity to show our gratitude to the men and women in blue who risk their lives every day for our safety, as well as honor those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

This Police Week I want to tell a story of a police chief in my home State of Nebraska.

Local broadcast outlet KETV recently interviewed the new police chief of Ashland, a city of about 3,000 on the eastern side of the State. According to KETV, Chief Ryan Brady worked 19 days in a row at one point last year. He logged over 170 hours in a 2-week period. Chief Brady clocked more than 800 overtime hours last year. But he is on salary. So he is not paid for any of it.

I am amazed at Chief Brady's dedication to the job. He works day shifts, night shifts, and picks up his partners' shifts when they get sick.

But why does he have to do all that work? Why does he have to do so much? Well, because his department has encountered a staffing crisis. Between retirements and trouble recruiting, the Ashland Police Department has dwindled down to only a handful of officers.

Chief Brady told KETV:

Somebody's got to work. So the buck stops here. So, you know, if no one else can work, I work.

I have spoken with police officers and sheriffs all over my State, and I can tell you this is not a problem that is unique to Ashland. No, it is not even a problem unique to Nebraska. Severe police staffing shortages are affecting departments all across our country.

The Police Executive Research Forum found that agencies are losing officers faster than they can hire new ones. There were 47 percent more resignations in 2022 than in 2019, in addition to 19 percent more retirements over the same time period. That means that large groups of officers are leaving the force while few are trickling in. Understaffed staffs are doing their best to keep up with these changes, but there are also roadblocks we can help them remove when it comes to hiring.

Over the past year, I have worked with police departments across Nebraska, as well as national law enforcement groups representing departments across this country. From these conversations, I introduced the Recruit and Retain Act, which would help police departments tackle these staffing roadblocks.

This bipartisan bill would boost officer recruitment opportunities through the Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services hiring grants. These grants can keep departments afloat. But recruitment expenses like background checks, psychological evaluations, and other tests are not currently included in the eligible expenses. So this bill would allow COPS grants to cover these specific costs and make it easier to onboard new officers. Reducing the cost of hiring would go a long way in helping law enforcement raise staffing levels.

My bill would also establish the Pipeline Partnership Program, a new initiative aimed at fostering youth interest in law enforcement careers. Departments and local schools would work together to launch mentorship opportunities, job fairs, and other activities that give young people better insight into law enforcement work. This program would bolster community relationships. It would help to open up stronger local hiring pipelines for police departments too.

Finally, the bill would direct the Government Accountability Office to study both the causes of this latest recruitment and retention challenge as well as the effects they have on public safety.

I would like to thank Senator COONS for working with me on this bill for many months, as well as Senators CORNYN and KLOBUCHAR. It was great that we saw the Judiciary Committee pass this bill by voice vote today, and I look forward to its advancement.

I was also glad to join my colleague Senator CORNYN to help introduce two bills that further support law enforcement's tireless work. The Project Safe Neighborhoods Act of 2023 would reauthorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods program through fiscal year 2026. The PSN program is an effective bipartisan solution to violent crime that has been working since 2001.

In Nebraska, PSN coordinates enforcement and prosecution partnerships among Federal, State, and local law enforcement, in addition to involvement with Nebraska communities to bring violent offenders to justice.

The second bill, the Back the Blue Act, would protect police officers by creating new Federal criminal penalties for attacking law enforcement officers. Too often police officers are harmed rather than honored in our country, and it is time that we make a Federal statement that attackers will be punished.

Another vital area to continue addressing is the mental health of our police officers, who face daily strains from the intensity of their jobs. I am planning to reintroduce a bill that would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to create a publicly accessible online dashboard so that organizations, including law enforcement groups, can easily search for Federal funding opportunities that support mental health. Potential applicants would be able to search for the

right mental health grants and track the status of those grants. This bill could truly be a lifeline to officers reeling from staffing issues or difficult cases.

In his interview, Ashland Police Chief Brady said:

I love this community. The hours that I'm putting in are because of my care for the people.

That dedication is what we honor during National Police Week, but let's not leave our appreciation for our selfless hard-working police officers behind on Saturday when Police Week ends. I urge my colleagues to continue backing the blue throughout the year and, especially, to pass these very critical bills.

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.

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. 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 NANCY G. ABUDU

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to the nomination of Nancy Abudu to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

I served as Governor for 8 years, and, in that time, I had the great privilege of appointing dozens of judicial appointments to Nebraska courts. I appointed four of the current Nebraska Supreme Court justices and many more to lower courts.

When I considered a prospective nominee, I was often reminded of our State's motto: "Equality Before the law." That motto reflects a common-sense American principle that all people should receive equal treatment and equal opportunity, regardless of one's race or background. The women and men who serve in our courts should reflect this motto.

When I considered nominees, I looked at a few things. I looked at whether they were leaders with high integrity and character. I looked at their experience, and I looked at how they understood their role as a judge. Did they think the job of a judge was to make the law or to interpret the law?

I looked at if they had a respect for the law and whether they had the temperament to bring a thoughtful and fairminded approach to each case they would have at hand. I looked at whether they were respected by their peers. And I am proud of the appointments that I made.

Nancy Abudu is not someone I would have considered for a judgeship. Ms. Abudu is the kind of soft-on-crime, anti-police, activist we actually must keep off of the bench. And I want to take a moment to go over her record.

Ms. Abudu has argued publicly and repeatedly that American voting laws and the criminal justice system are racist and discriminatory. She has spe-

cifically maligned the three States that comprise the Eleventh Circuit that she is being considered for. In Alabama, she said that Jim Crow continues to cast a long shadow on the State's elections.

She said that Florida is engaged in a "war to strip poor and low-income people of all political power." And she accused Georgia State legislators of "punishing voters and undermining democracy" and said that the State is a "bad actor" and "simply cannot be trusted to protect the rights of voters."

At a time when Americans require certainty and security of our elections, Ms. Abudu has consistently argued dangerous and misleading positions, trying to undermine the public's trust of our elections and our voting rights. She has argued that prohibiting felons from voting is "practically the same system as during slavery." She argued that requiring voters to present identification is voter suppression.

My colleague, Ranking Member GRASSLEY, described Abudu as one of the "most activist judicial nominees we've ever seen." During her confirmation hearing, the Judiciary Committee heard Abudu double down in defense of her work in 2018 to challenge a Miami ordinance that banned sex offenders from living within 2,500 feet of a school.

Senator GRASSLEY questioned Abudu about a 2016 article where she advocated for laws that "would allow non-citizens to vote in local elections" and suggested that opponents of such legislation are "trying to incite hysteria that undocumented immigrants are also taking over the ballot box in addition to our country."

When asked which election she thought noncitizens should be permitted to vote in, Abudu declined to substantively respond, saying:

In the article, I noted that some cities allow noncitizens to vote in local elections.

Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee questioned Abudu about numerous partisan and inflammatory statements she has also made, including:

Systemic racism [is] embedded in the criminal justice system and other parts of our society.

That the "problem" with southern States when it comes to voting laws "is they're not always doing the right thing and the resentment they feel is that historically, the Federal Government has not allowed them to get away with it."

Governor DeSantis is digging his heels in to ensure poor people in his State are blocked from voting.

With respect to the privatization of schools, she said:

[W]e are not in an environment or a culture where we want to rely on our State legislators to do the right thing by our children, especially if they are Black or Brown.

Nancy Abudu's work at the Southern Poverty Law Center, SPLC, since 2019 and currently as the Strategic Litiga-

tion Director are also extremely concerning positions. For those unfamiliar, the Southern Poverty Law Center is a far-left activist organization that only targets conservatives whom they disagree with politically. The SPLC is well-known for, unapologetically and often without any justification, labeling conservative and religious organizations and individuals as "hate groups" or "extremists."

As a Federal judge recently found that the SPLC hate list does not "depend upon objective data or evidence" and its application of the "hate group" designation is "entirely subjective."

Another Federal judge ruled that SPLC's "representation or description" of a nonprofit organization as a hate group "is not one 'of fact.'"

SPLC's Hate Map, as they call it, is "outright fraud" and "a willful deception designed to scare older liberals into writing checks to the SPLC."

Their misinformation has real-world implications ranging from careless to incendiary and deadly. Floyd Lee Corkins entered the Family Research Council's headquarters with a 9-millimeter pistol, multiple ammunition clips, and a box of extra rounds, and the intent to "kill as many people as possible." Fortunately, Corkins was stopped by the building manager from carrying out this mass shooting.

Under FBI interrogation, Corkins said he chose to carry out the attack on FRC after it was labeled a "hate group" on the Southern Poverty Law Center's website.

In 2018, the SPLC paid \$3.375 million in damages after brandishing British Muslim reformer Maajid Nawaz as an anti-Muslim extremist.

Similarly, the SPLC was compelled to issue an official apology for placing Dr. Ben Carson under their extremist watchlist back in 2014.

In 2021, in Nebraska, we saw the Southern Poverty Law Center's reckless and misguided definition of "hate groups" used against University of Nebraska-Lincoln students. A Christian student organization called Ratio Christi filed a lawsuit alleging the University discriminated against the organization's conservative and Christian views when it denied funds for a speaker.

I spoke out at the time urging the University to support speakers from a wide variety of viewpoints on campus, including Christian speakers. The group of students had secured legal defense from the Alliance Defending Freedom, a religious freedom organization. The Southern Poverty Law Center's designation of ADF as a hate group was then used against the students in media reports across the State.

Fortunately, justice prevailed; and in a victory for free speech at public universities, a Federal court entered a partial judgment against the University of Nebraska-Lincoln officials who discriminated against Christian student organizations. The University revised its funding policies to provide

transparency and accountability in the process.

In 2023, an FBI whistleblower revealed the Bureau issued an internal memo—now rescinded—on “radical-traditionalist Christian ideology,” citing the SPLC. The memo characterized radical traditionalist Catholics primarily by their rejection of church developments since the Second Vatican Council—Vatican II—and opposition to homosexuality. The memo suggests the FBI should monitor these Catholics through “the development of sources with access,” including in places of worship. It presents a list of hate groups published by the SPLC as a place to start with this work.

The SPLC’s hate label destroys civil discourse and breeds contempt for those with different views.

Americans want judges that understand their role to interpret our laws, not make them. Americans want judges who want to give every litigant a fair shake. Americans want judges that believe in our Founding documents.

Ms. Abudu has failed to demonstrate she understands the critical role that a judge should play in our legal system. Her record proves that she is far outside the mainstream. Far-left activists do not belong on the Federal bench. I call on my colleagues to join me in opposing this radical nominee.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the members of this Senate have a chance to make history. We will vote to confirm Nancy Abudu to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

A graduate of Columbia University and Tulane Law School, Ms. Abudu has dedicated her career to defending the civil rights of all Americans. She has experience litigating and overseeing complex civil matters. She also has significant appellate experience, filing a number of briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court and arguing five cases before Federal courts of appeals.

Throughout her career, Ms. Abudu has defended voting rights, protected religious freedom, and advanced criminal justice reform. Her perspective and experience will be a valuable addition to the Eleventh Circuit, which currently has no former civil rights lawyers on the bench. And when confirmed, Ms. Abudu will also be the first Black woman ever to serve on the Eleventh Circuit. She was rated “well qualified” by the American Bar Association and has the strong support of her home state Senators: Mr. WARNOCK and Mr. OSSOFF.

As a lifelong champion of equal justice under law, Ms. Abudu will make an exceptional appellate judge. I am honored to support her nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, today I rise to speak in opposition to the nomination of Nancy Abudu to serve on the

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Ms. Abudu may well be the most radical judicial nominee nominated to date by President Biden.

I have had concerns with Ms. Abudu’s radical views and her apparent lack of respect for the rules of the court ever since her nomination. During her confirmation hearing, I asked her about allegations of potential judge shopping raised by Judge Burke of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama in a series of cases brought by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a result of troubling attorney conduct.

In this series of cases, the three Federal district courts in Alabama took the extraordinary and joint measure of convening to hear concerns raised by Judge Burke that Ms. Abudu’s litigation team and their cocouncil brazenly abused the judicial process.

Ms. Abudu is, to be clear, the Director of Strategic Litigation for the Southern Poverty Law Center. And strategic litigation is what they do. That is what they are about. She is the director of this division.

When I asked her about her strategic litigation decisions in this series of cases, she stated:

As Director of Strategic Litigation, my responsibility is to oversee and provide general management for our cases, but it is the subject matter experts in the litigation team that handle the day-to-day, including the filing of complaints, the briefing, and any oral arguments.

In response to my questioning, she refused to be forthright. She didn’t deny her oversight of these cases. She simply refused to admit that she was responsible for the strategic decisions the three Alabama Federal district courts found so troubling.

Her lack of candor and her apparent disregard for the protections built into our legal system disqualify her for a position on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

As I asked her about these—about these cases—pointing out only that the day-to-day litigation management was handled by other attorneys—which was obvious—she was openly, directly avoiding a direct line of inquiry, a line of inquiry that was very relevant to her nomination, to her confirmation process.

But, unfortunately, my concerns with Ms. Abudu’s nomination do not end—and they didn’t begin—with this troubling series of cases that I just described. You see, the attorneys general in every single State of the Eleventh Circuit—who are joined, by the way, by the attorneys general in a number of other States—but every single attorney general serving within the Eleventh Circuit is part of this letter articulating concerns and confirming that there are grave dangers in confirming Ms. Abudu to the Eleventh Circuit.

These attorneys general, along with attorneys general from 15 additional States, including my home State of Utah, recently sent a letter to the lead-

ership of this body expressing their numerous concerns with Ms. Abudu’s nomination.

The attorneys general of the people who would be subject to coming before Ms. Abudu in Federal cases are justifiably worried about her potential confirmation today. These are people who really need to be able to have the confidence that when appearing before Judge Abudu, she will not only respect the law, but that she will handle their cases without any preconceived biases—biases that could lead her off course as she administers justice in her courtroom. If anyone has preconceived notions, biases regarding how justice ought to be administered such that litigants could come to the conclusion that they won’t get a fair shake in front of that judge—not to mention the preconceived prejudices against the good people living in the Eleventh Circuit—Ms. Abudu has certainly demonstrated that she does.

Ms. Abudu is a longtime and current member and past leader of an entity called the National Lawyers Guild. This group identifies itself as consisting of a radical movement of legal activists—their words, not mine. After violent protests against Atlanta police officers, the National Lawyers Guild declared that “policing is the true threat to our collective safety.”

Imagine that. It is not crime, it is not other problems that police deal with; it is the police themselves policing—the act of policing.

They didn’t say specific police officers who may, unlike most officers, not be doing their jobs right. They said policing—policing itself—is the true threat to our collective safety.

Imagine that.

I agree with these attorneys general that Ms. Abudu’s longstanding and ongoing association with this radical anti-police group is, alone, grounds for refusing, rejecting her nomination.

I find it very troubling indeed that those who would be subject to having to come before Ms. Abudu find her track record dishonest and divisive. Let me quote from the letter outlining their concerns:

We are familiar with Ms. Abudu’s work and her willingness to demonize those with whom she disagrees, and we know well the importance of the seat on the Eleventh Circuit that she would fill. Ms. Abudu has proven herself unfit for that role. She has compared her fellow Americans to Jim-Crow-era racists. She has aligned herself with self-proclaimed “radical movement legal activists” who view “policing” as “the true threat to our collective safety.”

And the quote continues:

And she has proclaimed that our criminal justice system is “practically the same system as during slavery.” These spurious and outrageous statements vividly demonstrate that she lacks the judgment, fair-mindedness, and integrity required of a Federal judge.

Now, to be clear, Ms. Abudu chose to associate herself with the Southern Poverty Law Center, which is itself well known for leveling unfounded

charges of “hate” against any person or any group with which that organization happens to disagree.

She became a leader in that organization and fully embraced its deplorable tactics, which are not intended to foster debate and understanding but rather to silence opposition.

They are well known for publishing things. Their hate list has brought about hate. It led to a shooting in Washington, DC, of an entity here. Someone got shot after believing that the Southern Poverty Law Center had indicated that that was the appropriate action.

She has made offensive and baseless assertions against the people in the Eleventh Circuit. Now I want to quote some more from the Attorneys General letter:

Since becoming a leader [of the Southern Poverty Law Center], Ms. Abudu has engaged in [the] deplorable tactics [beloved by that organization] by disparaging those in her way, including each of the three States within the jurisdiction of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. For example, she and her team submitted a “Report” to Congress about Alabama’s supposed “unyielding record of racial discrimination in voting.” The Alabama Attorney General’s Office set the record straight in a follow-up report that went claim-by-claim, documenting the SPLC’s many misrepresentations.

The quote continues:

Each misrepresentation served the overarching theme of Ms. Abudu’s report—that any disagreement over policy is proof that her political opponents are evil. Indeed, according to Ms. Abudu, things in Alabama are the same or worse today than they were in 1965. As she tells it, Alabama’s goal—today—is to—

Now, these are her words—

“establish white supremacy in this State.”

The letter continues:

While some might see room for good faith debate, for example, about the merits of Alabama’s voter identification law, (which was upheld by the Eleventh Circuit)—

The Court on which she has been nominated to serve—

Ms. Abudu sees only a “relentless commitment to finding new ways to keep . . . Alabamians from making their voices heard,” all . . . part of a desperate attempt “to perpetuate majority white control.”

Her words, not mine.

The letter concludes:

These assertions are as offensive as they are baseless, and they are disqualifying for an aspiring Federal judge.

To quote one more time from the letter, another part of the letter says:

Though Ms. Abudu is surely aware of [the] facts, she prefers to use her powerful position at [the Southern Poverty Law Center] to sow division and erode trust among Americans—declaring that “Jim Crow is still alive and well [in the South].” But as the Supreme Court has recognized (and as any fair-minded person knows): “Things have changed in the South.” Ms. Abudu’s contrary contention doesn’t show simple professional disagreement. It shows, at best, insuperable bias. It more likely shows dishonesty. And it certainly shows unfitness for judicial office.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter from these Attorneys General be printed in the RECORD.

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

STATE OF ALABAMA,
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
March 22, 2023.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER AND MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: On behalf of the State of Alabama and other concerned States, we write to warn you of the dishonest and divisive track record of Nancy Abudu, who President Biden has nominated to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. We are familiar with Ms. Abudu’s work and her willingness to demonize those with whom she disagrees, and we know well the importance of the seat on the Eleventh Circuit that she would fill. Ms. Abudu has proven herself unfit for that role. She has compared her fellow Americans to Jim-Crow-era racists. She has aligned herself with self-proclaimed “radical movement legal activists” who view “policing” as “the true threat to our collective safety.” And she has proclaimed that our criminal justice system is “practically the same system as during slavery.” These spurious and outrageous statements vividly demonstrate that she lacks the judgment, fair-mindedness, and integrity required of a federal judge. Her nomination should be rejected.

As you know, Ms. Abudu has been the Director of Strategic Litigation for the Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Center since 2019. The SPLC is infamous for leveling unfounded charges of “hate” against political opponents.

Since becoming a leader in that organization, Ms. Abudu has engaged in those same deplorable tactics by disparaging those in her way, including each of the three States within the jurisdiction of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. For example, she and her team submitted a “Report” to Congress about Alabama’s supposed “unyielding record of racial discrimination in voting.” The Alabama Attorney General’s Office set the record straight in a follow-up report that went claim-by-claim, documenting the SPLC’s many misrepresentations. Each misrepresentation served the overarching theme of Ms. Abudu’s report—that any disagreement over policy is proof that her political opponents are evil. Indeed, according to Ms. Abudu, things in Alabama are the same or worse today than they were in 1965. As she tells it, Alabama’s goal—today—is to “establish white supremacy in this State.” While some might see room for good faith debate, for example, about the merits of Alabama’s voter identification law (which was upheld by the Eleventh Circuit), Ms. Abudu sees only a “relentless commitment to finding new ways to keep Black Alabamians from making their voices heard,” all as part of a desperate attempt “to perpetuate majority white control.”

These assertions are as offensive as they are baseless, and they are disqualifying for an aspiring federal judge. For decades, black and white voter registration and turnout in Alabama has been at or near parity. In 2018, Alabama had the second highest black voter registration rate in the entire country.” Though Ms. Abudu is surely aware of these facts, she prefers to use her powerful position at SPLC to sow division and erode trust among Americans—declaring that “Jim Crow is still alive and well.” But as the Supreme Court has recognized (and as any fair-minded person knows): “Things have

changed in the South.” Ms. Abudu’s contrary contention doesn’t show simple professional disagreement. It shows, at best, insuperable bias. It more likely shows dishonesty. And it certainly shows unfitness for judicial office.

Ms. Abudu has a similar track record of misstatements when it comes to Florida. She baselessly accused Governor DeSantis of “digging in his heels to ensure poor people in his state are blocked from voting” and suggested that Florida is engaged in a “war to strip poor and low-income people of all political power.”

She has also demonstrated marked hostility to the State of Georgia and especially its law enforcement officers. Without evidence, she has asserted that Georgia has a “culture of law enforcement that still targets Black and Brown people.” She has derided the entire State, claiming that “Georgia continues to be a bad actor,” and that the state legislature “is committed to keeping us in the past and that is scary.” How could Ms. Abudu impartially adjudicate the many Eleventh Circuit cases involving Georgia, its statutes, its citizens, and especially its law enforcement officers, when she already believes that the State is a “bad actor” with a “culture of law enforcement” that “targets Black and Brown people”?

It’s also important to recognize that Ms. Abudu attempted to leverage misrepresentations and invective to affect this Chamber’s vote on legislation. She derided the supposed “anti-voter legislatures . . . in the Deep South” as justification for a federal overhaul of State elections. She even insisted on “abolishing the filibuster” to accomplish her goal, referring to it as “a legislative tool popular with pro-Jim Crow senators of the past.” Fortunately, the Senate saw through this divisive narrative. But if the Senate confirms Ms. Abudu to a seat on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, she will be empowered to press her radical agenda from a position of power checked only by the occasional review of the United States Supreme Court. This Chamber must not reward her behavior with a lifetime appointment to a seat where she would decide appeals in important cases involving the very States she says are irredeemably trapped in 1965.

The SPLC’s unethical conduct goes beyond Ms. Abudu’s misrepresentations to this body. Several SPLC attorneys are currently being investigated by a three-judge federal district court for attempts to circumvent court rules by filing and then re-filing litigation against the State of Alabama. Ms. Abudu protests that she “was not involved” in the conduct under investigation but that’s hard to square with her job directing the SPLC’s strategic litigation, including her self-described role of “the review and approval of litigation requests.” Even if it’s true that Ms. Abudu wasn’t involved in the decision to try to circumvent federal court rules, this conduct occurred on her watch, which raises further questions about her judgment.

More recently, another SPLC attorney—presumably someone under Ms. Abudu’s supervision in her role as Director of Strategic Litigation—was arrested and charged with domestic terrorism in relation to violent “protests” related to police facilities in Atlanta. The arrested attorney worked in the same office that Ms. Abudu lists as her work address. In response to the arrest, the SPLC tacitly approved its employee’s alleged terrorism, choosing instead to put out a joint statement with the radical National Lawyers Guild criticizing the supposed “heavy-handed law enforcement intervention against protesters.” It’s not clear whether Ms. Abudu was involved with that attorney or the SPLC’s response to his arrest, but the SPLC’s response shows the culture of its office and its attitude toward the rule of law and law enforcement.

Ms. Abudu's status as a current member and past leader of the National Lawyers Guild is similarly troubling. The NLG is a self-described group of "radical movement legal activists." And in response to violent protests against the Atlanta police facilities mentioned above, NLG declared that "policing is the true threat to our collective safety." Ms. Abudu's longstanding and ongoing association with this radical, anti-police group is yet another ground for rejecting her nomination.

It would be hard to overstate the importance of federal circuit courts of appeals. Nearly every federal appeal ends at the circuit court. Attorneys in our offices regularly practice before these courts, and we have great respect for these judges who dedicate their lives to the rule of law and to ensuring that all litigants before them are fairly heard.

Ms. Abudu's dishonest and divisive record shows that she would not be such a judge. She is an activist. She has repeatedly used misrepresentations and hateful rhetoric to advance her political goals. And she has thus shown herself unfit for this lifetime appointment. Because our judiciary needs jurists who will uphold the rule of law, not "radical movement legal activists" in robes, the Senate should reject Ms. Abudu's nomination.

Sincerely,

Steve Marshall, Alabama Attorney General; Tim Griffin, Arkansas Attorney General; Chris Carr, Georgia Attorney General; Todd Rokita, Indiana Attorney General; Daniel Cameron, Kentucky Attorney General; Lynn Fitch, Mississippi Attorney General; Ashley Moody, Florida Attorney General; Raúl Labrador, Idaho Attorney General; Brenna Bird, Attorney General of Iowa; Jeff Landry, Louisiana Attorney General; Andrew Bailey, Missouri Attorney General; Mike Hilgers, Nebraska Attorney General; Austin Knudsen, Montana Attorney General; Dave Yost, Ohio Attorney General; Ken Paxton, Attorney General of Texas; Alan Wilson, South Carolina Attorney General; Sean D. Reyes, Utah Attorney General; Patrick Morrisey, West Virginia Attorney General.

Mr. LEE. She has shown marked hostility toward Alabamians, Floridians, and Georgians. She has accused them of suppressing minorities and poor people from voting. She has accused their police officers of targeting minorities, and all throughout her accusations is the threat of racism. It animates her every action, her every assault, her every view.

She accuses Georgia of being "committed to keeping us in the past and that is scary."

As the Attorneys General appropriately ask, "How could Ms. Abudu impartially adjudicate the many Eleventh Circuit cases involving Georgia, its statutes, its citizens, and especially its law enforcement officers, when she already believes the State is a 'bad actor' with a 'culture of law enforcement' that 'targets Black and Brown people'?"

There again, they are quoting her words. Ms. Abudu's record of hostility toward the people and the laws of the Eleventh Circuit is nothing short of alarming. When you combine that hostility with her lack of respect for the judicial system and her ongoing commitment to a group of self-described "radical movement legal activists," I

simply don't know how any Member of this body can still believe she will serve the people of the Eleventh Circuit or, even less, our judicial system well.

But the only way one can justify voting for this nominee is if one agrees with her hostile views and is comfortable with her activist approach. I am not, and I oppose her nomination in the strongest possible terms.

VOTE ON ABUDU NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN: Mr. President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, under the previous order, The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Abudu nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted "no."

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 132 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—4

Ernst	Rubio
Moran	Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from South Carolina.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to speak for just a few minutes here.

No. 1, the judge we just confirmed, I think to the 11th Judicial Circuit, Ms. Abudu, is an example of the system being broken. This nominee, whom I voted against in committee, is way beyond what I think the market should be bearing. This is, in my view, a partisan's dream.

It is OK to be a litigant in causes I don't agree with. It is OK to represent organizations that I differ with. I don't hold a client against a lawyer, but I do hold positions against the lawyer when it comes to cause-driven litigation.

This nominee, at every turn, has taken the left fork in the road, to the point of being in the ditch. As a lawyer, she sued a Florida community that was trying to protect children from sexual predators by having requirements of notice but also being away from schools certain distances, and she sued the community basically claiming that was unfair to the sexual abuser.

It is moments like this that should be a wake-up call for this body. Her record as an advocate is not just representing liberal causes, but the rhetoric used and the arguments made convinced me in committee that this is an activist on steroids.

I have tried to work with my Democratic colleagues, voting for circuit and district court judges, understanding that Democrats would pick someone I would not choose. That is the way the system works. But, in this case, it was a partisan vote. Not one Republican voted for this nominee, and her record, I think, is one of activism and stridency that will, in my view, shape her time as a judge and shape the court in a way that is inconsistent with the rule of law as I know it.

So to my Democratic colleagues, you have confirmed this nominee, but I am sure this is not the last we will hear about Ms. Abudu.

Today, it was announced that Rachael Rollins, the U.S. Attorney for Massachusetts, is going to resign, I think. She is under investigation for unethical behavior and using her office for revenge.

She is one of the few and may be the only U.S. attorney that I voted against in this Congress. There may have been one other. But it was pretty obvious to those of us on the committee that the warning signs regarding Ms. Rollins were rampant and that we were buying a problem.

The point I am trying to make to my colleagues is, after we changed the

rules of confirmation—you don't need one vote from the other side if you have the majority, and there will come a day, maybe, when we find ourselves in that situation—I always have worried that doing away with the collaborative process to get a nominee to move forward—judges or U.S. attorneys—is going to create a problem where you are down to picking people who have the most vocal support from the most active, extreme elements in both parties. And I think this is a case: Exhibit A, Ms. Rollins.

And to my colleagues, all of us are going to have to understand that I respect the home State Senators' ability to nominate district court judges. The blue slip process I will honor for district court judges, U.S. attorneys. But it puts pressure on us to up our game, and Ms. Rollins I voted against in committee, and it was obvious that our concerns were justified.

Mr. Delaney, nominated for the First Judicial Circuit, performed poorly in the committee. He represented a private school that was sued for allowing sexual harassment to be unchecked and to be covered up.

It is OK to represent unpopular causes. Everybody needs a lawyer. But his answers about how he engaged one of the plaintiffs—a minor at the time—were terrible, and it seems to me that he should have been better prepared. He had a lot of support from people in New Hampshire, some on our side of the aisle. But I guess my point is that you have to be prepared to answer hard questions, and Mr. Delaney was woefully unprepared.

And to my colleagues on the Republican side, I think you have done a very good job of asking hard, relevant questions to the nominees before our committee, and we have had a lot of bipartisan support for judges, and we have had some opposition.

As to moving forward, I hope the White House will prepare these nominees better—a basic understanding of the Constitution, of a litigant practice, basic concepts of the law, like Brady motions, and just how the Constitution is set up. That is not too much to ask the people who want to be a judge for the rest of their life.

So, to the White House, this process needs to change. You need to up your game. Your goal, I think, should be to try to find people who some of us can vote for on the Republican side and, when they get in front of the committee, make a good impression. I am not saying we did it all right on our side when we were in charge. There are probably examples where we didn't. But I tried to make sure that some people who were nominated didn't make it because some of us on the Republican side said no.

There are more than a handful of judges coming out of the committee that I think should not be on the bench, and I say that with the understanding that my inclination is to vote for judges nominated by the other side,

assuming that that is what I would like to have happen when it comes our turn—that if we all vote against the other party's judges, then you are going to put the judiciary in a world of hurt if you have a President of one party and a Senate made up of the other. And that is sort of—we will be there one day, and given the behavior of the body, I don't know how we deal with that.

But between now and then, I am hoping that there will be more serious deliberation by colleagues on the Democratic side to make sure that the people we are putting forward can answer basic questions. And sometimes, maybe, we ask bad questions, but I don't believe that the questions being asked of these nominees are unfair. And it just is stunning that people have been in the law as long as some of these nominees have and can't answer the basics.

So this idea that you are going to come through the Judiciary Committee and not be asked hard, relevant questions, I hope that has gone by the wayside. The idea that I will support Democratic nominees is real up to a point. And there have been several of us on this side who have probably voted for more Democratic nominees than we have opposed, and I would try to continue to honor the process.

I want to keep the blue slip in place. I am asking colleagues from red States to work with the White House to see if they can find consensus. When I was chairman, there was a lot of pressure on me to do away with the blue slip so we could nominate anybody we wanted to at the district court level. If you had two Democratic Senators in the State, the blue slip would go away; we could nominate anybody we wanted to.

I think that is bad for the Senate, and I think that, over time, would be bad for the judiciary. I didn't change the process; I don't want it changed now. And I do expect us on the Republican side to collaborate with the White House and find consensus where you can.

But, having said that, the last several months have sort of been a disaster for the committee in the sense that people are not prepared, and you are picking folks who really shouldn't have lifetime appointments, from my point of view. And we can pass them all on party lines and make this problem worse, or you can get a handful of Democrats to do what I have done in the past: not only vote yes but sometimes say no.

And Mr. Delaney, I think, will probably fall by the wayside. And I say that with no animosity toward him. I just think that is the right outcome here. So if that does happen, I would want to applaud the White House for understanding that sometimes you can't go beyond what the market would bear.

I have shown a disposition and a willingness to work with you, but the recent nominee we just passed is way out of the mainstream, and I am hoping

that we can get back on track and have nominees come before the committee who are prepared to make it, quite frankly, easier to find consensus. And if that doesn't happen, we are going to have less consensus. And there are a handful of nominees waiting to come to the floor whom I would vigorously oppose because I think they are not qualified.

So, with that, Mr. President, I wish you a great break and hope we can go home and do our business at home and abroad—wherever that takes us—and come back safely.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The majority leader.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as I mentioned earlier, negotiations continue making progress. As Speaker MCCARTHY says, he expects the House will vote next week if an agreement is reached, and the Senate would begin consideration after that. Members should be aware and be able to return to the Senate within a 24-hour period to fulfill our responsibilities to avoid default. But I also want to take a moment to talk about some of the work the Senate has made progress on recently in the last work period.

Over this work period, the Senate confirmed more than seven district court judges and three new circuit court judges—Bradley Garcia, Anthony Johnstone, and Nancy Abudu—confirmed earlier this afternoon to serve a lifetime appointment on the Eleventh Circuit that represents Florida, Georgia, and Alabama.

Ms. Abudu's appointment to the bench is barrier-breaking. She will be the first Black woman to preside on the Eleventh Circuit, and her circuit is home to nearly 8 million—8 million—Black Americans, including the Presiding Officer's great State.

We have a duty to ensure that Federal judges are individuals of the highest caliber, and that includes appointing judges from a wide variety of personal and professional backgrounds. Ms. Abudu meets that higher standard, and she will serve admirably on the bench.

With the confirmation of Ms. Abudu, the Senate has now confirmed 129 judges under President Biden—129.

Elsewhere, the Senate passed the bipartisan Fire Grants and Safety Act so firefighters can better afford lifesaving equipment and personnel, particularly in smaller, more rural, and more suburban areas, where the equipment is harder to find and harder to afford.

Senators also reintroduced the SAFE Banking Act to enable cannabis businesses to access critical banking structures. Just last week, the Banking Committee held its first hearing on this legislation. And I will also work to make sure we include criminal justice provisions to SAFE Banking.

Last week, the Commerce Committee moved on the bipartisan Railway Safety Act out of committee. I will work

with Senators on both sides, including Senators BROWN and VANCE, the two lead sponsors, as well as CASEY and FETTERMAN, also sponsors, to bring the Railway Safety Act for a vote soon.

I will likewise work with my colleagues on efforts to make prescription drugs more affordable, including insulin. Last week, the HELP Committee advanced significant drug reforms, and it is my hope this process will continue to move forward in a bipartisan manner and will enable us to lower the cost of prescription drugs, particularly insulin.

This work period, I joined with colleagues and committee chairs to announce the next steps in the Senate's effort to outcompete the Chinese Government and preserve America's global leadership in the 21st century. Last week, the Commerce Committee marked up bipartisan legislation on the U.S. semiconductor supply chains, and, this week, the Appropriations Committee held a bipartisan hearing on investments to outcompete the Chinese Government. The House Government Affairs Committee also marked up several bills on security and competitiveness. Our committees will continue working on various efforts on this issue during the next work period. Outcompeting the Chinese Government will be one of the great challenges of our generation, and we must be clear-eyed and act accordingly.

So this has been a busy stretch for the Senate on a number of different fronts: more judges, progress with Fire Grants, SAFE Banking, Rail Safety, competing with the Chinese Government, prescription drug reform, and a whole host of important issues.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL CASASCO

Mr. President, now I wish to thank and honor a longtime employee of the Senate Recording Studio who is retiring today after nearly four decades, Paul Casasco.

Paul, for all we know, this is your last day, but you are very diligent. You may be recording this right now. If you are, hi, Paul. We love you.

Paul is the senior audio operator for the Senate Chamber. His tenure dates back to the first days when the Senate proceedings were televised, back in 1986. Paul witnessed the history and literally made history happen by using video to expand public access to the Senate in ways we had never seen before.

From helping install the cameras here in this Chamber to operating nearly every piece of production equipment, to broadcasting everything from floor activity to committee hearings, Paul has played an essential role in broadcasting the work of the Senate to the public. In a very real way, Paul's work has given the American people a front-row seat to the Senate, allowing them to hear every word, every speech, every debate.

So, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, we thank Paul for his many years of service to this Chamber and congratulate

him on a well-earned retirement, and wish him and his family the very best.

TRIBUTE TO LANE BODIAN

Mr. President, one more retirement, one deeply meaningful to me—Lane Bodian, affectionately known as Corporal Bodian. I don't know why that happened, but it did. I have nicknames for a lot of the people I care about on my staff.

Lane has done an amazing, amazing job covering foreign policy for me for over a decade. He is so smart. He is so level-headed. He is so dedicated. When he comes up with ideas, I almost always say: This is exactly the right way to go.

When there is trouble brewing in foreign policy areas, Lane seems to find the best ways to try and solve those problems and ease the tensions that we have seen throughout the world.

In addition to his hard work, to his diligence, to his dedication, and to his deep intelligence and thoughtfulness, he is a nice guy. Everyone loves Lane. He is decent. He is smart. He is caring.

Lane, I know you are going on to bigger and better things. Many on my staff do after long tenures, I am happy to say. This one, I think, is 11 years or 12 years. We wish you the best. But you will always, always, always be a dear friend to the Schumer family and a member of the greater Schumer family, our staff. We stick together. We watch each other. We care for each other long after people leave, and you are going to long be part of it. So, Lane, Godspeed. You are the greatest.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN219 AIR FORCE nomination of Nathan J. Powell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2023.

PN552 AIR FORCE nomination of Christine B. Olivares, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN597 AIR FORCE nominations (28) beginning FRANCISCA A. ALAKA LAMPTON, and ending VICTORIA M. WEIGER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN598 AIR FORCE nominations (51) beginning BRITNEY M. ALONZO, and ending

JUSTIN MATTHEW WOODS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN600 AIR FORCE nominations (146) beginning MARIA L. ADAMS, and ending MITCHELL H. YUAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN601 AIR FORCE nominations (239) beginning MICHAEL A. ADAMS, II, and ending PHILLIP A. ZENCEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PG639 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning with THOMAS A. BIEDIGER, and ending with RYAN D. NUDI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

PN553 ARMY nomination of Gilberto Deleon, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN554 ARMY nomination of Bradley M. Mravik, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN555 ARMY nomination of Justin L. Purvis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN556 ARMY nomination of John J. Adams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN610 ARMY nomination of Paul M. Tobin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN611 ARMY nominations (207) beginning JON P. ALEXANDER, and ending ADAM M. ZIHAR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN612 ARMY nominations (51) beginning DAVID J. ADAMS, and ending BRIAN H. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN613 ARMY nominations (244) beginning STEFAN E. ADAMCIK, and ending ANDREW D. ZUPFER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN616 ARMY nominations (6) beginning TONY B. FEARS, and ending MICHAEL S. SHARP, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN640 ARMY nomination of Ryan R. Pommier, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2023.

PN641 ARMY nomination of Sebastian A. Coates, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2023.

PN642 ARMY nomination of James M. Caldwell, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 9, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN247 MARINE CORPS nominations (41) beginning RYAN K. ALDRICH, and ending JEFFREY W. WONG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2023.

PN249 MARINE CORPS nomination of Steven M. Angeline, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record January 26, 2023.

PN557 MARINE CORPS nomination of Bradley B. Keller, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN558 MARINE CORPS nomination of Nicholas B. Staiton, which was received by

the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN617 MARINE CORPS nomination of Joseph P. Ball, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN618 MARINE CORPS nomination of Mark J. Deal, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

PN352 NAVY nomination of Richard C. Eytel, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN479 NAVY nomination of David Wagenborg, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN525 NAVY nomination of James O. Samman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN576 NAVY nomination of Charles G. Emond, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 25, 2023.

PN635 NAVY nomination of Cassandra D. Thompson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

PN636 NAVY nomination of Arron J. Wilson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 4, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

COMPREHENSIVE POLICING AND JUSTICE AMENDMENT ACT

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today as the Senate considers this week the resolution to rescind the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Amendment Act, passed by the DC City Council on January 19, 2023.

As a general matter, I believe that the people of Washington, DC, and their elected representatives should have the autonomy to govern themselves. For years, I have cosponsored and fought to pass the Washington D.C. Admission Act, which would admit the District of Columbia as a state.

I have also long supported funding for the police, as well as reforms, to help ensure that our justice system works for everyone. That includes being the lead sponsor of the COPS Reauthorization Act to provide Federal funding to law enforcement departments across the country to hire and retain police officers. I also support police reform measures focused on holding officers who break the law accountable for misconduct, increasing transparency in police practices, and improving police conduct and training.

The DC City Council's bill included many changes to strengthen accountability measures and improve conduct, including reforms to prevent the use of chokeholds, limit the use of force, and expand the use of de-escalation tactics. The bill also takes steps to prevent officers who have committed serious acts of misconduct or were fired for disciplinary reasons from serving on the DC police force. I support these efforts, which is why I oppose the resolution.

It is also important to note that the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Amendment Act does not include changes to qualified immunity. As Congressman JIM CLYBURN has said, as we work toward common ground on police reform, we cannot "sacrifice good on the altar of perfect" and let disagreements about qualified immunity stand in the way of reform. The men and women in law enforcement who risk their lives every single day must have the confidence to make split-second decisions that can make the difference between life and death. I would not support this measure if changes to qualified immunity were made that put law enforcement officers who act in good faith at risk.

While there are a significant number of critical reforms included in DC's police reform bill, I am not in agreement with the provisions that prevent the unions that represent DC police officers from including disciplinary procedures in their collective bargaining agreements. All other unions that represent public servants in the District of Columbia negotiate for fair disciplinary proceedings, and while police officers serve a unique role that requires oversight, we should not deny police unions the same opportunity. The DC Council should ensure that police officers who break the law are held accountable, but it should not do so by undermining the right of law enforcement to collectively negotiate.

I also think changes could be made to provisions that set a fixed timetable for the release of data related to incidents involving the use of force. Law enforcement, working with City officials, should have some measure of flexibility to determine the appropriate timing for releasing information to protect public safety.

It is my hope that DC government officials will address these issues as they continue to work with law enforcement and other interested parties to make needed reforms to their justice system.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I would like to applaud the Senate's passage of S. Res. 203, a resolution recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month. This resolution is an important reminder of the numerous contributions of Jewish Americans to our society.

I have long felt connected to the Jewish values of "tzedakah" and "chesed,"

values that, at their core, speak about justice, decency, kindness, and mercy. I would not be where I am today if it were not for the Jewish Americans who embodied these values, people like Rabbi Heschel, who marched side-by-side with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and demanded equality and justice, or leaders like Rabbi Joachim Prinz, who fled Berlin in 1937, moved to Newark, NJ, and was one of five people who spoke before Dr. King at the March on Washington. Rabbi Prinz's entire speech was focused on helping people understand that one of the most urgent challenges we face in society is silence, silence in the face of injustice. Because of the leadership of so many Jewish Americans, who refused to be silent and decided to act, we were able to move the moral arc of this Nation towards justice.

So I stand here in the Senate incredibly proud to represent vibrant Jewish communities across New Jersey. And I stand here, at a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise, to speak out against this hate that violates our most commonly held values. We all have a responsibility to stamp out anti-Semitism and remind ourselves that our diversity strengthens the society and culture of the United States.

S. Res. 203 does just that by honoring and celebrating the incredible history of the Jewish people in the United States and their contributions to our country, and I strongly support this resolution's passage.

TRIBUTE TO THE COVENANT SCHOOL OF NASHVILLE FIRST RESPONDERS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, this National Police Week, along with my colleague Senator HAGERTY, I would like to honor the unbelievably courageous officers of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department.

On March 27, a depraved individual attacked the Covenant School in Nashville, TN, and took the lives of 9-year-old Evelyn Dieckhaus, 9-year-old Hallie Scruggs, 9-year-old William Kinney, substitute teacher Cynthia Peak, custodian Mike Hill, and Dr. Katherine Koonce. Just minutes after receiving the emergency call, a group of dedicated officers arrived on the scene and immediately rushed toward the danger. Their unflinching courage and decisive action under fire allowed them to eliminate the threat against this gentle community just minutes after it began and saved countless lives.

Violence against children and their caretakers is an act of unspeakable evil that strikes at the heart of our purpose as parents, grandparents, neighbors, brothers and sisters in Christ, and community protectors. But even in the face of such tremendous loss, Nashvillians find comfort in the knowledge that uncommonly brave men and women have dedicated their lives to protecting us from harm. On behalf of all Tennesseans, I thank Officer Rex Engelbert, Detective Mike

Collazo, Detective Zachary Plese, Detective Ryan Cagle, and Detective Sergeant Jeffery Mathes for their incredible bravery on behalf of the students and teachers at The Covenant School. They showed true professionalism, courage, and selflessness—which is the very definition of heroism. I also recognize and honor Chief John Drake for his steady presence and clarity of mind on that terrible day.

During times of overwhelming fear and uncertainty, the people of the Volunteer State look to their leaders not only for swift action but for comfort and reassurance. The brave men and women in blue who put their lives on the line every day to protect our communities deserve all the admiration, gratitude, and support we can offer, and I am so honored to represent them here in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. HAGERTY. I thank Senator BLACKBURN.

Mr. President, I join Senator BLACKBURN today to honor the heroic, lifesaving actions by Officer Rex Engelbert of Nashville, TN; Detective Michael Collazo of Smyrna, TN; Detective Sergeant Jeffery Mathes of Nashville, TN; Detective Ryan Cagle of Charlotte, TN; and Detective Zachary Plese of Nashville, TN. These dedicated officers showed exceptional courage by putting their lives on the line to save others.

On March 27, 2023, an unspeakable tragedy took place at The Covenant School in Nashville, TN. A cowardly and depraved murderer's gruesome actions took six innocent lives—including those of three 9-year-old children. I join the families affected, the Nashville community, Tennesseans across our State, and millions of Americans in mourning this heartbreaking and outrageous act of evil.

What is unmistakably clear is the incredible bravery and heroism of the first responders, who prevented this tragedy from being even worse.

Officer Engelbert, Detective Collazo, Detective Sergeant Mathes, Detective Cagle, and Detective Plese, nobly and without hesitation, rushed into an active shooter situation at The Covenant School. Released body camera and surveillance footage shows that these officers confronted and eliminated the lethal threat within a mere 3 minutes.

The rapid response and swift assessments of the emergency not only underscore the strength of their training, but also their bravery as they quickly entered the school despite obvious risks to their own safety. Their actions likely saved countless lives.

I echo the words of Governor Bill Lee when I say, "Gratitude doesn't begin to cover it."

Today, we honor the heroic actions of Officer Engelbert, Detective Collazo, Detective Sergeant Mathes, Detective Cagle, Detective Plese, and the other brave first responders who rushed to the aid of strangers, putting others before themselves that day. I join Tennesseans and all Americans to express our heartfelt gratitude.

U.N. GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, this week, May 15–21, 2023, marks U.N. Global Road Safety Week, with a focus this year on sustainable transport. As governments look to tackle the issues of climate change, some of the answers lie in making it easier for people to walk, cycle, and use public transport as a way to navigate our cities, but in order to do that, we need to prioritize making these options safer. I recognize the tremendous contributions of our partner organizations in this global effort, including the Association for Safe International Road Travel ASIRT.

More than 1 million people die from road crashes every year, and tens of millions are seriously injured. Road traffic crashes are leading cause of death among young people between the ages of 15 and 29 and the eighth among all people worldwide. It is time to draw attention to the need for improved legislation, awareness, infrastructure, and technology to save more families from the tragedy of losing a loved one.

On this seventh anniversary of U.N. Global Road Safety Week, it is critical to recommit to the goals of raising awareness about road safety and the importance of taking steps to end these preventable deaths. The World Health Organization, in collaboration with partners including governments, NGOs, businesses, and individuals, organizes periodic U.N. Global Safety Weeks. It was initiated in 2007 and, as of 2019, has become an annual event.

In September 2020, the U.N. General Assembly announced the ambitious goal of halving road deaths within 10 years through the adoption of the resolution "Improving global road safety," proclaiming the Decade of Action for Road Safety from 2021–2030. The Global Plan for the Decade of Action provides a roadmap for achieving these goals through improving the design of roads and vehicles, enhancing laws and enforcement of road safety measures, and providing timely and lifesaving emergency care for those injured. Using these policies can help promote walking, cycling, and public transit. Additionally, the U.N. Sustainable Development Goal 3.6 calls on governments and their stakeholders, including NGOs and private citizens, to address the personal, medical, and financial burdens associated with road traffic deaths and injuries.

We must improve the safety of our roads for all who wish to use them, be it for walking, cycling, or driving. As we continue to shift towards more sustainable modes of transit, it is imperative that our laws enable us to curb dangerous behaviors and keep people safe. It is our responsibility to protect our citizens through designing road networks with the most at-risk in mind, and doing the utmost to prevent untimely death or injury due to crashes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WADE LITTON

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Mr. Wade Litton of Greenwood, MS, for his service and contributions to the State of Mississippi while serving as the 87th president of Delta Council.

Organized in 1935, Delta Council plays an important role in uniting agricultural, business, and economic development leadership to solve problems and promote greater opportunities in the Mississippi Delta region, which encompasses 19 counties in northwest Mississippi. Mr. Litton has worked tirelessly this year to advance the priorities of Delta Council, including healthcare, farm policy, economic development, flood control, and education. He is also the third generation of his family to serve as president of Delta Council.

Mr. Litton is the chief executive officer of Wade, Inc., a fourth-generation company that operates 14 John Deere dealerships in the Mississippi Delta. As a businessman, Mr. Litton and his company are at the forefront of evolving farm technology tools that enable producers to become more efficient and productive. Mr. Litton's priorities in leading Delta Council have been to continue the work of the organization and to build stronger relationships with the people of the Delta to help improve the economy and quality of life for all citizens. He is deeply involved in industrial and community development, including the Delta Strong regional economic development association. Mr. Litton assumed the role of Delta Council president during unprecedented times characterized by rising inflation, rural healthcare disruptions, the after effects of the global coronavirus pandemic, and a multitude of other challenges. Wade Litton has been a steady and calm leader over this past year and has contributed his vast knowledge and service to many critical issues during his tenure as president.

Outside of his time spent running his business and serving Delta Council, Mr. Litton contributes his time to many other important organizations. He serves as a commissioner for Greenwood Utilities, a member of the Young Presidents' Organization, and is involved with the Greenwood-Leflore Chamber of Commerce, the Greenwood United Way, the Boys and Girls Club of Leflore County, the Agribusiness Industry Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, and the Greenwood Rotary Club. He is also a youth soccer and baseball coach. Mr. Litton, his wife Meagan, and his three children Kennan, Robert, and Elizabeth are members of the First Presbyterian Church, where he serves as an elder.

It is my pleasure to join the citizens of the great State of Mississippi in expressing our appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Wade Litton and in sharing these good wishes with his family. His

years of service and leadership have undoubtedly contributed to the overall success of this highly respected 88-year-old organization, Delta Council.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM DESHAY ENGLISH

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life and legacy of William “Bill” Deshay English, an Alaskan who passed away on January 11, 2023. The stories of Mr. English’s remarkable life began on a dog sled in a remote part of our State during the cold, snowy depths of winter. After seeing a “giant mosquito” buzzing in the sky as a child, he saw his passion and would go on to become a pilot.

Alaska prides itself as the “flyingest state” in the Nation and it is individuals like Bill English who pioneered that reputation. Even today, nearly 80 percent of our communities are not connected to the road system, so we rely on exceptional pilots to keep Alaskans safe as we travel across some of the most rugged terrain on the planet. Bill English was one of the best. Across more than 36,000 hours of commercial flight, he maintained a perfect safety record. That led to his selection as an Alaska Living Aviator Legend in 2012 and his induction into the Alaska Aviation Hall of Fame 2 years later.

A celebration of life was held for Mr. English in Anchorage last week, where guests shared stories and pictures of his life, including his service to our Nation during World War II, his flying adventures, and his acts of kindness. I join Mr. English’s family and friends in mourning his loss, while remembering his quintessentially Alaskan life and the nearly 100 years he contributed to our beautiful State.

Mr. President, I request that Bill English’s obituary be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

OBITUARY FOR WILLIAM DESHAY ENGLISH

William (Bill) Deshay English’s life began on January 31, 1923, with an often-told and much-loved story. After going into labor, Bill’s mother, Agorak, mushed her dog team into the dead of night and subzero temperatures. She was embarked on a harrowing ten-mile journey from her home in Wiseman, Alaska to Coldfoot where the region’s only midwife resided. Charged with running the general store, Bill’s father, William Sr., stayed behind in Wiseman while he awaited the arrival of his newborn son. When Agorak drove her team back to Wiseman with infant Bill wrapped in furs, his father’s worry burst into a celebration throughout the remote, scenic Arctic village on the banks of the Koyukuk River. It was here that Bill spent his childhood as a happy, active village kid.

During the late 1920s, aviator Noel Wien made an historic excursion above the Arctic Circle in his open cockpit biplane, landing on a gravel bar near Wiseman. Young Bill was entranced by the “giant mosquito” buzzing in the sky, a fascination that would eventually turn into a deep passion for the art of flying and a dream of becoming a pilot.

When Bill reached adolescence, his parents sent him to live with his father’s family in California. Despite the culture shock, Bill

excelled academically and developed a passion for track and field. He found that sports offered a way for him to connect with his peers despite coming from a very different background. He graduated from high school in California, after which he returned to Fairbanks and enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving from 1943–1945. Following World War II, Bill was able to pursue his childhood dream of becoming a pilot. He quickly earned his license and applied to work for the very same man, Noel Wien, who had inspired his dream two decades earlier.

In 1948, Bill married Shirley Nelson, a Seattle-native who moved to Fairbanks in 1946 to study English at UAF. Their romance began when Shirley, watching the planes land at Weeks Field in Fairbanks, spotted Bill, clad in caribou mukluks made by his mother, stepping out of his Cessna 140. Love blossomed, and the two would develop an enduring bond that would last 72 years and lead to three children, Sharon (1949), Bill Jr. (1950), and Tamara (1968).

After joining Wien Airlines in 1946, Bill became one of the first Native Alaskan commercial pilots and began a 37-year career as Captain that would take him to the far reaches of Alaska and eventually to a seat on Wien’s board of directors. Along the way, he became the first Native Alaskan pilot to earn an Airline Transport Rating and the first to serve as an FAA examiner. He retired with more than 36,000 hours of commercial flight and a perfect safety record.

During his early tenure at Wien in Fairbanks, Bill helped promote the World Eskimo-Indian Olympics and became its first Master of Ceremonies—a position he proudly served in through the early 1970s. After Bill retired from Wien in 1983, an Anchorage businessman seeking a sure, experienced pilot with solid credentials hired Bill to fly his private jet, a Lockheed Jet Star, around the globe.

Bill was a huge proponent of lifelong education. In his middle-aged years, he earned a Bachelor’s in Business Administration degree with a major in Transportation from the University of Washington. He understood the economic and political influence that ANCSA corporations possessed to advance the education and well-being of Native Alaskan youth. In his retirement, he served on the CIRI Board of Directors and the Cook Inlet Housing Authority Board.

For his long and dedicated career in which he contributed to the evolution, growth, and safety of aviation in Alaska, he was honored in 2012 as an Alaska Living Aviator Legend, and in 2014, was formally inducted into the Alaska Aviation Hall of Fame. In response, he spoke with humility and gratitude for the support he received from fellow Alaskans throughout his life. He was grateful for the opportunity to give back to the State, communities, and people who had made possible the flying career he loved.

Bill passed peacefully on January 11, 2023—nearly 100 years after that first ride in a dog sled. He was at home in Anchorage, surrounded by his loved ones. He will be remembered for his good-natured humor, quiet energy, curiosity, and the enduring peace with which he moved through the world. He will be dearly missed.

He is predeceased by his parents William and Agorak, sister Dishoo, his wife Shirley, and daughter Tamara. He is survived by his daughter Sharon and son Bill Jr., grandchildren Gretta and Wiley; numerous relatives in the Kotzebue area and in the Oakland, California area.

Bill’s family is eternally grateful to the many individuals and organizations who helped care for Bill and Shirley in their final months including the Providence Hospice team, Alzheimer’s Resource of Alaska, and Veterans Affairs of Alaska.●

RECOGNIZING LA RAZA

● Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I rise to commend La Raza radio station for its service to the Latino community in Georgia.

Based in Suwanee, GA, La Raza is the largest Latino radio station in Georgia, informing more than 1 million Latinos throughout the State. The station hosts numerous popular radio shows, including Los Hijos de La Manana, that provide all-day news and entertainment for Latinos across Georgia. Every year, La Raza also hosts a family-friendly festival, bringing nearly 50,000 community members together from across the State to enjoy performances and authentic Mexican food.

As Georgia’s U.S. Senator, I recognize and commend La Raza’s 19 years of service to Latino communities in Atlanta and throughout the entire State of Georgia. ●

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL JAMES BONNER

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of MG James Bonner of the U.S. Army. Tomorrow, he will relinquish command after nearly three years of leadership at the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence and Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

During Major General Bonner’s tenure, he demonstrated dedicated leadership and played a crucial role in training approximately 240,000 soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen, coast guardsmen, and civilians at Fort Leonard Wood. Major General Bonner worked diligently to emphasize the critical mission of the Army and Fort Leonard Wood in regional middle schools, high schools, and universities. He also tirelessly advocated for the fort and its surrounding community, expanding partnerships with local, State, and Federal leaders. Throughout his time, he hosted numerous elected officials, including the Missouri Governor, the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Sergeant Major of the Army, and the Marine Corps Commandant. During each visit, Major General Bonner ensured these strategic leaders witnessed the unique and irreplaceable capabilities and competencies on display at Fort Leonard Wood.

In fact, I had the opportunity to personally witness Major General Bonner’s leadership last week when I visited Fort Leonard Wood. My main focus was to meet with military families residing on the installation and discuss ways to improve their quality of life. Major General Bonner joined me during these visits, and I could clearly see his genuine care and concern for the families under his command.

Recognizing Major General Bonner’s exceptional talent, the Army has selected him to become the commanding general of U.S. Army North, where he will lead the Army’s efforts to defend the homeland. After 3 years of commanding the finest CBRNE, engineer,

and military police soldiers in the Army, I believe there is no one more qualified for this role. I express my gratitude to Major General Bonner for his dedicated service to the soldiers and families of the Fort Leonard Wood community and extend my best wishes for his future endeavors. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to MG Christopher Beck, who will assume command tomorrow. I am committed to continuing my support for the Fort Leonard Wood community and those who train there.●

TRIBUTE TO MARC ROECKER

● Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from Missouri, Mr. Marc Roecker. Marc is CEO and general manager of Laclede Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Lebanon, MO, and will be retiring from this position at the end of May. For nearly 42 years, Marc has been a leader in Rural Electric Cooperatives both in Iowa and Missouri.

Over the past 10 years as CEO and general manager, Marc has overseen a significant amount of growth, implemented many technological improvements, and helped navigate the twists and turns of the economy, and he has done it all with a steady hand. He has been a great leader and a great friend of the Ozarks region.

In his community, Marc was selected to serve on the Fort Leonard Wood Institute and Sustainable Ozarks Partnership at Fort Leonard Wood. These groups are focused on fostering the region's continued commitment to national defense and advocating for local and regional development initiatives, as well as the sustainment and growth of Fort Leonard Wood. Marc is a strong advocate for supporting the men and women who serve our country in the Armed Forces, both past and present.

Leading up to his retirement, Marc has been asked what he will miss the most. In response, he says he will miss the people he has met over the years: members, employees, board directors, and colleagues alike. He said there is something very special about being a part of an electric cooperative and working with people who are so committed to serving their members.

Laclede Electric Cooperative and the Ozarks region are incredibly grateful for Marc's dedication to the electric industry and Rural Electric Cooperatives. His selfless service to his community is an incredible example of citizenship, and they are all fortunate to call him a neighbor and friend. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Marc Roecker, and I wish him the best in his much-deserved retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO ABIGAIL JOHNSON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Abigail Johnson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of

the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Abigail is a graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where she is pursuing degrees in political science and psychology. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Abigail for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 12:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 42. Joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022.

The enrolled joint resolution was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

At 12:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2494. An act to make the assault of a law enforcement officer a deportable offense, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3091. An act to allow Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired service weapons, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 114(b) of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2. U.S.C. 1103), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees for the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development for a term of 6 years: Mr. Trent Kelly of Saltillo, Mississippi.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 2494. An act to make the assault of a law enforcement officer a deportable offense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3091. An act to allow Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired service weapons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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-1224. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ledprona (CAS# 2433753-68-3) for Use in or on Potato; Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 10947-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1225. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Aspergillus Flavus Strain AF36; Amendment to an Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 10871-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1226. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cyflufenamid; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 10880-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1227. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fomesafen; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10908-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1228. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Implementing Interagency Working Group (IWG) Recommendations on Improving the Consultation Process Required Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for Pesticide Registration and Registration Review"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1229. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal to amend Sections 3232 and 3212 of the National Nuclear Security Administration Act to transfer cybersecurity responsibilities from the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Office of Defense Nuclear Security to the NNSA Administrator; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1230. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal that would make it a federal crime to knowingly interfere with the transport of atomic weapons and special nuclear material, nuclear weapons components, or restricted data in the custody of Nuclear Materials Couriers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1231. 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 Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1232. 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-1233. 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-1234. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Facilitating the LIBOR Transition Consistent with the LIBOR Act (Regulation Z)" (RIN3170-AB19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1235. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (Regulation F); Time-Barred Debt" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 10, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1236. 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 Angola; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1237. A communication from the Chair and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bank's annual report on its operations for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-1238. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria that was declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM-19. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington respectfully urging the United States Congress to pass and the President of the United States to sign H.R. 3339 or similar legislation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 8001

Whereas, The American society of civil engineers in its 2021 infrastructure report card rated the current state of infrastructure in the United States at C-minus and indicated that \$6.1 trillion would be needed to restore the nation's infrastructure to a state of good repair; and

Whereas, The American society of civil engineers stated that newer projects and over \$2.62 trillion worth of corrective projects are currently unfunded, and the remaining projects are not adequately funded; and

Whereas, Congress took step forward in 2021 passing the Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act, providing \$1.2 trillion in transportation investments, but it does not come close to meeting the current need reported by the American society of civil engineers; and

Whereas, The American society of civil engineers' Seattle, Tacoma-Olympia, and Inland Empire sections in 2019 rated the current state of infrastructure in Washington at C, with drinking water, roads, transit, stormwater, and wastewater receiving a rating of C-minus or worse; and

Whereas, Washington's cities, counties, ports, and business associations in a 2019 re-

port identified more than \$222 billion in infrastructure needs throughout Washington including highways, bridges, freight rail, ports, airports, rural broadband, and energy; and

Whereas, Washington needs financing capacity to build 21st Century infrastructure, including high-speed rail, renewable energy conversion, public housing, and other projects, but many new and visionary projects will not be able to secure funding through traditional commercial investment banking processes and will remain unfunded; and

Whereas, A new national infrastructure bank could directly aid in fostering an economic recovery and build necessary infrastructure projects; and

Whereas, U.S. Representative Danny Davis on May 19, 2021, introduced legislation in Congress, H.R. 3339, to establish a new \$5 trillion national infrastructure bank authorized to invest solely in infrastructure projects; and

Whereas, The new national infrastructure bank is modeled on four previous institutions created, respectively, by Presidents George Washington, John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, which helped spur massive economic growth; and

Whereas, The new national infrastructure bank would be funded through a repurposing of existing treasury debt, as was done previously in the United States, and would require no new federal spending; and

Whereas, The new national infrastructure bank could directly finance much of our nation's infrastructure, in partnership with state and local officials, and lead to the re-employment of people who have lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

Whereas, The new national infrastructure bank will supplement, not supplant, the good work of the Infrastructure Improvement and Jobs Act and allow us to fully invest in our future while creating an estimated 25 million new jobs paying Davis-Bacon wages; and

Whereas, The new national infrastructure bank would ensure project labor agreements for all projects and buy American provisions also while awarding a significant number of contracts to disadvantaged business enterprises and mandating large-scale minority hiring; and

Whereas, The new national infrastructure bank is expected to grow the economy by four to five percent each year; and

Whereas, Some 14 state legislatures and numerous county and city governments have introduced or passed resolutions in support of the new national infrastructure bank, and it has been endorsed by organizations including the national association of counties, the U.S. high-speed rail association, the national Latino farmers and ranchers, the national congress of black women, the national federation of federal employees, the public banking institute, the American sustainable business council, the national association of minority contractors, and many others;

Now, Therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that Congress pass and the President sign H.R. 3339 or similar legislation.

Be it *Resolved*, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. VANCE (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1670. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the TRICARE program for certain members of the Retired Reserve of the reserve components; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1671. A bill to establish a new Federal body to provide reasonable oversight and regulation of digital platforms; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 1672. A bill to require officers and employees of the legislative and executive branches to make certain disclosures related to communications with information content providers and interactive computer services regarding restricting speech; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1673. A bill to amend title XVIII to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1674. A bill to provide for better security and accountability with respect to the strategic and non-strategic nuclear arsenals of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 1675. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 with respect to the Acer access and development program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. SUL-LIVAN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 1676. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to provide mandatory funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation for reimbursement payments to geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1677. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1678. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reauthorize the high technology program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1679. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to postpone tax deadlines and reimburse paid late fees for United

States nationals who are unlawfully or wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1680. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of State firearm ownership databases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LUMMIS:

S. 1681. A bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act with respect to claims relating to uranium mining; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1682. A bill to amend subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, regarding prevalent wage determinations in order to expand access to affordable housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF:

S. 1683. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct a comprehensive study on child safety in aviation; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1684. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a vehicle summer meal delivery pilot program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 1685. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a consortium relating to exposures to toxic substances and identifying chemicals that are safe to use; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 1686. A bill to establish a community disaster assistance fund for housing and community development and to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide, from the fund, assistance through a community development block grant disaster recovery program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1687. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1688. A bill to require certain grantees under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1975 to submit a plan to track discriminatory land use policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1689. A bill to prioritize efforts of the Department of State to combat international trafficking in precursor chemicals and covered synthetic drugs with the Government of Mexico, to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to persons of the People's Republic of China contributing

to international proliferation of illicit drugs or their means of production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 1690. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish a Good Steward Cover Crop program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1691. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the enrollment of retiring individuals in the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 1692. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for payments to certain individuals who dye fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1693. A bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize Forest Service flexible partnerships; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 1694. A bill to abolish the Federal Insurance Office of the Department of the Treasury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1695. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to issuers of American infrastructure bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 1696. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to establish a pilot program for providing portable benefits to eligible workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1697. A bill to provide for the overall health and well-being of young people, including the promotion and attainment of lifelong sexual health and healthy relationships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1698. A bill to require group health plans and group or individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage for over-the-counter contraceptives; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 1699. A bill to support the use of technology in maternal health care, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1700. A bill to address mental health issues for youth, particularly youth of color, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1701. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institutes of Health, to take certain steps to increase clinical trial diversity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. LUJAN):

S. 1702. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent in the settling and founding of America, the social, economic, and political environments that led to the development of discriminatory laws targeting Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the development and enhancement of American life, United States history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1703. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure Medicare-only PACE program enrollees have a choice of prescription drug plans under Medicare part D; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1704. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a grant program to facilitate electric vehicle sharing services operated at public housing projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 1705. A bill to amend the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program to promote career awareness in accounting as part of a well-rounded STEM educational experience; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1706. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1707. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to reinstate the ban on the export of crude oil and natural gas produced in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1708. A bill to create dedicated funds to conserve butterflies in North America, plants in the Pacific Islands, freshwater mussels in the United States, and desert fish in the Southwest United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 1709. A bill to require elementary schools and secondary schools that receive Federal funds to obtain parental consent before facilitating a child's gender transition in any form, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1710. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to grow and diversify the perinatal workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 1711. A bill to strengthen the requirements relating to advance electronic information for cargo, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 1712. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for reciprocal marketing approval of certain drugs, biological products, and devices that are authorized to be lawfully marketed abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1713. A bill to require certain public housing agencies to absorb port-in housing choice vouchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1714. A bill to provide paid family leave benefits to certain individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1715. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 1716. A bill to provide authority to include funding requests for the chemical and biological defense program in military department budget accounts; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 1717. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from disbursing financial awards to entities related to the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 1718. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to clarify the requisite timeline for making a decision on the approval or disapproval of a State underground injection control program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 1719. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to establish emergency fire management areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 1720. A bill to provide support for energy infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1721. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Secretary of each military department to replace damaged or destroyed facilities to include replacement of certain facilities in failing condition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1722. A bill to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace for certain employees of air carrier employers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KELLY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1723. A bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 1724. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify employer-provided fringe benefits for bicycle commuting; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1725. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the exception for de minimis payments by third party settlement organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1726. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to provide emergency relief to producers of livestock with herds adversely affected by Mexican gray wolves, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1727. A bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to

aliens from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1728. A bill to prohibit the delivery of opioids by means of the dark web, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1729. A bill to facilitate nationwide accessibility and coordination of 211 services and 988 services in order to provide information and referral to all residents and visitors in the United States for mental health emergencies, homelessness needs, other social and human services needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1730. A bill to strengthen the collection of data regarding interactions between law enforcement officers and individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 1731. A bill to provide grants to enable nonprofit disability organizations to develop training programs that support safe interactions between law enforcement officers and individuals with disabilities and older individuals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1732. A bill to require application stores to publicly list the country of origin of the applications that they distribute, and to provide consumers the ability to protect themselves; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 1733. A bill to make the assault of a law enforcement officer a deportable offense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 1734. A bill to enhance the research security protocols of the Department of Energy for the purpose of preventing theft of government research by nationals of foreign countries of concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 1735. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve assistance to community wood facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TESTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1736. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to reauthorize the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1737. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on unfair or deceptive acts or practices that may be prevalent in the advertising or marketing of firearms and to issue regulations to prohibit unfair or deceptive acts or practices related to the advertising or marketing of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WELCH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1738. A bill to establish a grant program to address the crises in accessing affordable housing and child care through the co-location of housing and child care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1739. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish an Innovation Voucher Grant Program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. WICKER, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1740. A bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to authorize capacity building grants for community college agriculture and natural resources programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 1741. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit electric vehicle original equipment manufacturers from participating in the renewable fuel program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1742. A bill to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 1743. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 to modify the forest inventory and analysis program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1744. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1745. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand access to the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include certain veterans seeking mental health or sub-

stance-use services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 1746. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide sanctions for States using certain congestion pricing systems, to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to require consent of affected States in carrying out value pricing pilot projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1747. A bill to repeal the Alien Enemies Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 1748. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interregional transmission planning process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 1749. A bill to amend title XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act with respect to nursing facility requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1750. A bill to prohibit and prevent seclusion, mechanical restraint, chemical restraint, and dangerous restraints that restrict breathing, and to prevent and reduce the use of physical restraint in schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUJAN (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 1751. A bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1752. A bill to amend the permitting requirements of foreign air carriers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1753. A bill to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to allow individuals with drug offenses to receive benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 218. A resolution expressing support for the law enforcement officers of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. Res. 219. A resolution amending the Standing Rules of the Senate to authorize the Majority Leader to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of certain nominations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 220. A resolution recognizing the historic significance of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 221. A resolution promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2023, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 222. A resolution expressing the approval of Congress for the 50th anniversary celebration of the homecoming of United States prisoners of war from Vietnam and in recognition of the extraordinary service and sacrifices of such prisoners of war during the Vietnam War; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KELLY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 223. A resolution designating the week of May 21 through May 27, 2023, as "National Public Works Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 224. A resolution designating May 2023 as "ALS Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 225. A resolution commemorating the 107th running of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race and recognizing the race as "the greatest spectacle in racing"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 226. A resolution designating May 20, 2023, as "Kids to Parks Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KING, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. KELLY):

S. Con. Res. 10. A concurrent resolution providing for an annual joint hearing of the

Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives to receive a presentation from the Comptroller General of the United States regarding the audited financial statement of the executive branch; to the Committee on the Budget.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 10

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 10, a bill to improve the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 61

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 61, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to implement a strategy to combat the efforts of transnational criminal organizations to recruit individuals in the United States via social media platforms and other online services and assess their use of such platforms and services for illicit activities, and for other purposes.

S. 120

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 120, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 184

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 184, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 305, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in com-

memoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

S. 320

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 320, a bill to amend title II and XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the disability insurance benefits waiting period for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 363

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 668

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 668, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins to honor and memorialize the tragedy of the Sultana steamboat explosion of 1865.

S. 747

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 747, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to States, territories, and Indian Tribes to address contamination by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances on farms, and for other purposes.

S. 786

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 786, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 806

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 806, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish a grant program to assist with the purchase, installation, and maintenance of point-of-entry and point-of-use drinking water quality improvement products, and for other purposes.

S. 809

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 809, a bill to transfer funds for Energy Efficiency Improvements and Renewable Energy Improvements at Public School Facilities to the Attorney General to award grants to States to promote safety and security in schools.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 831

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 831, a bill to address transnational repression by foreign governments against private individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 893

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 893, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to raise the retirement age for pilots engaged in commercial aviation operations, and for other purposes.

S. 971

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 971, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the Medicaid coverage exclusion for inmates in custody pending disposition of charges, and for other purposes.

S. 994

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 994, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.

S. 996

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 996, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a demonstration project to improve outpatient clinical care for individuals with sickle cell disease.

S. 1024

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1024, a bill to authorize

the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 1111

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1111, a bill to enhance United States civil nuclear leadership, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, strengthen the domestic nuclear energy fuel cycle and supply chain, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, and for other purposes.

S. 1190

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1190, a bill to repeal the debt ceiling, and for other purposes.

S. 1284

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1284, a bill to improve forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1358

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1358, a bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 and the Flood Control Act of 1968 to provide for provisions relating to collection and retention of user fees at recreation facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply additional payments, discounts, and other financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 1387

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1387, a bill to reauthorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018, and for other purposes.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an affirmative defense for certain criminal violations, and for other purposes.

S. 1469

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1469, a bill to require certification of small business concerns as small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans in order to be counted toward goals for contract awards, and for other purposes.

S. 1470

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1470, a bill to amend the Small Business Act relating to small business concerns owned and controlled by women, and for other purposes.

S. 1487

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1487, a bill to enhance protections for election records.

S. 1502

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1502, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out teacher leadership programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1529

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1529, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for greater protection of roosters, and for other purposes.

S. 1530

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1530, a bill to permit COPS grants to be used for the purpose of increasing the compensation and hiring of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1554

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1554, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated.

S. 1557

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Virginia

(Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1557, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 188

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 188, a resolution celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 217

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 217, a resolution supporting the designation of May 15, 2023, as "National Senior Fraud Awareness Day" to raise awareness about the increasing number of fraudulent scams targeted at seniors in the United States, to encourage the implementation of policies to prevent those scams from happening, and to improve protections from those scams for seniors.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 1682. A bill to amend subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, regarding prevalent wage determinations in order to expand access to affordable housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

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

S. 1682

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 “Housing Supply Expansion Act”.

SEC. 2. UPDATES TO WAGE RATE CALCULATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3142(b) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting “or from geographic groupings other than civil subdivisions of the State (which may include metropolitan statistical areas or other groupings determined appropriate by the Secretary)” after “in which the work is to be performed”.

(b) **CHANGES TO SURVEY METHODOLOGY.**—Section 3142 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **SURVEY INFORMATION COLLECTION.**—By not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Housing Supply Expansion Act, the Secretary shall—

“(1) review the Secretary’s method of collecting survey information for determining prevailing wages for purposes of subsection (a); and

“(2) revise how such survey information is collected, following a public notice and opportunity for public comment, by—

“(A) including surveys that allow for reliable and objective sources of data and a defensible methodology, which may include information collected through Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys; and

“(B) improving the percentage of businesses choosing to participate in prevailing wage determination surveys and ensuring proportional representation of businesses represented by labor organizations and businesses not represented by labor organizations in the prevailing wage determination surveys that are completed.”.

SEC. 3. MULTIPLE WAGE RATE DETERMINATIONS.

Section 3142 of title 40, United States Code, as amended by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) **FEDERAL HOUSING ACTS.**—A determination of prevailing wages by the Secretary of Labor applicable under section 212(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715c(a)), section 104(b)(1) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4114(b)(1)), section 12(a) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437j(a)), or section 811(j)(5) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(j)(5)) shall be limited to 1 wage rate determination under subsection (b) of this section that corresponds to the overall residential character of the project.”.

SEC. 4. DAVIS-BACON MODERNIZATION WORKING GROUP.

(a) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group” means the working group established under subsection (b)(1).

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall establish within the Department of Labor, a Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group to recommend the update and modernization of certain requirements under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, as described in subsection (c).

(2) **DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall be considered established on the date on which a majority of the members of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group have been appointed, consistent with subsection (d).

(c) **DUTIES.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall—

(1) recommend whether, and if so by how much, the residential classification can be applied to affordable housing units with 5 stories or more for purposes of prevailing wage determinations under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code;

(2) develop administrative and legislative recommendations of ways, and for what specific circumstances in which, the prevailing wage rate requirements under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, could be waived or streamlined for certain affordable rental Federal Housing Administration new construction projects; and

(3) review the potential positive and negative outcomes of directing the Bureau of Labor Statistics to determine prevailing wages (rather than the Secretary of Labor under section 3142(b) of title 40, United States Code), in a way that would not rely on the collection of voluntary surveys from businesses but rather on data that is already collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(d) **MEMBERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall be composed of the following representatives of Federal agencies and relevant non-Federal industry stakeholder organizations:

(A) A representative from the Department of Labor, appointed by the Secretary of Labor.

(B) A representative from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, appointed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(C) A representative of a housing construction industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(D) A representative of a financial services industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(E) A representative of an affordable housing industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(F) A representative of a State public housing agency, as defined in section 3 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a), appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(G) A representative of a tribally designated housing entity, as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103), appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(H) A representative of a labor organization representing the housing construction workforce, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) **CHAIR.**—The representative from the Department of Labor appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall serve as the chair of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group, and that representative shall be responsible for organizing the business of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(e) **OTHER MATTERS.**—

(1) **NO COMPENSATION.**—A member of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall serve without compensation.

(2) **SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of Labor may detail an employee of the Department of Labor to assist and support the work of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group, though such a detailee shall not be considered to be a member of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(f) **REPORT.**—

(1) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group is established, the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall submit a report containing its findings and recommendations under subsection (c), including recommendations resulting from the review under subsection (c)(3), to the Secretary of Labor, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.

(2) **MAJORITY SUPPORT.**—Each recommendation made under paragraph (1) shall be agreed to by a majority of the members of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(g) **NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.**—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(h) **SUNSET.**—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall terminate on the date the report is completed under subsection (f)(1).

SEC. 5. NATIONAL HOUSING ACT.

Section 212(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715c(a)) is amended by striking “similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended (40 U.S.C. 276a–276a–5)” and inserting “residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

SEC. 6. HOUSING ACT OF 1959.

Section 202(j)(5)(A) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q(j)(5)(A)) is amended by striking “similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act)” and inserting “residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

SEC. 7. NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 1996.

Section 104(b)(1) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4114(b)(1)) is amended by striking “, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act; chapter 411; 46 Stat. 1494; 40 U.S.C. 276a et seq.),” and inserting “for corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction of a residential character, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

SEC. 8. CRANSTON-GONZALEZ NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT.

Section 811(j)(5)(A) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(j)(5)(A)) is amended by striking “similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act)” and inserting “residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed”.

SEC. 9. UNITED STATES HOUSING ACT OF 1937.

Section 12(a) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437j(a)) is amended by striking “, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the Davis-Bacon

Act (49 Stat. 1011)" and inserting "for corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction of a residential character, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed".

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 1685. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a consortium relating to exposures to toxic substances and identifying chemicals that are safe to use; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Supercomputing for Safer Chemicals Act or the SUPERSAFE Act. Through the use of supercomputing and artificial intelligence, we have an opportunity to transform our scientific understanding of the detrimental effects associated with certain industrial chemical uses and to shift American commerce towards safer and more sustainable products and manufacturing.

The legislation would establish a SUPERSAFE Consortium to be led by the Environmental Protection Agency in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal Agencies, the National Labs, academic and other research institutions, State agencies, and other entities as determined by the EPA. The purpose of the SUPERSAFE Consortium is to identify exposures to toxic substance and chemicals that are safer to use in commerce.

Specifically, the SUPERSAFE Consortium established by this bill would use supercomputing, machine learning, and other similar capabilities to establish rapid approaches for large-scale identification of toxic substances and the development of safer alternatives to toxic substances by developing and validating computational toxicology methods; address the need to identify safe chemicals for use in consumer and industrial products and in their manufacture to support the move away from toxic substances and toward safe-by-design alternatives; and make recommendations on how the information produced can be applied in risk assessments and other characterizations for use by the Environmental Protection Agency and other Agencies in regulatory decisions and by industry in identifying toxic and safer chemicals.

Importantly, establishing a SUPERSAFE Consortium would encourage interagency collaboration and leverage the best scientific ideas through inclusion of State agencies and public and academic research institutions.

Currently, tens of thousands of untested chemicals can be used in commercial products, resulting in consumer, community, and worker exposures to potentially toxic chemicals. Too often, there is insufficient scientific data for evaluating health effects or identifying safer chemicals, and existing approaches to generating

this data are slow, costly, and rely on animal testing.

We are well poised to address this problem and discover safer chemicals by establishing a SUPERSAFE Consortium to use supercomputing, machine learning, and other similar capabilities. These technologies can be developed and applied to rapidly provide information to evaluate chemical safety to identify safe chemicals that avoid the chronic diseases and environmental harm caused by toxic chemicals.

Unfortunately, too many Americans are exposed to toxic chemicals such as PFAS and lead. Congress has stepped up and provided billions to remediate toxic exposures, including via the bipartisan infrastructure law, to address PFAS and lead pollution. Establishing a SUPERSAFE Consortium in Federal law could help avoid the widespread pollution that our communities face so we can address potential pollution challenges before they become widespread.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this bill as quickly as possible.

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

S. 1705. A bill to amend the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program to promote career awareness in accounting as part of a well-rounded STEM educational experience; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the STEM Education in Accounting Act, which would help address workforce shortages in the accounting profession by recognizing accounting as part of a STEM education and adding accounting education programs as an allowable use of K-12 Federal grant funding. I want to thank Senator ROSEN for coleading this bill with me.

Accountants play a key role in today's economy. They serve as trusted advisers for companies large and small, assist in measuring business performance, help individuals and businesses file their taxes in an accurate and timely manner, and even investigate instances of financial fraud. Yet, the United States is facing a shortage of accountants willing and able to fill this important economic role. In Maine, for example, municipalities have struggled to find public accountants to conduct their annual audits.

Recent trends suggest this shortage will continue. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, job openings for accountants and auditors are expected to grow by 6 percent from 2021 to 2031—about 136,400 openings each year. At the same time, fewer students are pursuing accounting degrees than in prior years.

The STEM Education in Accounting Act seeks to improve the accounting pipeline by expanding K-12 students' exposure to accounting programs. As with other areas of STEM education,

this bill would qualify accounting instruction for Federal funds. This recognition aligns with the increasing need for accounting professionals to have high-level math and technology skills, including the ability to analyze big data, ensure data security, and manage cybersecurity risk.

In particular, this bill would allow States and school districts to use a portion of their Federal student support and academic enrichment grant funding to support accounting education, including accounting career awareness. The Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant Program was created as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act and aims to help States and school districts offer a well-rounded educational experience to all students. The STEM Education in Accounting Act would also allow school districts to use this flexible grant to strengthen accounting curricula, including increasing access to high-quality accounting courses for members of groups underrepresented in the accounting profession.

Businesses and individuals rely on accountants to help them develop and reach their financial goals. The STEM Education in Accounting Act would help address the shortage of accountants by promoting accounting education and improving the pipeline of future accountants. I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 1735. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve assistance to community wood facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Community Wood Facilities Assistance Act of 2023 and thank my colleagues, Senators COLLINS, SHAHEEN, and KELLY, for joining me as original cosponsors of the bill.

This bill will assist with the construction of facilities that make sustainable use of small-diameter timber from forest-thinning projects and other needed treatments in eastern and western forests.

In doing so, the bill would also create jobs in rural and forest-dependent communities while decreasing wildfire risk in our vulnerable forests.

The Forest Service reports that 80 million acres of Forest Service lands are at risk of catastrophic wildfire or abnormal levels of insect and disease infestations.

These impacts are only made worse by historic levels of drought. In California alone, 129 million trees have died across 8.9 million acres due to drought and bark beetles. Thirty-six million of those tree deaths were in 2022, triple the number from the previous year. This is clearly a crisis.

Removing select small trees and other hazardous fuels in our forests are critical for preserving our forests over the long term. Not only does this ease the competition large trees face for water, it also reduces the spread of bark beetles and makes the forest less susceptible to catastrophic wildfire.

Between the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act, Congress has provided billions of dollars for hazardous fuels reduction and forest thinning work. What is needed now is the economic infrastructure to support this work.

Unfortunately, the number of sawmills, bioenergy facilities, and other forest-product companies have been shrinking for decades. This is due in part to increased production efficiency, but in other instances, market instability forced the closure of many large mills.

One result of the decrease in sawmills is the inability for the market to react nimbly to supply and demand. In 2020, even though massive wildfires should have meant a boom in salvageable trees, the COVID-19 pandemic constrained mill capacity and throughput. This constraint, along with a surge in consumer demand, led to a near 400 percent increase in lumber prices, which are only now resolving.

An analysis by The Nature Conservancy and Bain and Company management consultants recommended incentives to “bridge the gap between the cost of ecological thinning and the economic viability of wood-processing infrastructure.”

As the report explains, “If more aggressive restoration targets can be met, there will be significant need for additional processing capacity to defray restoration costs and provide valuable end uses for thinned material.”

Our bill would make targeted changes to existing Forest Service grant programs to help the forest product industry grow and provide outlets for the billions of acres of wood that will result from the investments made in the bipartisan infrastructure law and Inflation Reduction Act.

The two grant programs we target in this bill are the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovations Grant Program and the Wood Innovations Program.

These programs would benefit from changes, particularly from higher Federal cost-shares and an increased ability to provide more funding for each project, in addition to a higher authorized funding.

The first of these, the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovations Grant Program, provides grants for the capital cost of small wood products facilities. Our bill would first change the name to avoid confusion with the Wood Innovations Program.

Our bill would also double the authorization level to \$50 million per year, allow the program to fund new facility construction in addition to improvements. The maximum grant

amount would also increase from \$1 to \$5 million, and the Federal cost share would increase from 35 percent to 50 percent, making it easier for small companies to use.

Our bill will also revise the Forest Service’s Wood Innovations Grant Program, which provides grants for innovative uses and applications of wood products and the expansion of related markets. It would similarly allow this program to be used for new facilities in addition to retrofits and improvements and lower the minimum non-Federal cost-share from 50 percent to 33.3 percent.

Congress has an opportunity this year to make these important changes to these grant programs and help stimulate a self-sustaining forest product economy and promote healthier forests. I thank Senators COLLINS, SHAHEEN, and KELLY for their partnership on this bill, and I urge the full Senate to promptly take up this bill and pass it as soon as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 218—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VANCE (for himself and Mr. CASIDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 218

Whereas more than 800,000 law enforcement officers in the United States risk their lives daily to serve and protect their communities;

Whereas there are more than 23,000 fallen law enforcement officers honored on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, dating back to 1786, when the first law enforcement officer in the United States died in the line of duty;

Whereas, during the 2 years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 800 law enforcement officers died in the United States in the line of duty, the highest number of such deaths over a 2-year period in the history of the United States;

Whereas some politicians and interest groups have responded to the risks faced by law enforcement officers with calls to “defund” or even “abolish” law enforcement agencies across the United States;

Whereas defunding law enforcement agencies or otherwise demoralizing law enforcement officers will make it more difficult for officers to intervene in dangerous situations and high-risk neighborhoods;

Whereas a law enforcement officer will typically encounter between 400 and 600 traumatic events during the career of the officer, compared with 3 or 4 traumatic events encountered by the average citizen;

Whereas the unusually high number of traumatic events experienced by law enforcement officers has contributed to a 54 percent higher suicide rate among officers than among individuals in other jobs;

Whereas the Bureau of Justice Statistics of the Department of Justice has confirmed that there is no statistically significant difference between the rates at which major racial and ethnic groups are stopped in police-initiated interactions;

Whereas the innovative and dedicated efforts of law enforcement officers have successfully brought down crime rates from historic highs;

Whereas the “defund and defame the police” movement that began in 2020 has—

(1) coincided with a dramatic rise in homicides and other violent crimes in cities and towns across the United States; and

(2) caused the retention and recruitment of sworn law enforcement officers to drop to a dangerously low level, with current numbers showing fewer law enforcement officers per resident than at any other time during the 25-year period preceding the date of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas, in 2020—

(1) 60,105 law enforcement officers were assaulted by criminals, resulting in 18,633 injuries; and

(2) the number of arrests made by law enforcement officers throughout the United States dropped to 7,630,000, a 24 percent reduction from 2019 and the fewest number of such arrests in 25 years;

Whereas 72 percent of law enforcement officers surveyed are less willing to stop and question suspicious individuals than they were before 2020;

Whereas the rhetoric associated with the “defund and defame the police” movement has created an increasingly dangerous environment for law enforcement officers in which, in 2022 alone, 331 officers were shot, 62 of whom were shot fatally; and

Whereas supporting law enforcement officers with the equipment, training, and funding needed to protect communities in the United States from criminal violence has long received overwhelming public support from across the political spectrum: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) highly respects and values the law enforcement officers of the United States and greatly appreciates all that those officers do to protect and serve their communities;

(2) remembers and honors law enforcement officers who have experienced a death or injury in the line of duty and the families of those officers;

(3) calls for increased measures to be taken to maximize the safety and well-being of law enforcement officers, including improvements relating to the retention and recruitment of officers, improved training and equipment for officers, tougher penalties for assaulting or killing an officer, and increased mental health resources for officers;

(4) strongly condemns the misguided and disastrous movement to “defund and defame the police”; and

(5) calls on all levels of government to ensure that law enforcement officers receive the support and resources needed to keep all communities in the United States safe.

SENATE RESOLUTION 219—AMENDING THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAJORITY LEADER TO MOVE TO PROCEED TO THE EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 219

Resolved,

SECTION 1. EN BLOC CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN NOMINATIONS.

Rule XXXI of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended by adding at the end the following:

"8.(a) In this paragraph, the term 'covered nomination' means a nomination to a position that is not a position—

"(1) at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code;

"(2) as a judge of a court of appeals of the United States; or

"(3) as Chief Justice of the United States or as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

"(b) It shall be in order for the Majority Leader to move to proceed to the en bloc consideration of not more than 10 covered nominations that were reported to the Senate by the same committee of the Senate and placed on the calendar.

"(c) Consideration of a motion to proceed under subparagraph (b), and the en bloc consideration of the nominations that are the subject of the motion, shall be conducted in the same manner as if it were a motion to proceed to the consideration of a single nomination."

SENATE RESOLUTION 220—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 220

Whereas the Department of Defense State Partnership Program (referred to in this preamble as the "State Partnership Program") has evolved from a program designed to assist countries emerging from behind the Iron Curtain to one that now involves 100 nations and the National Guard of every State and territory of the United States;

Whereas members of the National Guard work with partner militaries to bolster capabilities, improve interoperability, and enhance principles of responsible governance;

Whereas the State Partnership Program delivers a significant return on investment by broadening the pool of security partners who are willing and able to support defense and security cooperation objectives of the United States around the world;

Whereas most of the earliest State Partnership Program partner countries in Europe have gone on to become United States allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and many of them credit the State Partnership Program and their National Guard State partners with helping to make that possible;

Whereas the State Partnership Program helps ensure that the Department of Defense has capable, trusted, and interoperable partners;

Whereas the State Partnership Program has created 88 enduring, cost-effective partnerships with 100 nations encompassing over ½ of the countries in the world;

Whereas members of the National Guard typically engage in more than 1,000 State Partnership Program events per year;

Whereas the National Guard Bureau is working with the commanders of the combatant commands and the Department of State to increase State Partnership Program partnerships by 2 nations per year for the next 15 years; and

Whereas commanders of the combatant commands and United States ambassadors strongly endorse the State Partnership Program for cultivating long-term relationships with partners: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program;

(2) expresses deep gratitude for the continuing service by members of the National Guard in support of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program;

(3) recognizes the outsized influence of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program in developing and supporting enduring relationships around the world that serve both the interests of the partner nations and the United States; and

(4) supports the continued expansion of the Department of Defense State Partnership Program in furtherance of global security cooperation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 221—PROMOTING MINORITY HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH IN APRIL 2023, WHICH INCLUDE BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE HEALTH DISPARITIES FACED BY MINORITY POPULATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SUCH AS AMERICAN INDIANS, ALASKA NATIVES, ASIAN AMERICANS, AFRICAN AMERICANS, HISPANICS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIANS OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 221

Whereas the origin of National Minority Health Month is National Negro Health Week, established in 1915 by Dr. Booker T. Washington;

Whereas the theme for National Minority Health Month in 2023 is "Better Health Through Better Understanding";

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services has set goals and strategies to enhance and protect the health and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas African American women were as likely to have been diagnosed with breast cancer as non-Hispanic White women, but African American women were 41 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than non-Hispanic White women between 2015 and 2019;

Whereas African American women were twice as likely to be diagnosed with and 2.3 times more likely to die of stomach cancer than non-Hispanic White women;

Whereas African American men are 70 percent more likely to die from a stroke than non-Hispanic White men;

Whereas Hispanics are twice as likely as non-Hispanic Whites to be hospitalized for end-stage renal disease caused by diabetes, and are 30 percent more likely to die of diabetes, than non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas Asian Americans are 40 percent more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes than non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas the HIV or AIDS case rate among Hispanic men is 4 times the HIV or AIDS case rate among non-Hispanic White men;

Whereas Hispanic women are 3 times as likely as non-Hispanic White women to die of HIV infection;

Whereas, in 2019, African Americans accounted for 42.1 percent of HIV infections and Hispanic Americans accounted for almost 30 percent of HIV infections;

Whereas, in 2019, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders were 2.4 times more likely to be diagnosed with HIV than non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas, in 2018, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders were 2.5 times more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes than non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas, although the prevalence of obesity is high among all population groups in the United States, 48.1 percent of American Indian and Alaska Natives, 51.7 percent of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, 38.3 percent of African Americans, 34.9 percent of Hispanics, 30 percent of non-Hispanic Whites, and 13 percent of Asian Americans older than 18 years old were obese;

Whereas Asian American and Pacific Islander adults accounted for 30.1 percent of chronic Hepatitis B cases, and non-Hispanic White adults accounted for 13.5 percent of chronic Hepatitis B cases;

Whereas heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes are some of the leading causes of death among American Indians and Alaska Natives;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives have higher prevalence and are at a higher risk of diabetes, substance use, obesity, sudden infant death syndrome, liver disease, viral hepatitis, and suicide than other groups in the United States;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives have a life expectancy that is 2.2 years shorter than the life expectancy of the overall population of the United States;

Whereas African American women die from childbirth or pregnancy-related causes at a rate that is 3 to 4 times higher than the rate for non-Hispanic White women;

Whereas African American infants are almost 4 times more likely to die due to complications related to low birth weight than non-Hispanic White infants;

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives have an infant mortality rate twice as high as that of non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native infants are 2.7 times more likely to die from accidental deaths before their first birthday than non-Hispanic White infants;

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with sickle cell disease each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn Black or African-American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

Whereas, while more than 1 in 6 older adults have untreated cavities, non-Hispanic Black older adults have between 2 and 3 times the rate of untreated cavities as non-Hispanic White older adults;

Whereas the 2022 National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report found American Indians and Alaska Natives received worse care than non-Hispanic Whites for 43 percent of quality measures;

Whereas, as of 2023, with respect to hospitalizations due to COVID-19, American Indians and Alaska Natives are 2.4 times more likely, African Americans are 2.1 times more likely, and Hispanics are 1.8 times more likely to be hospitalized compared to non-Hispanic Whites;

Whereas, as of 2023, with respect to deaths due to COVID-19, American Indians and Alaska Natives are 2 times more likely, African Americans are 1.6 times more likely, and Hispanics are 1.7 times more likely to die compared to non-Hispanic Whites; and

Whereas the health innovations of the United States present a unique opportunity to improve public health and health care practices across the United States and to reduce disparities among racial and ethnic minority populations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the recognition of National Minority Health Month in April 2023, which includes bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations in the United States, such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 222—EXPRESSING THE APPROVAL OF CONGRESS FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE HOMECOMING OF UNITED STATES PRISONERS OF WAR FROM VIETNAM AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AND SACRIFICES OF SUCH PRISONERS OF WAR DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 222

Whereas more than 2,700,000 members of the United States Armed Forces served in the Vietnam War;

Whereas more than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives and more than 300,000 were wounded;

Whereas, during the conflict, approximately 766 members of the Armed Forces of the United States were taken captive as prisoners of war by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the allies of that Government;

Whereas prisoners of war, the majority of which were aviators, included members of the Air Force, Navy, Army, Marine Corps, and United States civilians, and during captivity the prisoners endured brutal conditions, including torture, forced labor, and prolonged solitary confinement;

Whereas prisoners of war were held in more than a dozen prisons throughout North Vietnam and elsewhere, including in the infamous prison camp known to the prisoners of war from the United States as the “Hanoi Hilton”, but despite the challenging conditions, many of the prisoners of war held by the North Vietnamese and the allies of the North Vietnamese maintained their honor, resilience, and loyalty to their country and fellow members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas the return of the prisoners of war was a nonnegotiable condition for President Richard Nixon as his administration negotiated an end to the Vietnam War;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet-Nam (commonly known as the “Paris Peace Accords”) was signed, requiring the return of the United States prisoners of

war within 60 days of the signing of the agreement;

Whereas, between February and April 1973, 591 prisoners of war were released by the North Vietnamese and their allies;

Whereas 116 prisoners of war died in captivity;

Whereas the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (referred to in this preamble as “POW/MIA”) movement in the United States, and the National League of POW/MIA Families, made a tremendous effort to return the prisoners of war held by the North Vietnamese and their allies to the United States;

Whereas, in 1972, the National League of POW/MIA Families adopted the National POW/MIA flag, which flies over Federal buildings, including the United States Capitol, on days the United States flag is flown;

Whereas, 50 years after the prisoners of war held by the North Vietnamese gained their freedom, the resilience, courage, and patriotism of the prisoners of war continues to inspire generations of citizens of the United States; and

Whereas the Richard Nixon Presidential Library will host the official 50th Anniversary celebration of the homecoming of United States POWs from Vietnam, from May 23 to 25, 2023, in Yorba Linda, California: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses approval for the 50th anniversary celebration of the homecoming of United States prisoners of war from Vietnam; and

(2) recognizes the extraordinary service and sacrifices of the United States prisoners of war during the Vietnam War.

SENATE RESOLUTION 223—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 21 THROUGH MAY 27, 2023, AS “NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK”

Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KELLY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 223

Whereas public works professionals work around the clock to ensure the vital infrastructure, facilities, and services of communities to deliver dependable, sustainable, and resilient human needs that include the health, safety, and well-being of the people of the United States;

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals who represent Federal, State, and local governments and private sector organizations throughout the United States;

Whereas public works professionals design, build, operate, and maintain the transportation systems, water infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, sanitation and waste management systems, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the people and communities of the United States;

Whereas public works first responders are the first to arrive and last to leave a natural disaster area or incident scene; and

Whereas understanding the role that public infrastructure plays in protecting the environment, improving public health and safety, contributing to economic vitality, and enhancing the quality of life of every community of the United States is in the interest of the people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 21 through May 27, 2023, as “National Public Works Week”;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve—

(A) the public infrastructure of the United States; and

(B) the communities that public works professionals serve; and

(3) urges individuals and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government and the American Public Works Association in activities and ceremonies that are designed—

(A) to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the United States; and

(B) to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 224—DESIGNATING MAY 2023 AS “ALS AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 224

Whereas amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (referred to in this preamble as “ALS”) is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord;

Whereas the life expectancy for an individual with ALS is between 2 and 5 years after the date on which the individual receives an ALS diagnosis;

Whereas ALS occurs throughout the world with no racial, ethnic, gender, or socioeconomic boundaries;

Whereas ALS may affect any individual in any location;

Whereas the cause of ALS is unknown in up to 90 percent of cases;

Whereas approximately 10 percent of ALS cases have a strong known genetic driver;

Whereas, on average, the period between the date on which an individual first experiences symptoms of ALS and the date on which the individual is diagnosed with ALS is more than 1 year;

Whereas the onset of ALS often involves muscle weakness or stiffness, and the progression of ALS results in the further weakening, wasting, and paralysis of—

(1) the muscles of the limbs and trunk; and

(2) the muscles that control vital functions, such as speech, swallowing, and breathing;

Whereas ALS can strike individuals of any age, but it predominantly strikes adults;

Whereas it is estimated that tens of thousands of individuals in the United States have ALS at any given time;

Whereas, based on studies of the population of the United States, more than 5,000 individuals in the United States are diagnosed with ALS each year, and 15 individuals in the United States are diagnosed with ALS each day;

Whereas, every 90 minutes, someone dies from ALS in the United States;

Whereas the majority of individuals with ALS die of respiratory failure;

Whereas, in the United States, military veterans are more likely to be diagnosed with ALS than individuals with no history of military service;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, there is no cure for ALS;

Whereas the spouses, children, and family members of individuals living with ALS provide support to those individuals with love, day-to-day care, and more; and

Whereas an individual with ALS, and the caregivers of such an individual, can be required to bear significant costs for medical care, equipment, and home care services for the individual as the disease progresses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 2023 as “ALS Awareness Month”;

(2) affirms the dedication of the Senate to—

(A) ensuring individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (referred to in this resolving clause as “ALS”) have access to effective treatments as soon as possible;

(B) identifying risk factors and causes of ALS to prevent new cases;

(C) empowering individuals with ALS to engage with the world in the way they want;

(D) reducing the physical, emotional, and financial burdens of living with ALS; and

(E) ensuring all individuals with ALS and their caregivers receive high quality services and supports that benefit them; and

(3) commends the dedication of the family members, friends, organizations, volunteers, researchers, and caregivers across the United States who are working to improve the quality and length of life of ALS patients and the development of treatments and cures that reach patients as soon as possible.

SENATE RESOLUTION 225—COMMEMORATING THE 107TH RUNNING OF THE INDIANAPOLIS 500 MILE RACE AND RECOGNIZING THE RACE AS “THE GREATEST SPECTACLE IN RACING”

Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 225

Whereas Sunday, May 28, 2023, will mark the 107th running of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race (referred to in this preamble as the “Indianapolis 500”);

Whereas the Indianapolis 500 has occurred every year since 1911, except during the involvement of the United States in World Wars I and II from 1917 through 1918 and 1942 through 1945, respectively;

Whereas the Indianapolis 500 is the largest single day sporting event in the world, with more than 300,000 fans packing the grandstands and the expansive infield of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on race day;

Whereas radio coverage of the Indianapolis 500 dates back to 1922, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Radio Network was established in 1952;

Whereas a radio broadcast of the entire Indianapolis 500 first began in 1953 and the radio broadcast reaches millions of listeners each year;

Whereas Alice Greene, a copywriter at the Indianapolis-based radio station WIBC, coined the phrase “the greatest spectacle in racing” in 1954, and the phrase was made famous by broadcaster Sid Collins, who served as the voice of the Indianapolis 500 for nearly 3 decades;

Whereas the Indianapolis 500 has played an integral part in the culture and heritage of—

(1) Indianapolis, Indiana;

(2) motorsports; and

(3) the automotive industry in the United States and throughout the world; and

Whereas the Indianapolis Motor Speedway has been a showcase of speed, human achievement, and the continuous pursuit of glory, and is a source of great pride for all citizens of Indiana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 107th running of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race; and

(2) recognizes the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race as “the greatest spectacle in racing”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 226—DESIGNATING MAY 20, 2023, AS “KIDS TO PARKS DAY”

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 226

Whereas the 13th annual Kids to Parks Day will be celebrated on May 20, 2023;

Whereas the goals of Kids to Parks Day are—

(1) to promote healthy outdoor recreation and responsible environmental stewardship;

(2) to empower young people; and

(3) to encourage families to get outdoors and visit the parks and public land of the United States;

Whereas, on Kids to Parks Day, individuals from rural, suburban, and urban areas of the United States can be reintroduced to the splendid national, State, and neighborhood parks located in their communities;

Whereas communities across the United States offer a variety of natural resources and public land, often with free access, to individuals seeking outdoor recreation;

Whereas the people of the United States, young and old, should be encouraged to lead more healthy and active lifestyles;

Whereas Kids to Parks Day is an opportunity for families to take a break from their busy lives and enjoy a day of active, wholesome fun; and

Whereas Kids to Parks Day will—

(1) broaden an appreciation for nature and the outdoors in young people;

(2) foster a safe setting for independent play and healthy adventure in neighborhood parks; and

(3) facilitate self-reliance while strengthening communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 20, 2023, as “Kids to Parks Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of outdoor recreation and the preservation of open spaces for the health and education of the young people of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Kids to Parks Day with safe family trips to parks.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 10—PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUAL JOINT HEARING OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET OF THE SENATE AND THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KING, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr.

DAINES, and Mr. KELLY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Budget:

S. CON. RES. 10

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the “Fiscal State of the Nation Resolution”.

SEC. 2. ANNUAL JOINT HEARING OF BUDGET COMMITTEES TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) after the date on which the Secretary of the Treasury submits to Congress the audited financial statement required under paragraph (1) of section 331(e) of title 31, United States Code, on a date agreed upon by the chairs of the Budget Committees and the Comptroller General of the United States, the chairs shall conduct a joint hearing to receive a presentation from the Comptroller General—

(1) reviewing the findings of the audit required under paragraph (2) of such section; and

(2) providing, with respect to the information included by the Secretary in the report accompanying such audited financial statement, an analysis of the financial position and condition of the Federal Government, including financial measures (such as the net operating cost, income, budget deficits, or budget surpluses) and sustainability measures (such as the long-term fiscal projection or social insurance projection) described in such report.

(b) PRESENTATION OF STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAO STRATEGIES AND MEANS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall ensure that the presentation at each joint hearing conducted under subsection (a) is made in accordance with the Strategies and Means of the Government Accountability Office, to ensure that the presentation will provide professional, objective, fact-based, nonpartisan, nonideological, fair, and balanced information to the Members attending the hearing.

(c) RULES APPLICABLE TO HEARING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each joint hearing conducted by the chairs of the Budget Committees under subsection (a) shall be conducted in accordance with Standing Rules of the Senate and the Rules of the House of Representatives which apply to such a hearing, including the provisions requiring hearings conducted by committees to be open to the public, including to radio, television, and still photography coverage.

(2) PERMITTING PARTICIPATION BY SENATORS AND MEMBERS NOT SERVING ON BUDGET COMMITTEES.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Standing Rules of the Senate or the Rules of the House of Representatives, any Senator and any Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) may participate in a joint hearing under subsection (a) in the same manner and to the same extent as a Senator or Member of the House of Representatives who is a member of either of the Budget Committees.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Budget Committees” means the Committee on the Budget of the Senate and the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirement under subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any audited financial statement under section 331(e)(1) of title 31, United States Code, submitted on or after the date of adoption of this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 90. Ms. HIRONO proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 209, recognizing the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 90. Ms. HIRONO proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 209, recognizing the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; as follows:

In the eighth whereas clause, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike “important milestones for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community” and insert “anniversaries”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 10:40 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent my staff, Isabella Vesely, an intern in my office, be

granted floor privileges until May 19, 2023.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted to June Zhu of my staff during today’s session of the Senate.

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

PROMOTING MINORITY HEALTH AWARENESS AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 221, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 221) promoting minority health awareness and supporting the goals and ideals of National Minority Health Month in April 2023, which include bringing attention to the health disparities faced by minority populations of the United States such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, last month was National Minority Health Month. Senator SCOTT of South Carolina joined me in introducing a Senate resolution commemorating National Minority Health Month. We couldn’t quite get it over the finish line before the end of April, but I am pleased the Senate is poised to pass the resolution now.

National Minority Health Month has its origins in National Negro Health Week, which Booker T. Washington established in 1915 to address the poor health status of African Americans in the early 20th century.

The commemorative month is helpful because it improves the public’s awareness of the health challenges that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. It helps us to celebrate the progress we have made in addressing health disparities. Most important, it is a measure to recommit ourselves to tackling the longstanding health disparities that still exist.

Today, because of historical and contemporary injustices across our society, including those in the healthcare system, communities of color continue to face health disparities that result in poorer quality of life and lower life expectancies when compared to their White counterparts. For people of color who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender—LGBT—these disparities are often exacerbated.

Disparities in healthcare access, treatment, and outcomes are signifi-

cant for a variety of reasons. Most important, these disparities limit the health of the Nation overall. The U.S. population today is more racially and ethnically diverse than at any other time in our history. According to the 2020 census, nearly 4 in 10 Americans identify with a race or ethnic group other than White. In a nation as diverse as ours and one that is meant to treat everyone equally, it is immoral for certain populations to receive inadequate, inaccessible, or poor medical care.

In addition to ethical considerations, health inequities result in significant costs to our economy. According to a recent analysis, racial disparities amount to approximately \$93 billion in excess medical care costs and \$42 billion in lost productivity per year, as well as additional economic losses due to premature deaths.

For the health of our families, communities, States and Nation, it is critical that we work to advance policies that will move in the direction of achieving health equity.

In recent years, we have faced a variety of serious public health challenges that have clearly highlighted health disparities. Whether we are discussing the COVID-19 pandemic, the outbreak of monkeypox last summer, or the spread of respiratory illnesses like the flu and RSV this past winter, these public health challenges have shown that we must respond appropriately and in a timely fashion to ensure that vulnerable communities receive the resources and care they need.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, public health data has shown that people of color experienced a disproportionate share of cases and deaths due to this disease. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—CDC—released in December 2022, American Indian or Alaska Native adults are 2.5 times more likely to be hospitalized and twice as likely to die from COVID-19 than White individuals. Similarly, Black and Hispanic adults are more likely to be hospitalized and more likely to die from COVID-19. Racial disparities were also found in access to COVID-19 vaccination for the first few months of vaccine deployment.

At the time, I fought for additional outreach and better data to close the vaccination rate gap. Thanks in part to a strong focus on these efforts, the gaps in COVID-19 vaccination rates finally narrowed several months after vaccine deployment initially began, but they should not have existed in the first place.

The COVID-19 pandemic also exacerbated our Nation’s behavioral health crisis as social isolation contributed to spikes in anxiety, depression, substance abuse, domestic violence, and suicide. Adults and children across all groups continue to experience increased behavioral health issues, but the burden on minority populations is heaviest.

For American Indian and Alaska Native adults, the death rate from suicide is about 20 percent higher than the White population. In 2019, suicide was the leading and second leading cause of death for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders and African Americans aged 15 to 24, respectively. High school-aged Asian American males were 30 percent more likely to consider attempting suicide than White male students. This is why I continue to work with my colleagues to improve access to behavioral healthcare for everyone.

Prior to the pandemic, people of color and other underserved groups faced longstanding disparities in health, and today, many of these inequities continue to persist. Across a variety of health measures, including infant mortality, pregnancy-related deaths, overall physical and mental health status, and prevalence of chronic conditions, minority groups continue to fare worse than white individuals. Life expectancy is another area where racial and ethnic disparities are clearly apparent. Today, life expectancy among Black people is nearly 6 years lower than White people, with the lowest expectancy among Black men.

When we consider chronic diseases like diabetes, minority populations also fare worse than White people. Diabetes rates for Black, Hispanic, and American Indian and Alaska Native adults are all higher than the rate for White adults. These disparities can often be exacerbated for people of color who identify as LGBTQ, who are more likely to experience certain health challenges like substance abuse, mental health conditions, violence, and sexually transmitted infections at increased rates. I could go on and on.

To address health inequities, we must tackle their underlying causes, many of which are born out of inadequate access to care for minority populations, high costs of healthcare, and other social, economic, and environmental factors, which are known as “social determinants of health.” Factors like one’s income level, as well as access to transportation, education, and housing play a key role in health and well-being.

Accessible and affordable health coverage is key to addressing health inequities. I am proud of the work we did to pass the Affordable Care Act—ACA—which expanded health coverage to millions of Americans across the country. I am also pleased that we built on the success of the ACA through the American Rescue Plan to extend care to an additional 5.8 million Americans, including 181,000 Marylanders. We have unfinished business, however, as recent Census Bureau data show that minority groups are still less likely to have health insurance than their White counterparts.

I am proud of the work that the National Institutes of Health—NIH—based in Maryland, and NIH’s National Institute for Minority Health & Health

Disparities—NIMHD—are doing to advance the field of scientific research into health disparities.

The evidence-based research that NIMHD invests in at institutions throughout the country is expanding the scientific knowledge base and informing practice and policy to reduce health disparities. Some recent work of NIMHD has focused on the benefits of Medicaid expansion for young adults; the prevention, treatment, and management of co-morbid chronic diseases; and COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy within communities of color. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to build on this progress.

As we recognize April as National Minority Health Month, let us rededicate ourselves to ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable, high-quality healthcare and renew our pledge to do everything possible to eliminate health disparities and achieve health equity once and for all.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 221) was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that 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 preamble was agreed to.

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

EXPRESSING THE APPROVAL OF CONGRESS FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE HOMECOMING OF UNITED STATES PRISONERS OF WAR FROM VIETNAM AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AND SACRIFICES OF SUCH PRISONERS OF WAR DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 222, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 222) expressing the approval of Congress for the 50th anniversary celebration of the homecoming of United States prisoners of war from Vietnam and in recognition of the extraordinary service and sacrifices of such prisoners of war during the Vietnam War.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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. 222) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023, THROUGH TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned to convene for pro forma sessions, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times: Friday, May 19, at 9:45 a.m.; Tuesday, May 23, at 12 noon; Thursday, May 25, at 12:30 p.m.; and Friday, May 26, at 9 a.m.; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, the 26th, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 30; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Papillion nomination; further, that the confirmation vote occur at 5:30 p.m. and that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion 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 9:45 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:52 p.m., adjourned until Friday, May 19, 2023, at 9:45 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 18, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

NANCY G. ABUDU, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF NATHAN J. POWELL, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF CHRISTINE B. OLIVARES, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH FRANCISCA A. ALAKA LAMPTON AND ENDING WITH VICTORIA M. WEIGER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 4, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRITNEY M. ALONZO AND ENDING WITH JUSTIN MATTHEW WOODS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 4, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARIA L. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH MITCHELL H. YUAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 4, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL A. ADAMS II AND ENDING WITH PHILLIP A. ZENCEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 4, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS A. BIEDIGER AND ENDING WITH RYAN D. NUDI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 9, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF GILBERTO DELEON, JR., TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRADLEY M. MRAVIK, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JUSTIN L. PURVIS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN J. ADAMS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF PAUL M. TOBIN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JON P. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH ADAM M. ZIHAR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 4, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID J. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH BRIAN H. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINA-

TIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 4, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEFAN E. ADAMCIK AND ENDING WITH ANDREW D. ZUPFER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 4, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TONY B. FEARS AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL S. SHARP, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 4, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RYAN R. POMMIER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SEBASTIAN A. COATES, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES M. CALDWELL, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN K. ALDRICH AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY W. WONG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2023.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF STEVEN M. ANGELINE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF BRADLEY B. KELLER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF NICHOLAS B. STAITON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JOSEPH P. BALL, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF MARK J. DEAL, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF RICHARD C. EYTEL, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF DAVID WAGENBORG, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JAMES O. SAMMAN, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CHARLES G. EMOND, JR., TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF CASSANDRA D. THOMPSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ARRON J. WILSON, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.