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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, May 6, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, our refuge and strength, a very present help during turbulent times, thank You for setting stars of hope in life's sky, enabling us in the darkness to behold the brightness of Your grace in the firmament. Lord, we praise You that through the darkness, we see the light of Your presence that dispels the shadows. Even in the valley we know that You are with us.

Today, remind our lawmakers that human flesh is as fleeting as fading flowers and withering grass. Teach our Senators to number their days, laboring not simply for time but for eternity.

And Lord, protect the Ukrainian people.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kathryn Huff, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from Vermont.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in Albany, NY, a grandmother of four re-

ported recently that rising prices have forced her and her husband, a retired New York police officer, to cut back on eating out. "I feel it in the pocket-book," she said.

In Grand Rapids, MI, one young family reported that, before inflation took off, "the paycheck went a little bit further." Now, on essentials like gas and groceries, "there's no wiggle room."

In Springfield, MO, a food truck owner said that he and his wife are having to take business farther and farther from home despite gas prices.

Stories like these aren't exceptions; they are the rule. Working Americans have been absolutely swamped by rising prices.

Two-thirds of Americans told one recent survey that inflation has been difficult or even a hardship for their families. Fewer than one in five says the Biden administration's policies have done anything to improve economic conditions, and yet, as we speak, with the economy already scuffling, Washington Democrats are proposing more reckless spending and the biggest tax hike in American history. For example, President Biden is considering trying to buy up his sinking approval ratings by magically waving away \$1.6 trillion in student loan obligations.

So let's put a few things into perspective.

More than a third of Americans did not pursue education beyond high school. Of the Americans who did receive additional schooling, barely one in four holds any student debt at all. In fact, an outright majority of the \$1.6 trillion in Federal student debt is held by professionals with advanced degrees.

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



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S2343

Working people who chose to avoid taking on debt should not have to bail out high-earning doctors, lawyers, and dentists or adults who borrowed six figures for an Ivy League master's.

President Biden wants to effectively funnel money away from people who decided to learn a trade, away from people who chose community college, away from people who made tough sacrifices to actually pay off their loans in order to buy more enthusiasm from one of the Democrats' loudest and farthest left constituencies. Young liberal professionals with elite degrees and massive earning potential get a giant hand-out, and working people in rural America get the bill.

As one scholar from a left-leaning think tank puts it:

Almost a third of all student debt is owed by the wealthiest 20 percent of households [while] only 8 percent by the bottom 20 percent.

He concludes:

Student debt is concentrated among high-wealth households, and loan forgiveness is regressive whether measured by income, educational attainment, or wealth.

Even among the small slice of Americans who do have some student debt, the majority owes less than \$20,000. Ah, but the senior Senator from Massachusetts has proposed a cap that would cover debt up to 2½ times that amount. She is laser focused on giving the future lawyers and future doctors of Cambridge, MA, this massive gift before this November.

You literally have Democrat State attorneys general writing the administration, demanding the Federal government "exercise its authority to cancel federal student loan debt for every [single] borrower."

Student loan socialism would be a giant slap in the face to every family who sacrificed to save for college; to every graduate who paid their debt; to every worker who made a different career choice so they could stay debt-free.

Now, a little more than a year ago, President Biden was saying:

I don't think I have the authority to do it by signing with a pen.

Speaker PELOSI affirmed that view, saying:

People think the president . . . has the power for debt forgiveness—he does not.

Even the former general counsel at the Obama Education Department concluded:

The Executive Branch likely does not have the unilateral authority to engage in mass student debt cancellation.

But, apparently, lackluster poll numbers have the President considering breaking the law and plowing ahead anyway.

So think about this very concretely. Democrats want construction workers, police officers, and small business owners in Kentucky to effectively eat the student loans of surgeons, corporate lawyers, and people in New York City who chose to borrow \$180,000 for a mas-

ter's from the Columbia film school, with no plan whatsoever for paying it back.

In addition to making inflation even worse across the board, this jubilee for the elites would do nothing to combat runaway costs in higher education. Mindless subsidies would just make the runaway costs even worse. I would like to see one single Democrat visit the working people in Kentucky and defend this proposal with a straight face.

Democrats' policies already have working Americans facing the worst inflation in more than 40 years as well as the risk of a recession. But instead of trying to help middle-class families, Democrats are cooking up massive bailouts for Ivy League graduates. You can hardly dream up something more unfair.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, now on an entirely different matter, more than 2 months into Russia's war on Ukraine, the free world has observed a few important dynamics.

First, we saw the incredible resilience of the Ukrainian people and their resolve to win. Second, we saw how ill-prepared Putin's forces were to encounter serious resistance. But most recently, we have been reminded of what a wounded bear is able and willing to do.

The terrible destruction of Mariupol, the constant barrages of contested towns in the east, and the continuing long-range missile attacks against cities far from the front are a stark reminder of the horrific costs of this conflict that may well continue for some time.

Our brave friends in Ukraine are not out of the woods. And as I have said repeatedly, America and our allies must be willing to help them win. If the outcome of this conflict is an emboldened Russia or a fractured Ukraine, there is no question that the risks to the United States, to NATO, and to other American partners will grow.

First and foremost, that means serious, ongoing commitments to deliver more of the sorts of lethal capabilities that have sustained their resistance thus far.

The United States is rightly the leading supplier of military assistance to Ukraine's fighting forces, but to the administration's credit, they are also increasingly coordinating a growing international response.

While the preponderance of our support should focus on ensuring Ukraine has the military capability to defend itself in the months ahead, we should also contribute to the multinational economic and humanitarian support Kyiv needs. We must also make new investments in U.S. capabilities, addressing munition shortfalls and defense industrial bottlenecks to ensure that we can more rapidly produce critical weapons systems that would prove essential for Ukraine, vulnerable eastern flank allies, or our own military in the months ahead.

Obviously, there is broad bipartisan support for a robust aid package. But even a strong bipartisan vote will not mean much if we don't deliver on this promise soon.

For this reason, we cannot allow this bill to be a vessel for extraneous matters. This isn't about battling climate change; this is about helping Ukraine defeat a military aggressor on the battlefield.

Urgent assistance for Ukraine's fight must move at the speed of relevance. Every day this aid spends tied down in unrelated business here in Washington is a day it is not helping Kyiv turn the tide. If the Senate is serious about helping Ukraine win, we need to show it by passing supplemental assistance—clean, no strings attached, and soon.

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

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

INFLATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday the Federal Reserve raised interest rates by half a percentage point, the biggest rate hike in 22 years. The effort is underway to stop inflation. For millions of American families who are struggling to pay their bills and afford the basics, this can't come fast enough. The U.S. economy has added nearly 1.7 million jobs this year. Consumer spending is strong, but higher costs for groceries, gas, housing, and more are straining family budgets and making people very anxious about their future.

In announcing the interest rate hike yesterday, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the following: The biggest drivers of inflation today are higher prices caused by Russia's war on Ukraine and rising COVID cases in China, which can further disrupt supply chains. In other words, the Federal Reserve Chairman said two of the biggest drivers of inflation are really global; they are complicated; and they aren't going to be solved by America alone.

Fortunately, there are some simple solutions we can take to help families save money. Let me tell you about three of them. The first is to cut gas prices. I can't think of a single cost of living that is more visible. Every street corner in America has a sign declaring what the cost of a gallon of gasoline is, and people compare these in their mind even as they drive down the road. Some people make a hobby of it. Anyone who has filled up a gas tank in the last few months has felt the sticker shock of Mr. Putin's war on Ukraine.

President Biden has already made two changes that will reduce gas prices. A little over a month ago, he announced the United States will release 1 million barrels of oil a day from its Strategic Petroleum Reserve—in

other words, to increase the supply in an effort to bring down the price—1 million gallons a day for 6 months, while oil companies ramp up domestic production to make up the shortage caused by Mr. Putin's war.

President Biden also has issued an emergency fuel waiver allowing E15 gas—that is gas with a higher blend of ethanol—to be sold across America this summer. Normally E15 isn't sold in the summer, but the White House estimates that by allowing gas stations to sell it, it will save Americans 10 cents a gallon.

Of course, if we are really serious about cutting gas prices and reducing the power of tyrants like Putin whose nations happen to sit on big oil reserves, we can do that by investing more in electric cars and clean energy sources that don't break the bank or bake the planet.

Here is another solution that can save millions of families hundreds of dollars every single month. Let's agree to cap the monthly cost of insulin for diabetes at \$35. In 1923, almost 100 years ago, researchers in Canada were awarded the Nobel Prize for the discovery of insulin to manage diabetes. They sold the patent—listen carefully—for this drug discovery for \$1. They wanted to make sure that no one would ever profit from this lifesaving drug.

Fast forward 100 years. Something has gone terribly wrong. The same vial of Humalog insulin that Eli Lilly sells for \$40 in Canada, it charges \$350 for in the United States—40 in Canada, 350 here. The maker of Lantus insulin has raised their price more than 26 times since the year 2000: from \$35 to more than \$300 today—26 price hikes in 22 years.

The cost of insulin can range from a couple hundred dollars a month to more than \$1,000 a month. That is the price this year. Who knows how much it will be next year. Who bears the burden of these costs? Patients and families. There are 37 million Americans who have diabetes. The number goes up every year.

Senator WARNOCK of Georgia has introduced a critical bill, the Affordable Insulin Now Act, to cap the monthly cost of insulin at \$35 a month. I am a cosponsor. Many Senators are. Senator COLLINS and Senator SHAHEEN are spearheading a similar bipartisan effort to support it.

I urge more of our Republican colleagues to listen to the people they represent. There are lots of people struggling to afford insulin in their States as well as the blue States. Let's do this together. Can't we agree on one thing in the U.S. Senate that we are going to do to help America this year? I think this is a good project and a good goal.

The third way we can reduce inflation is a little more complicated, but it is worth talking about. We need to rein in the excessive fees charged by Visa and Mastercard for their products.

We had a hearing yesterday. It was in the Senate Judiciary Committee. It was on something called a swipe fee. Of course, the swipe fee is the amount of money that has to be paid in order to move that piece of plastic through the machine. Most consumers don't even know it exists. Every retailer knows it exists.

It was the first hearing our committee has held on this topic in 16 years—16 years. And I was there 16 years ago. I walked into the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by the Senator from Pennsylvania, Arlen Specter, and the hearing was on swipe fees and interchange fees. I had never heard of the term before, and I sat down and I learned.

What happened in that meeting was an exposition of the current situation for every restaurant that you go to buy a meal in, every store that you shop in, all the grocery stores. Any store that takes plastic knows what a swipe fee or an interchange fee is.

Here is how it works. Visa and Mastercard control over 80 percent of the credit and debit card markets in the United States—starting point. It isn't as if you can walk away from these two companies and be a retailer in America. If you are going to take plastic, you are going to take these cards.

And every time a card with a Visa or Mastercard logo is swiped at the retailer, Visa and Mastercard charge a fee that takes a cut out of whatever the transaction amount turns out to be. Now, some of that cut Visa and Mastercard keep for themselves. Most of it is given to the bank that issues the card.

The fee that Mastercard and Visa require the card-accepting merchant to pay to the card-issuing bank is the interchange fee. It is usually charged as a percentage of the transaction plus a flat fee, for example, 2 percent of whatever the transaction cost is plus 10 cents.

How does that work out in practice? Just an example: Say you buy \$100 worth of groceries or kids' clothes on your credit card. After the fees are deducted, the merchant gets \$98, maybe a little less. For merchants operating on tight profit margins—and that is most of them—these fees can add up to a big problem.

Laura Karet was one of our witnesses yesterday. She is an amazing woman. What a resume. She is the CEO of a supermarket chain known as Giant Eagle. It is a regional, American-owned chain of grocery stores based in Pittsburgh, PA. At our hearing yesterday, she explained that her industry—groceries—typically operates on a 1-percent profit margin—1 percent. So the 2-percent swipe fee wipes out their entire profit.

What do they do? Well, there is only one obvious answer: They raise the prices to cover the high swipe fees required by Visa and Mastercard, and customers end up holding the bag.

Remember, we started this conversation about inflation. Make no mistake, what I have just described to you is inflationary.

Swipe fees aren't just annoying to the retailers; they are anti-competitive. Ms. Karet told us the story that on April 22, she received the latest modification of the swipe fees being charged to her businesses by Visa and Mastercard. She said the modification was 300 pages long, almost unintelligible. She handed it over to her accountants and to her lawyers and said: Make some sense out of it. What are they doing to me?

The banks get the swipe fees, but the banks do not set the fees. Banks let Visa and Mastercard do the behind-the-scenes work and fix the fees. That means that all the thousands of card-issuing banks in the Visa and Mastercard network receive the same exact schedule of swipe fees from merchants regardless of whether they are efficient or inefficient, regardless of whether or not they are preventing fraud. It is a free lunch for the banks.

When the fee rates go up, as they did just a few weeks ago, banks make more money every time people use plastic—debit or credit cards—and they issue more cards. That benefits Visa and Mastercard, which take their cut, called a network fee, out of each swipe. So Visa and Mastercard have an incentive to keep raising fees.

What can merchants do? Well, you might think they would sit down at the table and say: We are going to bargain about this fee, Visa and Mastercard. We object to it being raised, and we want to let you know that if you want to do business with our business, that is the way it will be.

That doesn't happen at all. This is noncompetitive. Visa and Mastercard control 80 percent of the plastic market in America. They say to the grocery store, to the restaurant, to the shop: Take it or leave it. Play by our rules or you won't play at all. We just won't even let people present their cards at your business.

Visa and Mastercard tell merchants, if they want to be able to accept payment from thousands of banks in their networks, the merchants must agree to Visa and Mastercard's fees and terms. Take it or leave it. Only merchants can't leave it. Visa and Mastercard, as I have said repeatedly, control 80 percent of the credit and debit card market.

Incidentally, the figures from 2020 show—I am going to roughly approximate these, and I will clear them up in the RECORD—86 billion transactions using debit cards, 41 billion transactions using credit cards in the year 2020. How does that compare with cash and check? Cash, if I remember right, was 32 billion compared to 120 billion for plastic. And what about checks? How many people are writing checks? It was 5 billion transactions compared to plastic, which was over 120 billion.

The reality is, when swipe fees go up—and they do regularly—that cost

gets built into the price consumers pay at the checkout counter and at the gas pump.

Remember those gas prices? You wonder why they are hitting \$4 a gallon, \$5 a gallon? They include the swipe fees, the credit card fees, the debit card fees that are being added on to the cost of gasoline.

Take a look at this chart. In the 16 years between the first hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee—one that I attended on swipe fees—and now, Visa and Mastercard have imposed \$794 billion in swipe fees—fees passed on directly to American families and consumers. That is a staggering amount—\$794 billion, for the hidden fee you never see.

Visa and Mastercard just raised these fees again 2 weeks ago. Senator MARSHALL, my Republican colleague from Kansas, and I sent them a letter saying this is exactly the wrong time to be raising your fees. It is tough enough for these businesses trying to hire people and get back into business after COVID-19, tough enough for families who are fighting inflation. Why do you have to raise them now? You are very profitable companies. The banks are doing quite well, too, I might add. They did it anyway.

These fee increases are adding to inflation. The market can't fix the problem because the credit and debit card market isn't competitive. The retailers have no voice in what this fee is going to be. It is "take it or leave it." Visa and Mastercard have what they call a duopoly—not a monopoly, one company controlling everything—but these two companies, Visa and Mastercard, control over 80 percent of the plastic market.

What can we do about it? Well, in our hearing, we talked about several responses. First, let's bring transparency to the market. The last thing that either Visa or Mastercard want to see is sunlight—people understanding what they are charging, why they are charging, the impact it has on prices, the impact on inflation. They want this to continue to be a deep dark secret buried in 300 pages of legal gobbledygook that they sent to the retailers.

If consumers knew how much their Visa and Mastercard purchase cost at the local restaurants or businesses, they might try using a less costly card and there are some out there. It would be like giving the business a tip, and it would help bring down prices.

So why not require banks to show on their monthly statement that they send to us with their credit-debit card transactions how much of that was swipe fees? They could do it in a second. They wouldn't dare. They can't ever embrace transparency. That is just about part of this process. It is all in secret, in code, and legal gobbledygook. I will bet that would open a lot of eyes if you saw each month how much we are paying in swipe fees.

Incidentally, Ms. Karet talked about her supermarket chain. She said: The

three main expenses we have for my supermarket chain in Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Ohio are No. 1, labor costs—understandable; No. 2, rent—that is understandable as well; No. 3, credit-debit card swipe fees. She estimated that it is going to cost her \$1 million or more in her businesses based on what Visa and Mastercard just did two weeks ago to raise the fees.

Here is another way we can reduce inflation. Let's prevent Visa and Mastercard from hiking swipe fees up to unreasonable levels.

Yesterday, I pointed out that in Canada, the most commonly used debit card system, called Interac, operates with interchange fees of zero. There is no interchange fee. All the arguments that the banks and credit cards make in this country about why they have to charge these retailers these hidden fees disappear in Canada because why? The government stepped in. They said: We are going to regulate this. We are not going to let the banks and credit card-debit card companies dictate the policies in our country.

They are not alone. The European Union did the same thing. There is a long list of other countries that are moving in that same direction. It operates quite well in these countries with low fraud and high consumer satisfaction.

We don't have to eliminate interchange fees all together, but for goodness sake, we ought to make sure they are not excessive and not adding to inflation.

There are two ways we can do it: Promote something called competition. Are you a dyed-in-the-wool capitalist; do you believe in a free market? I bet you believe in competition, don't you? There is no competition in these fees. It is "take it or leave it." These plastic companies dictate these terms to the retailers that honor their cards. We can promote competition by giving merchants more options on each of the swipes or place reasonable limits on their fees. Other countries, as I said, figured it out. Many countries around the world say that swipe fees are a fraction of the cost of what they are here because those nations limit Visa and Mastercard.

We are afraid to tackle the giants. Our government and the people that work in this Chamber—many of them are frightened by the size of Visa and Mastercard. I didn't get that message. We can do better here. If we do, consumers and competition will benefit.

The bottom line is this: If you are serious about reducing costs for American families, get serious about reining in swipe fees. Visa and Mastercard swipe fees are adding to the fires of inflation every single day and they are doing it in secret. Is that what we want in our economy? Is that what American families need at this moment in history? I think not.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, if a conservative majority on the Supreme Court proceeds with their abominable decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the rights and the freedoms of every woman in this country will face their greatest threat in generations.

Let's be clear. This is what the Republicans want. It is in the laws Republican politicians have passed across the country. But the American people are not on their side.

Today, I am announcing that next week, the U.S. Senate is going to vote on legislation to codify a woman's right to seek an abortion into Federal law. Let me repeat that. I am announcing that next week, the U.S. Senate is going to vote on legislation to codify a woman's right to seek an abortion into Federal law. I intend to file cloture on this vital legislation on Monday, which would set up a vote for Wednesday.

All week, we have been seeing Republicans try to duck, dodge, and dip from their responsibility for bringing *Roe* to the brink of total repeal. That is what they have been trying to do for decades. Next week, the American people will see crystal clear that when given the chance to right this wrong, the Republican Party will either side with the extremists who want to ban abortion without exceptions or side with women and with families and with the vast majority of Americans.

Next week's vote will be one of the most important we ever take because it deals with one of the most personal and difficult decisions a woman ever has to make in her life.

This is not an abstract exercise. My fellow Americans, it is as real and as urgent as it gets. Like my friend PATTY MURRAY has said, this is a five-alarm fire.

Senate Republicans spent years packing our courts with rightwing judges. Will they now own up to the harm they have caused or will they try to undo the damage? The vote next week will tell. Let me say that again. Republicans spent years under Leader MCCONNELL pushing rightwing judges to lifetime appointments to the bench. They stole the nomination of Merrick Garland, changed the rules of the Senate, and rammed through three hard-right, hard-ideological judges to the bench. They spent years encouraging radical legislatures as they passed scores of cruel restrictions on abortion. One of those laws is, unfortunately, about to be upheld in the Supreme Court.

Republicans can run, but they can't hide from the horror they have created.

Republicans can run, but they can't hide. They have two choices: They own it now or, miracle of miracles, try to begin to undo the damage.

Again, to my colleagues, to my fellow Americans, this is not an abstract exercise in the slightest. Do you know why that is true? Because the hard right is not treating it like an abstract exercise at all. In recent years, they have been racing, bolting to pass unhinged, cruel, anti-choice legislation that would catapult women's rights back into the stone age. They have been prepared for this moment for years.

The Mississippi law before the Supreme Court, for example, has zero—zero—exceptions for rape or incest—a position that would have been regarded on the extreme of the extreme not too long ago. Imagine telling a woman who was raped that some White male politician is going to—White male judge is going to determine whether she has to continue to carry the child—fetus.

In Arizona, the Governor signed a law that could imprison anyone who “provides, supplies, or administers” an abortion by up to 5 years should Roe be overturned—again, no exception for rape, no exception for incest.

The infamous law in Texas, meanwhile, bans abortions as early as 6 weeks. Many women don't realize they are pregnant until after 6 weeks, and, again, no exception for rape, no exception for incest.

Unfortunately, these are not aberrations. Twenty-six States have laws on the books that would begin the process of banning abortions if Roe is overturned. Thirteen of these are trigger laws, meaning these bans would happen almost immediately after the Supreme Court decision.

This, it seems, is what the hard right wants—forced pregnancies, no exception for rape, no exception for incest. Republican politicians are telling America's women: Your body, our choice.

We cannot allow this vision of America to succeed. Come next week, Senate Republicans will have to answer for everything they have done over the years to embolden the hard right's hostility against a woman's choice. They have tried to hide what they are doing. They tried to downplay what they are doing. Those days are over.

You are coming clean—not clean, really, at all. Everyone is going to know what you have done and how you feel.

Leader McCONNELL can duck at press conferences when asked if he is happy to see Roe v. Wade go by the wayside, but he won't be able to duck it any longer.

So our view is that America cannot allow this vision of America to succeed. Come next week, Senate Republicans will have to answer for everything they have done over the years to embolden the hard right's hostility against a woman's choice. They will not be able to hide from the American

people. They cannot hide their role in bringing Roe to an end. The vote will tell next week. America will be watching.

AMERICA COMPETES ACT

Mr. President, now on a different note, last night, the Senate took another important step towards finalizing our bipartisan jobs and competition legislation that has been in the works for over a year. I thank all my colleagues last night for voting swiftly to process 26 motions to instruct the conference committee. Many of these were done by voice, and I appreciate everyone's hard work. We sat in our seats. No one, at noon yesterday, with 26 motions to instruct, thought we would finish by 10 p.m. or even at any point yesterday, but we did. That is good work.

There is still a lot of work to do, of course, before we send the jobs bill to the President's desk, and I hope we will see the same bipartisan, good-faith work in the conference that we saw last night on the floor of the Senate. We all know that no one is going to get everything they want, but if we keep working together, I am confident we can come up with a strong final product.

Our jobs and competition bill is just what the doctor ordered to boost our economy, bring manufacturing jobs back home, and most of all, lower costs for American families.

It is great news for American families who want to see lower costs on daily essentials. It is great news for workers who want to see good-paying manufacturing jobs brought back from overseas. It is great news for our businesses that need help strengthening our supply chains. It is great news for our innovators, workers, scientists, universities, and creators who will help us create new technologies and generate the next wave of good-paying jobs in this century.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who worked in good faith to help us reach this point.

WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION

Mr. President, one final note: protecting pregnant working women. As we all continue reckoning with the implications of the Supreme Court's horrible decision—the one that seems to be coming down the pike—the Senate must also support the needs of pregnant women facing discrimination in the workplace.

Recently, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions reported bipartisan legislation that would prevent employers from forcing pregnant workers out of a job or denying them reasonable accommodations in the workplace. In the House, a similar bill also passed with strong bipartisan support, and the Senate should do the same.

Mother's Day is just around the corner—happy Mother's Day to my mom of 93—Mother's Day is just around the corner, so I call on my colleagues to finalize strong bipartisan legislation that will make a meaningful difference

in the lives of millions of working pregnant women.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it is National Small Business Week, a week that is set aside to honor the contributions that small businesses make to this Nation.

Small businesses are an essential part of our economy. Ninety-nine percent—99 percent—of South Dakota's businesses are small businesses, and almost 60 percent of South Dakota employees work for small businesses.

Nationally, small businesses make up most of the businesses in this country and are responsible for 62 percent of net new job creation.

And small businesses are not only an essential part of our economy, they are also an essential part of our communities—doing everything from creating gathering spaces for community members to supporting local charities and sponsoring local sports teams.

During National Small Business Week, I would like to be able to report that small businesses around the country are thriving. But the truth is, while some are doing well, a lot of small businesses are having a difficult time right now, not because of COVID, as Democrats might like you to think, but because of inflation. Inflation, which has hit American families hard, is also creating major difficulties for small businesses.

Now, when I talk to small business owners in South Dakota, one of the first things they tell me is how inflation is affecting their businesses.

In a recent survey from the National Federation of Independent Business, 62 percent of small businesses reported that inflation is having a substantial impact on their businesses, and 84 percent reported that they are experiencing lower business earnings due to inflation, and it is no surprise.

Inflation has driven up the final price of goods and services. It has also driven up the cost of raw materials.

The producer price index, which measures wholesale costs to sellers, hit 11.2 percent in March—its highest level ever recorded.

And small businesses are struggling with high energy costs, which affect everything from production to the transportation of finished products to the cost of keeping a storefront open.

Farms and ranches, which make up a substantial part of South Dakota's small businesses, are seeing huge price increases in the cost of essential inputs, like fertilizer, while the price of diesel, which powers farm equipment, reached an all-time high this week.

Agriculture is already a challenging industry by its very nature. Many farmers and ranchers in South Dakota, for example, are currently dealing with a severe drought, and inflation is making things a lot worse, especially right now in the midst of planting season.

We all know how we got here. Democrats came into office last year mere weeks after Congress had passed a fifth bipartisan COVID relief bill totaling more than \$900 billion, and meeting essentially all of the current pressing COVID needs.

It was abundantly clear that we were not in immediate need of trillions more in government spending.

But that didn't matter to Democrats. Now that they were in charge, they were eager to take advantage of the COVID crisis to begin implementing their Big Government vision.

And so in the name of "COVID relief," they pushed through a massive partisan \$1.9 trillion piece of legislation filled with unnecessary spending and handouts to Democrat interest groups.

And the result was entirely predictable.

The definition of inflation is too many dollars chasing too few goods and services, and that was exactly the situation that Democrats helped create.

Democrats flooded the economy with unnecessary government money and the economy overheated as a result, and there is no clear end in sight.

It is small wonder that, after months and months of high inflation and anti-growth policies from the Biden administration, our economy shrank in the first quarter of this year.

Unfortunately, there is no easy solution to the inflation crisis Democrats helped create.

One essential thing, of course, is to do no more harm, and that means no more excessive government spending and no bloated Build Back Better tax-and-spending spree, a spending spree that some Democrats are still—still—advocating for.

Another essential thing is to unleash American energy production, and that includes conventional energy production.

I am a strong supporter of clean energy. I come from a State that, in 2020, derived 83 percent of its energy generation from renewables.

But no matter how much Democrats and the President might wish it were otherwise, the fact of the matter is that our Nation is nowhere close to being able to eliminate our reliance on traditional energy sources. Clean energy technology is simply not advanced to the point where we can replace all conventional energy production with renewables. And cutting off investment in clean, responsible oil and gas production will do nothing but drive up energy prices for American families, farms, and businesses.

Unleashing American energy production, on the other hand—including, I might add, production of oil and nat-

ural gas—could quickly result in relief for families and businesses and help ease our inflation crisis.

Unfortunately, the President has made his hostility to conventional energy production very clear. He set the tone on day 1 of his administration when he cancelled the Keystone XL Pipeline, an environmentally responsible pipeline project that was already underway and that was paired with \$1.7 billion in private investment in renewable energy to fully offset its operating emissions. The Keystone Pipeline was set to be what they call "net zero"—net zero—when it comes to emissions.

The President also immediately froze new oil and gas leases on Federal lands. And while his administration is finally conducting sales for new onshore oil and gas leases after being ordered to do so by a Federal judge, it has reduced the land available for such leases and substantially increased the royalty rate, sending a loud and clear signal to American energy producers that the administration is reluctant to collaborate with them.

Meanwhile, the Securities and Exchange Commission has proposed requiring publicly-traded companies to comply with costly new climate-related disclosures that would likely discourage investment in conventional energy production.

In short, the Biden administration is creating a recipe for sustained high energy costs and a lot more pain for American businesses and families.

But I and my Republican colleagues will continue to do everything we can to unleash conventional energy production here at home and drive down energy prices for Americans.

I am grateful for all that small businesses contribute to our economy, and during this National Small Business Week, and every week, I will continue to work to mitigate the harm of Democrats' inflation crisis and advance policies that make it easier for our small businessmen and -women to continue to drive the American economy forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Texas.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know we are used to having a lot going on here in Washington, DC, but this week seems like we have been hit by a whirlwind of activity—a war in Europe, COVID-19 still lingering in parts of the world, and then the Supreme Court found itself the victim of an unauthorized leak of a draft opinion, which has created a lot of furor and anxiety and misinformation.

One of the things that it has demonstrated is the need to protect the independence of the Court.

Justice Antonin Scalia used to say that you can read the constitution and bill of rights of a lot of countries around the world, and they look great on paper. He mentioned that of the old Soviet Union, for example. But he said

they are just words on paper without an independent judiciary to enforce them, and he was right.

Whoever leaked this draft document obviously intended to create a lot of public pressure—indeed, coercion—on the sitting Justices to either change their minds or to somehow garner a political issue that they would be able to use to divert the American people's attention from things like inflation, crime, the border, and the challenges to our national security and world peace.

We have to get to the bottom of this, and I am confident that Chief Justice Roberts will pursue that until the person who leaked it is identified and held accountable.

But this spotlight on the Court, along with the reaction—the public reaction that we have seen has raised another important issue, and that is the physical safety and security of the Justices themselves and their families.

In our increasingly polarized climate, the Justices have been villainized and subjected to violent threats. People have even published their home addresses so they can show up and protest on their home, on their property, on their lawns.

This decision, which is actually a nondecision because the Supreme Court hasn't handed down its decision—but the leaker has accomplished his or her goal, I suppose, by creating this hostile environment for the Justices and their families.

But, unfortunately, there are even people in this Chamber who have contributed to that environment.

In 2019, the Democratic leader went to the Supreme Court steps and threatened two Supreme Court Justices by name. He said:

You have released the whirlwind—

By the way, this was the day that the abortion case was argued in the Supreme Court.

The senior Senator from New York, the majority leader, said:

You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions.

And he named Justice Gorsuch and Justice Kavanaugh by name.

Now, to have the senior Democrat and Senate majority leader from this Chamber lobbying threats at sitting Justices on the Supreme Court if they did not rule in a way he wished is dangerous.

We have wondered before about the impact of some of the irresponsible rhetoric that occasionally occurs around here on vulnerable minds and people who might be tempted to act based on that incitement, based on that rhetoric. But to have this come from the majority leader himself is just irresponsible.

This is the branch of government, which is supposed to be the adults in the room, to operate in a way that is respectful, even with our differences, and the Supreme Court is the branch

that is meant to operate free from public or political pressure.

As Chief Justice Roberts said at the time: “Justices know that criticism comes with the territory.” It is a free country. People can express themselves within limits. “But threatening statements,” he said, “of this sort from the highest levels of government are not only inappropriate, they are dangerous,” he said. Well, Chief Justice Roberts is right, and subsequent events have shown that threats against the Justices aren’t going away and are becoming even more intense.

We need to take steps to improve the protection of the Justices and their family against potential violence, and it can’t wait until something bad happens. Some political activists have already announced their intentions to go to the private homes of the Justices. This is an appalling violation of their personal privacy. It puts them and their families at risk. We currently have two Justices with school-aged children. Once Judge Jackson joins the Court when Justice Breyer steps down, there will be three.

The Chief Justice has asked Congress to take appropriate action to increase protection for the physical safety of the Justices and their families, and we need to act and act with urgency.

Senator COONS, our friend from Delaware, a Democrat, and I are introducing a bill, a bipartisan bill, obviously, called the Supreme Court Police Parity Act to strengthen security protection for the Justices and their families. This will ensure the Justices receive the same protection and resources that article I and article II officers and their families enjoy. For our present purposes, that means they will be given the same authority that the Capitol Police already have here on Capitol Hill.

I appreciate our friend Senator COONS working with me on this important legislation, and I hope the entire Senate will vote on it soon.

As far as the larger debate about the draft document that was released, it is important to remember we don’t actually know what the Supreme Court is going to decide until it actually does decide. The Justices are still working through the deliberative process, and our respect for the independence of the Court requires that we let it proceed without interference.

While tensions and emotions may be high, it is important to note that overruling earlier Supreme Court decisions is nothing new. I looked back and realized it was 1789 when the Supreme Court reversed its first prior decision. Since that time, there have been 232 instances where an earlier Supreme Court decision was overturned. And, I must say, thank goodness the Court is willing, under some limited circumstances, to revisit its earlier decisions.

The Court’s decisions overruling earlier precedents in some cases has fundamentally altered major aspects of

our society. Without question one of the most notable was *Brown v. Board of Education*. Now, *Brown v. Board of Education* was a landmark ruling overruling a case called *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which established a shameful “separate but equal” doctrine between Blacks and Whites in public transportation and public schools. *Brown* said that is fundamentally discriminatory and will not stand because it doesn’t meet the constitutional standards. But it is tough today to imagine what our country would look like had the Supreme Court not reached its decision in *Brown* nearly 70 years ago. Classrooms, restrooms, water fountains, and even healthcare facilities would be designated by race. I am confident that I can speak for everyone in this Chamber when I say thank goodness the Court overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson* and reached the ruling that it did in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

There are more modern examples where the Court overruled precedent, like *Lawrence v. Texas* was overruled in 2003 by the precedent established by *Bowers v. Hardwick*, which had made it a crime to be engaged in same-sex conduct. So without a doubt, the Court’s decision to overturn its precedents has altered our society, and I suggest it has changed our society for the better in many of those instances.

Now, I realize that given our political and ideological preferences, we might like or dislike the decision that the Court ultimately makes, but former Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson said years ago that the Supreme Court is not final because it is right; it is right, he said, because it is final.

But there is no such thing as an inviolable decision or permanent decision by the Supreme Court, and again I say thank goodness. If prior decisions were set in stone, we would still be subject to egregious, shameful policies of the past like “separate but equal.” But the Supreme Court should always try to correct previously decided erroneous decisions, and they have criteria under the doctrine known as *stare decisis* for the circumstances under which they will revisit that precedent. The Court understands that they can’t willy-nilly overrule earlier decisions, and there is a very elaborate and exacting process and evaluation of analysis by which they do so.

But I believe it is our responsibility here in the Senate not to be part of the mob. Cooler heads must prevail. And that means us. It starts with us. We have to stand for the independence of the Court even when they render decisions we don’t like. That is the only way to preserve the crown jewels of our form of government, which is the independent judiciary. The High Court cannot be subjected to pressure campaigns by anyone—elected officials, political activists, or anyone else.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL BEEF MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to celebrate with my colleagues the month of May as National Beef Month, and I come to the floor not just to say that we ought to eat more beef and help the farmers and cattlemen of this country.

Before I get to something else, though, Iowa has the seventh largest cattle inventory in the United States and ranks fourth in the country for cattle and calves on feed. While I usually focus on the need for a fair and transparent market for cattle producers, today I want to draw attention to the job that cattle producers across the country have feeding America and the world.

Over the last 30 years, the U.S. population has increased by 80 million people. In that same period, the world’s population has grown by more than 3 billion people. In the face of a growing population, farmers across America have been faced with a challenging question: How do we meet the growing demands for food while also lowering our environmental footprint?

American farmers and ranchers have risen to that occasion; in other words, not just producing more food but helping the environment at the same time. Farmers in all segments have expanded production to fulfill increasing demand while protecting our environment. The United States is currently producing 80 percent more pork, 48 percent more milk, and 18 percent more beef than just 30 years ago.

Now, you would think, with all that increase in production, you would have more of an environmental problem, but despite the increases in production, per unit greenhouse gas emissions from pork production have decreased by 20 percent and 8 percent for beef production.

Nonetheless, environmentalists still seem to place unwarranted blame on farmers for contributing to our changing and warming climate. The recent narrative that U.S. agriculture is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions is simply not true. Now get that—it is simply not true. According to the EPA, only 11 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture. The leading sources of greenhouse gas emissions contribute nearly twice as many emissions as the agriculture industry does. Transportation contributes 27 percent, electricity contributes 25 percent, general industry is contributing 24 percent. So I am here to set the record straight. For the last 30 years, American farmers have been reducing greenhouse gas emissions with each meal served by embracing efficiency and the adoption of new technologies.

Agriculture needs to have a seat at the table for these conversations because farmers are the first conservationists and can help offset emissions from other sectors of the American economy. Whether it is creating carbon sinks on farmland to produce biofuels

or turning farm waste into energy, farmers have taken a very active role in reducing the environmental impact of agriculture.

Research from the U.S. Department of Agriculture shows that even if the entire world was vegan, it would lower global emissions by less than one-half of 1 percent, while losing access to high-quality protein very much needed in the diets of human beings.

However, the facts that I have mentioned do not matter to radical environmental groups or the mainstream media. Articles on food sustainability often focus on how eating insects and bugs can help save the planet. A simple search on the internet reveals some unsettling articles in our publications. A headline from Time magazine reads like this: "How Humans Eating Insects Could Help Save the Planet."

Then from the publication The Atlantic: "To Save the World, Eat Bugs."

And from the New York Times—can you imagine, the New York Times: "Why Aren't We Eating More Insects?"

All of these stories have a very common thread—to solve world hunger and to protect the environment, the American people and the world need to eat bugs and insects. But as I have already laid out, you can just eat more beef and feel good about the environmental impact.

Now, as for me, I will be doing my part in May to honor National Beef Month. I will be eating juicy hamburgers or eating steak, if the price isn't too outrageous—and it is right now. I will be supporting cattlemen from Iowa who produce the highest quality beef in the world. Farmers know firsthand the importance of a clean and healthy environment. It is simply unfair to place the blame of a changing climate on the backs of farmers.

As a nation, we must stand with the farmers across the country and work with them to promote a clean environment. I will continue working at the policymaking table to ensure our cattle producers can continue raising high-quality beef for generations to come and that families can enjoy it at their kitchen tables at prices they can afford.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

STAND WITH TAIWAN ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I wanted to come down to talk about a topic that a number of Senators have been talking about and that a number of Senators have been focused on. That is the topic of Taiwan and potentially the defense of Taiwan and the support for Taiwan.

As this body knows, in 1979, the Senate passed a very important bill called the Taiwan Relations Act—a very bipartisan bill. From that time on, the Senate has played a very important oversight role in U.S. relations with Taiwan, and it has always been very bipartisan.

Recently, a bipartisan codel, led by the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator MENENDEZ, with many other Senators—Senator GRAM, Senator PORTMAN, Senator SASSE—traveled to Taiwan. I just got an out-brief from some of those Senators—a very good meeting. I was part of a bipartisan codel about a year ago, with Senator COONS and Senator DUCKWORTH, also to Taiwan.

So there is a long tradition in the U.S. Senate, in a bipartisan way, with all of us working together, of addressing this question: To what degree should we be supporting and defending Taiwan against a very aggressive Chinese Communist Party, led by the dictator Xi Jinping? Why does it matter? Why should we all be working together, as we have done for decades here in the U.S. Senate, Democrats and Republicans, to deter a military invasion of Taiwan?

What will be happening in the next few weeks I want to talk about because I am concerned about the direction of the Biden administration, and I think every Senator here should be concerned. So I am going to ask my colleagues to lift up their voices when they talk to the Biden administration on a topic I am going to mention here in a minute. But why does it matter? Well, this issue of the potential invasion of Taiwan could take place in a few years.

The INDOPACOM commander, a little over a year ago, in front of the Armed Services Committee, opined that the threat of an invasion of Taiwan by an aggressive Chinese Communist Party would manifest itself during this decade—"in fact, in the next 6 years." That was Admiral Davidson, former INDOPACOM commander, and that is not a lot of time.

Here is why I think it matters: Right now, Taiwan is on the frontline of freedom in Asia. It is not some peripheral sideshow; it is, in many ways, central to freedom in that part of the world like West Berlin was during the Cold War. A violent military takeover of Taiwan by the Chinese Communist Party would be a sea change in how the entire world is ordered. It would change the history of the 21st century in the way that the Guns of August of 1914 changed the 20th century.

Now, some see the defense of Taiwan and the support that is required from the United States because of the Taiwan Relations Act—again, led by this body—some see the defense and support of this island democracy as a luxury that we can't afford in an age shaped by great power competition.

I actually believe—and I believe many Senators, Democrats and Repub-

licans, believe the opposite—that a Taiwan under China's control would decisively advance Beijing's campaign to export its authoritarian model around the world; to separate the United States from our democratic allies; and it would certainly be part of Xi Jinping's goal of excluding the United States from the INDOPACOM theater.

Taiwan—a thriving, prosperous Chinese democracy that holds free election and bounds its power by the rule of law—is central to the free world and its future.

By the way, if you are an American citizen, regardless of political party, you should take pride in the fact that this country—or this island democracy—is free because it wouldn't have happened without the sacrifice and resources of the United States and our military, and that is a fact.

A few months ago, I gave a speech on this topic, and I talked about how, when you think of the defense of Taiwan and deterrence, which is what we all want—deterrence; nobody wants a war in the Taiwan Strait—there are really three layers of deterrence for the island of Taiwan.

The first is Taiwan's ability to militarily defend itself, the so-called hedgehog approach or porcupine approach. Right here, they are defending themselves in the way the Ukrainians are defending themselves. Senator ROGER WICKER had a very good op-ed in the Wall Street Journal just today on that very topic. We need to make sure Taiwan has that capability—it is in the Taiwan Relations Act that we have that responsibility—so that it can defend itself, and they are undertaking the right approach with regard to the military weapons they are buying from the United States and other places.

The second level of deterrence that you see here on this chart would be America's capability to defend Taiwan militarily should the President of the United States decide to do so if there is an invasion by the Chinese Communist Party. Over several decades, through many different crises in the Taiwan Strait, this layer of deterrence, wherein the United States has shown up with military force, has proven to be decisive in keeping the Taiwanese people free, and our deep network of allies in the region augments this second level of deterrence.

But there is also a third level of deterrence. The third level of deterrence is often not discussed, but in many ways, particularly now, it could be more powerful than the first and second levels, and that is the level that relates to bringing in the instruments of American power beyond our military, such as our global economic and financial strengths, to deter China from an invasion. You see this third level: economic and financial sanctions.

This is exactly what my bipartisan bill, the STAND with Taiwan Act, would do. I am working with several Senators on this bill right now. We

have introduced it already, but we are going to recalibrate it, particularly with regard to the lessons learned from Ukraine.

One of those lessons that we learned from the brutal Ukrainian invasion by the Russian dictator Vladimir Putin in Ukraine is that comprehensive economic and financial sanctions have the best chance of deterring a conflict when they are clearly articulated and ready to go before the conflict begins. That wasn't the case in Ukraine, and we will never know, had sanctions already been teed up and ready to go, if they could have deterred that conflict.

With the STAND with Taiwan Act, which stands for Sanctions Targeting Aggressors of Neighboring Democracies—STAND—the whole point of this would be to deter Xi Jinping from making the decision. That third layer of deterrence is saying: OK. If you militarily invade Taiwan, here are the massive sanctions that we and our allies are going to hit you with, and they will be devastating.

This bill makes it clear that we should be engaging with Taiwan economically, across the board, in many sectors. And this is where I have deep concern—and I believe many of my colleagues here in the U.S. Senate have deep concerns—about the direction that might be happening with regard to the Biden administration.

Now, look, I am somebody who, you know, will be critical of the Biden administration when I think they are not doing a good job on certain things. And I do that a lot, particularly on a topic I am going to talk about here in a minute, energy. But in other areas, particularly as it relates to the Biden administration's relationship with regard to our allies and Taiwan, I have been supportive of a number of their initiatives vocally because I think they have strengthened American interests in the INDOPACOM theater. What are those?

Well, for example, the Biden administration took this initiative from the Trump administration—it actually started in the Bush administration—called the Quad. That is the biggest democracies in the INDOPACOM theater: us, Japan, Australia, and India. They have taken that grouping, which, during the Trump administration, was reinvigorated, particularly by Secretary Pompeo, at the minister level, and the Biden administration has taken that to the leader level. The President of the United States meets with the leaders of Japan, Australia, and India on a regular basis. That is good. That is smart policy.

They have also launched another very innovative policy, the Australia-UK-U.S. agreement to work together on military and defense issues: submarines, nuclear subs, AI, quantum computing. It is called the Arcus initiative. I think it is a really innovative initiative, and I have been very—one of the most vocal supporters of it in the U.S. Senate.

The Biden administration has also been pressing the G-7 to do more as it relates to Taiwan—the first time ever in the G-7. That is a good initiative.

In a lot of these areas, I have been supportive. So what am I concerned about?

This is a concern I have, but it should be a concern that every Senator has. The administration is getting ready to announce what they are calling the Indo-Pacific economic framework. This is going to focus on more economic engagement with our allies in other countries in the INDOPACOM theater. OK. I support that in general. We will see what the details are. But right now, that initiative, which we need in terms of an initiative with regard to economics and other elements of connectivity with our allies in the region, appears to be on the verge of missing two critical factors.

No. 1, and the real purpose of what I wanted to talk about, right now, we are hearing from administration officials that the Indo-Pacific economic framework is going to exclude Taiwan. Whoa. Whoa. That would not be a good thing, and I don't think many U.S. Senators—Democrats or Republicans—would agree that the Biden administration's first big economic initiative is going to exclude Taiwan, a very important economic player, very important technical player in terms of chip fabrication. Why would they do that? Well, it is not clear.

I have been pressing a number of Biden administration officials saying, you can't make that move. A, the Senate is not going to like it. And we have had a lot to say about U.S. relations with Taiwan for decades. And, B, it just doesn't make sense.

Some of the things I have heard is, well, there is this argument that trade is really not national security, so it doesn't relate to Taiwan. Well, that is not correct. Trade and economic issues are clearly national security issues as it relates to our country, as it relates to our allies.

The other thing I have heard is that, well, some of the other countries in the Indo-Pacific framework don't really want Taiwan in it. Again, we are the United States. We are the leader in that part of the world. If another country is saying, hey, I don't want Taiwan in it, you know, I think we need to politely tell them that, too bad. They are going to be.

So I am primarily giving these remarks right now to let all of my Senate colleagues, many of whom—Democrats and Republicans—I know care about this issue.

I have been trying to raise the alarm with the administration, saying, bad idea if your big, first economic initiative for the INDOPACOM theater is not going to include Taiwan. I hope other colleagues of mine will do the same.

Let me give you one final area that this administration should be focused on as it relates to our partners in the region, and that is energy—that is en-

ergy. We have so many opportunities to do more with our allies—of course, in Europe but also in Asia—as it relates to energy.

I put forward legislation called the Quad energy initiative that would be an initiative dealing with the export and importation of LNG. Think about the Quad: the United States and Australia, two of the biggest exporters of LNG; Japan, probably the world's biggest importer; and India, who wants to be to help their economy, to help their environment. This is something else I have been pressing this administration on.

It will help our trade deficits, it will help our energy security, and—you know I have talked about this a lot—it will help global emissions. The United States right now, since 2005, has been the leader in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, right there. The climb-down was 15 percent since 2005. India, China, everywhere else, significant increases; more American clean burning LNG to our allies in the region, the Quad. But, heck, even China would help us, our national security, our workers at home, and our environment and the global environment.

I just want to end with this: I hope all of my Senate colleagues in the next couple of days can reach out to the Biden administration and say: Look, on a number of initiatives—the Quad, Arcus—you have been going in the right direction, and you have strong bipartisan support. But the INDOPACOM economic framework led by the United States, if it is leaving out Taiwan, that is going to be a huge problem, and I don't think many U.S. Senators think that that would be a good idea.

Given our long history of leading in a bipartisan way on issues related to Taiwan, I am asking my colleagues to also reach out to the administration and say, there has to be a better way. We cannot economically isolate and forget about Taiwan when we need to be supporting them now more than ever.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 1195

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, on April 16, 2021, the House passed H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Healthcare and Social Service Workers Act. That legislation, sponsored by Congressman JOE COURTNEY, passed the House 254 to 166 with the support of 38 Republicans.

This legislation directs the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to issue a standard requiring healthcare and social service employers to write and implement a workplace violence prevention plan to protect employees from violent incidents.

In the year since that legislation passed the House, we have been unable to generate the same level of support from our Republican colleagues needed to pass this legislation in the Senate. This is disappointing because the issue of protecting our healthcare and social

service workers has never been more important.

Roughly three-quarters of all nonfatal workplace injuries happen to healthcare workers.

While it is too early to have comprehensive data from the pandemic, evidence from healthcare organizations suggests that workplace violence has exploded during the pandemic, nearing crisis levels for healthcare and social service workers. This workplace violence crisis is surely contributing to the staffing shortages that many healthcare employers have warned us about.

In Wisconsin, vacancy rates for healthcare positions have been increasing, and threats against healthcare workers are viewed as the main culprit. These workers care for our loved ones and comfort us in our most trying times. They deserve to have the safe environment in which to do their work that this legislation provides.

So as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1195 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Reserving the right to object, I come from the business world and know firsthand that employers care about their employees. If you don't keep your workplace safe—we just discussed it today in the Budget hearing—they are not going to stick with you. I think the question is about how you address those issues. I am married to a lifelong business owner in our hometown downtown that would say the same thing.

None of us who own businesses think—unless you get very, maybe large, where you think you don't need to pay attention to basic common sense and the rules—you need something, I think, that addresses the issue from here.

You know, I think that so often when there is an issue, there is just a tendency to reflex to the Federal Government. What is not considered are the costs and how it might actually play out.

In this case, I do acknowledge the issue, but I think the bill is in search of maybe a problem in the sense that we have got a mechanism that already works. I will talk about that here in a moment.

OSHA is there to find these issues and adjudicate them accordingly, and I think what this would do is not lend the marginal benefit and would end up, like many bills, adding redtape and costs.

It has two budget points of order as well. Those are complicated. I just believe there are better options.

Let me talk about this: I introduced the Voluntary Protection Program Act that has the same approach in mind, aiming at the same problem. I did it with my colleague from Colorado, Senator BENNET. It allows OSHA to work alongside employers and workers to encourage businesses without going through the redtape or the dictate of the Federal Government, and it has been successful.

It is not like we are trying to reinvent the wheel. It makes businesses exempt from bureaucratic requirements as long as, in good faith, they are trying to address the underlying issues.

Look at this. In its current form, it safeguards nearly 1 million workers, 700 local unions, and 2,200 worksites. VPP sites have shown injury and illness rates 50 percent lower than their industry averages.

This is something that we should be incorporating across the system because it is working, and it is working with an enforcement Agency and businesses solving the problem before we give an overall framework from here down.

It has been around for over 40 years, demonstrated its success. I think it would be a better approach to a problem. I acknowledge it is just not being used broadly enough. After all, it is kind of the way I think things should work first before you create a law.

I will ask for consent here shortly to pass the VPP Act. Let me add one important note that is personal to many in this Chamber. The 116th Congress was my first as a U.S. Senator, as a freshman. I was assigned to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and I had the great honor to serve alongside Senator Mike Enzi, who was the chair of the Budget Committee. This was his bill.

Senator Enzi was known as one of the individuals here never to shirk an issue but come up with commonsense ways that wouldn't add further to our debt, add more bureaucracy, but still solve the issue. This bill addresses a program that he cared about deeply that needs to be put into statute, to where it is used more broadly, and I was honored to take the lead on this act, along with Senator BENNET.

My bill is a no-brainer. Employers get the choice to participate. It has a proven track record, and it makes workplaces safer. It is a win-win for all involved.

Therefore, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, obviously, I am very disappointed, and I would point out that a voluntary measure, as my colleague on the HELP Committee just described, is not what we need when we step up to help protect our frontline workers in emergency rooms and in multiple settings where there is, sadly, an increasing propensity for violence.

Yesterday, I met with members of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the people who work on the frontlines in our emergency departments and emergency rooms across the country—as well as the emergency nurses. One after another, they shared stories of the violence they see and experience. I can't imagine walking into work every day knowing that this could be the day that someone was going to be struck or injured.

A doctor talked about being strangled with his stethoscope. A nurse talked about hearing a fellow nurse being punched and then falling on the floor, unconscious, and now with a concussion. I met a nurse several years ago from Wisconsin who was beaten so severely by a patient that she can no longer work in nursing.

We are not talking about studying a problem and coming up with a voluntary solution; we are talking about a crisis happening to our healthcare workers and at a time when they are also dealing with a pandemic.

Healthcare workers, social service workers, nurses, and doctors have been here this week. We will have more coming next week. These frontline heroes, who have endured so much, deserve the protection of an enforceable OSHA standard, not just a voluntary program, which is already the status quo.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1081

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 1081 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the Braun substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. BALDWIN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I suppose I prematurely gave my reasons for objecting as I responded to Senator BRAUN's objection to passing the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act; but, again, this is pretty much the status quo. If it is a voluntary program, it is not an enforceable OSHA standard; and these frontline heroes who have endured so much over the past few years, with increases in violence and during the pandemic, deserve the legislation that I have sponsored, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act. The House passed it over a year ago, and that is what we should be taking up.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wyoming.

NOMINATION OF KATHRYN HUFF

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to support the nomination that we are soon to vote on, and that is the nomination of Dr. Kathryn Huff. She was nominated to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy at the Department of Energy.

Now, while I don't agree with her on many issues, she is a strong supporter of nuclear energy. She is well qualified for the position to which she has been nominated. She holds a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering and currently serves as a special adviser to the Energy Secretary.

Before joining the Department, Dr. Huff was an assistant professor in the Department of Nuclear, Plasma & Radiological Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has also worked in our National Laboratories.

At her nomination hearing in early March, Dr. Huff testified:

It would be my honor to help the United States bolster and reclaim its global leadership in nuclear energy.

Now, more than ever, it is critical that the Department work diligently to make America energy-dominant again. Nuclear technology is essential to meeting America's energy, environmental, and national security objectives. We need to be looking for opportunities to expand our use of nuclear energy. Dr. Huff is ready and able to take on that responsibility.

Russia's army is funded by the sale of energy. That includes uranium. Russia accounts for one-third of the world's uranium conversion and half of the world's uranium enrichment capacity. It is our third largest supplier of uranium—for us in the United States.

Russia's brutal attack on Ukraine has opened the world's eyes. We can't be reliant on Russia. Now is the time for the United States to stop buying Russian uranium. Now is the time for the United States to ramp up our domestic uranium production. Dr. Huff recognizes that opportunity, and she is prepared to act.

The Department of Energy needs to take immediate action to establish a strategic uranium reserve. This is to ensure our existing reactors have the fuel that they need.

We also can't allow America's advanced reactor developers to be dependent on Russia. The Department of Energy needs to take immediate action to develop an American supply of high-assay, low-enriched uranium. To meet these challenges, we need experienced leadership in place at the Office of Nuclear Energy. Dr. Huff is up to that task. So I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANCHIN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 3 minutes.

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

NOMINATION OF KATHRYN HUFF

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, 2 days ago, it was my unhappy task to notify the Senate that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources had deadlocked on another nomination and on 3 important public land bills, with all 10 Democratic members voting for each bill and all 10 Republican members voting against them.

I strongly believe that the Senate works best when we work together, find common ground, and reach a consensus and that we fail the American people when we don't.

So it is with great pleasure that I come to the floor today to speak on the nomination of Dr. Kathryn Huff to be the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy. I am very pleased to say that Dr. Huff's nomination is one thing Democrats and Republicans on the committee agree with completely. We reported her nomination last week without a single dissenting vote. I urge my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, to vote to confirm her today.

My friend JOHN BARRASSO is ranking member, and we work very close together, and this is one that we found total unanimity that she is the right person at the right time in the right place for this job.

Dr. Huff is extremely well qualified for this important position. She has the academic training as a physicist and in nuclear engineering. She holds degrees in physics from the University of Chicago and nuclear engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has extensive postgraduate experience as a research assistant at Argonne and the Idaho National Laboratories and as a postdoctoral fellow at Berkeley. She has extensive professional experience as a professor at the University of Illinois for 5 years before joining the Department of Energy.

She joined the Department of Energy a year ago as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy. She served as the Acting Assistant Secretary for nearly a year prior to her nomination. She has very clearly demonstrated her ability to handle the job through her performance as the Deputy and Acting Assistant Secretary over this past year. She also showed her firm grasp of nuclear issues facing the Department at her confirmation hearing.

In short, Dr. Huff has earned the strong bipartisan endorsement of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. I urge all Senators to vote to

confirm her today. It shows that when we get the right person who is qualified for the job, basically, we will come together.

I would advise any administration to look deeply at the person you are bringing before us to make sure they fit those requirements. This is a carbon copy of what I would continue to find—people such as Dr. Huff to fill these very, very, very important jobs. It takes that type of dedication, but it takes the type of knowledge and experience that Dr. Huff has.

I urge total adoption of this by all Members of our Senate, 100 of us.

VOTE ON HUFF NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays are requested.

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 Colorado (Mr. BENNET) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 160 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Baldwin	Fischer	Ossoff
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Padilla
Blumenthal	Grassley	Peters
Blunt	Hagerty	Reed
Booker	Hassan	Risch
Boozman	Heinrich	Romney
Braun	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Cantwell	Inhofe	Schatz
Capito	Johnson	Schumer
Cardin	Kaine	Shaheen
Carper	Kelly	Sinema
Casey	Kennedy	Smith
Cassidy	King	Stabenow
Collins	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Coons	Lankford	Tester
Cornyn	Leahy	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Cotton	Lummis	Warner
Cramer	Manchin	Warnock
Crapo	Markey	Warren
Daines	Menendez	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Merkley	Wicker
Durbin	Murkowski	Wyden
Ernst	Murphy	Young
Feinstein	Murray	

NAYS—11

Blackburn	Lee	Scott (FL)
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Hawley	Paul	Tuberville
Hoeben	Sasse	

NOT VOTING—9

Bennet
Graham
Marshall

Moran
Portman
Rubio

Scott (SC)
Shelby
Toomey

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

(The remarks of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 620 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 708.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 708, Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Kirsten E. Gilli-

brand, Patrick J. Leahy, Ron Wyden, Amy Klobuchar, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 773.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 773, Asmeret Asefaw Berhe, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 5, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO ALISON KEAR

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, it is Thursday, and it is my favorite time of the week. And I can see the pages

are getting all excited about another edition of the "Alaskan of the Week." We get to talk about someone who is making a big difference in Alaska, someone whose spirit is helping others.

We always like to end the week on a positive note here in the U.S. Senate, usually with an "Alaskan of the Week" speech. So before I get to talk about our special Alaskan, an incredible woman named Alison Kear, I am going to give a little update about what is going on in Alaska.

So, as I mentioned last week, winter is no longer coming; winter is on the run. The sun is out longer and longer every day. Let me give you a real cool example. In Utqiaġvik, known as Barrow—the northernmost city, community, in North America at Point Barrow—the sun is getting out longer and longer each day.

Now, remember, just 3 months ago, Utqiaġvik had no sun—zero, zilch. Utqiaġvik gained more than 17 minutes of daylight from yesterday. Isn't that cool? It is kind of amazing. The sun rose at 4 a.m. and will set tonight after midnight. Four months ago there was no sun. So a lot going on.

In Anchorage, the home of Alison, our Alaskan of the Week, it is in the 50s, balmy this weekend. So it is a great time to be in Alaska. There isn't a person who doesn't long to visit the great State and join us up there. So please come and join us.

So let me go back to Alison Kear, who is doing a great job in Alaska, our Alaskan of the Week. She runs a very special organization called Covenant House, one of 33 Covenant Houses in the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

Covenant House's mission is to help with youth homelessness. That means, of course, helping provide short- and long-term housing for young people who are experiencing homelessness. But to really help our young people—all people—get into a stable situation, whether that means to reunite with family or get into a permanent home, what Covenant House does involves so much more.

At Covenant House Alaska, they offer so much more, and that has been Alison's incredible legacy. So let me talk about Alison, who started with Covenant House in 1997. So she is celebrating 25 years with the organization, a silver anniversary. Way to go, Alison. We are so proud of her.

She was born and raised in Florida. She went to college in Texas. She arrived in Alaska in 1994 armed with a graduate degree in healthcare management, a job at a local hospital in Alaska, and big ideas about where her life would lead her. Initially, at least, those plans did not involve Covenant House. In fact, according to Alison, they didn't involve Alaska for too long. She arrived—as she said recently to some of my team as we were putting this together—in the last frontier with big hair, a couple of fancy suits, and a plan: If she spent 3 years in Alaska

working at a hospital, she would probably get transferred to a big city of her choice in the lower 48 to run a hospital of her own.

So that was the initial plan, Madam President. But like so many before her, her plans started to change. And like so many before her, the change of heart toward Alaska started making her think: Hmm, maybe I am going to stay here. Maybe I have a great life ahead of me in the great State of Alaska.

Now, it happened a bit slowly. Alaska grew on her, as it does for so many people. She moved into a house with a great group of people her age. She began to ski, enjoy the great outdoors, have fun, make friends, friends who eventually turned into her extended family.

Slowly, Alison began to question that earlier plan she had that she was so committed to, and that started to lead to her thinking: I think I am going to have a great life here in Alaska. Her best friend was the executive director of Covenant House Alaska. Then—25 years ago—it was a crisis shelter that offered few services and, to be honest, was struggling to actually stay open.

Her friend asked Alison if she could volunteer a few hours of her time helping with grant writing. So Alison said: Sure. I will do that, a little bit of time.

And when her 3 years were up, that same friend said to her: You know, Alison, I think you should stay. I think you need a mission right here at Covenant House.

Something about that rang true for Alison. So in 1997, she started work at Covenant House in development for \$9 an hour—with no health insurance, by the way. So she started kind of at the lower levels of Covenant House and started to work her way up.

And then the mission that she never knew she needed found Alison. She tells a story about a Thanksgiving celebration they were having at Covenant House. There was a boy sharing the meal with them, someone whose own story was filled with unspeakable trauma, even horror. He talked about his family: "I don't think my mom ever loved me," he told the group, "but I am glad that she had me because you guys here at Covenant House love me."

That is powerful. That is very powerful. That simple statement hit Alison. She called her mother, Mary Whittemore, that evening, crying to her mom. You always loved me, Alison told her mom. When she internalized that and realized how important that love is, the concept of who she was and what she could be changed forever.

And I would say it changed Covenant House forever. Because of the love her mom gave her, she realized, too, that she had a big enough heart for love, especially at that wonderful organization. And Alison has spread that love, that devotion and commitment to thousands of Alaska's youth since that time, she and her team—her "rock stars," as she calls them—at Covenant House.

When she started—get this in terms of progress—Covenant House, as I mentioned, was a crisis shelter with a budget of about \$900,000. Under Alison's leadership and the hard work of so many others, it is now an organization with a budget of about \$15 million, with a new job training center and more education and employment services than ever before.

Great job, Alison.

And it has also become a nationwide model for helping youth. Through sheer tenacity, determination, and grit and through deep partnerships throughout the communities—not just in Anchorage but even beyond—Alison has led that effort. Roughly 200 kids a day from all over our State—thousands a year—are served by Covenant House Alaska.

So how do they do it? Let's say you are a teen. I know our pages can't imagine being a teen. Let's say you are a teen and you can't stay at home any longer. Maybe there is abuse or family addiction or you have aged out of foster care, and you don't have a place to sleep. Think about that. Unfortunately, a lot of teens have that problem in America.

And in Alaska, remember how cold it is—often below zero in the winter—and how horrible it is to sleep outside. So many of these kids are from rural parts of our State and have had to travel hundreds of miles to get to Anchorage. So now they are in the big city. They are likely to be traumatized, confused, lonely. It is bitterly cold outside. They have no place to go.

These are children, and it is heart-breaking whether you are in Alaska or anywhere else in the lower 48. So imagine that.

Now imagine this. Enter Covenant House Alaska. Covenant House has an outreach program, an incredible team of dedicated employees and servants to the people, to the kids, who walk the streets, go to malls, to homeless camps, wherever the kids might be. They give them some food, basic essentials, and tell them about Covenant House. That is what Alison's team does. They begin developing a relationship of trust because most of these youth have actually never had a trusting, stable adult in their lives.

What do the youth find when they get to Covenant House? First, there are people who welcome them, who smile at them, who treat them with kindness, who treat them with respect. If they are hungry, they get a warm meal, and they get shelter. And if they are dealing with trauma, they get counseling.

Eventually, if they decide they need to finish school or earn their GED, there is a classroom there. If they are pregnant or already have a baby, they will learn positive parenting skills.

Covenant House Alaska partners with several other amazing Alaskan organizations onsite—this is a big deal—what they call wraparound services, so the kids don't need to go back on the

streets. These different partners who work with Covenant House offer everything a teen needs to learn about in terms of life skills that so many of us take for granted.

And what is so amazing is that someone at Covenant House will stay with you for as long as you need it. They provide those services, even—this is really important—even after you leave the shelter, to help these teens navigate the system, apply for jobs, get an apartment, get transportation, get them through a crisis that they might be having.

All the things that we as parents do for our own kids, Covenant House does in so many ways for these kids—almost everything they might need to have a chance, an opportunity, a bright future.

Now, of course, Madam President, it is not that easy. It sounds easy, but it is not easy at all. Some of these youth have experienced unspeakable trauma. And I am going to talk a little bit about a tough subject, but it needs to be spoken about. For far too many of these youth, especially the young women and even some of the young men, they have been trafficked by bad people.

And the statistics are horrific. A 2017 study from Loyola University found that 28 percent of the young people being served at Covenant House Alaska identified themselves as survivors of human trafficking—28 percent. A disproportionate number of these teenagers are Alaskan Native—young women, many of whom who have been lured out of their villages with a promise of a better life, and they have been lured into trafficking.

At Covenant House, the leadership has not shied away from these statistics, and I think that is a testament to Alison and her leadership. Instead, they talk openly about it. They have studied it. They work tirelessly and diligently with law enforcement and other agencies in Alaska to address this scourge, which, of course, we have in Alaska, and we have throughout America.

Importantly, they make these survivors—and all the young people who come to Covenant House—feel safe. They call it "creating sanctuary" for the youth at Covenant House, and it works. It works. Alison said there are countless stories of young people who walked into Covenant House Alaska in crisis—traumatized, scared, lonely, very hurt—who are now happy high school and college graduates, working, with their own families, doing great things for the State. Some have even come back to be staff at Covenant House. I have had the honor of meeting a number of these young Alaskans who are contributing so much.

Alison is the key reason why this has all happened successfully. She is tenacious. She is smart, stubborn—that is not my language, by the way; that was

her own language—ambitious and loving for her kids. Joe Hemphill, Covenant House Alaska's chief development officer, calls Alison a "visionary for kids." He has known her for 25 years, and Joe said this about Alison:

One thing . . . hasn't changed [in over 25 years]: she has never taken "no" for an answer and she still doesn't.

But her heart leads. When you talk to her, she will tell you that love is truly the answer for all that ails our communities and certainly for all that ails our young people in them.

"How great it is to create a space where someone can . . . feel love," Alison said, "to take it and to give it." She continued:

It's the only thing that has truly changed communities [when you think about it]. Homelessness is not a singular experience. It's about a void in relationships, it's about a void of love.

Again, Alison credits her mother—that is very sweet, especially as we are approaching Mother's Day—for helping her understand what love means and how she can give it to others and how it can make a huge difference in all of our communities.

So I want to thank all the staff at Covenant House Alaska for doing such great work, day in, day out, 24/7, 365 days a year. As I mentioned, I want to thank you. My wife Julie also wants to thank you. Julie has had the honor of working at Covenant House for several years as staff and on the board and she has seen firsthand all the great work that Alison and her team have done for our youth in Alaska.

Again, to all of Covenant House, thank you for walking alongside our youth who have not had love in their lives and yet who are resilient and working hard to find a positive path in life. The Covenant House team is making that happen.

And, of course, thank you to Alison for leading this exceptional team. By the way, Alison, I know your birthday is coming up, so happy birthday. And most importantly, thank you, again, for being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

REMEMBERING ORRIN G. HATCH

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I come to the Senate floor today to speak about Senator Orrin Hatch, and I think it is very fitting that the distinguished Senator from Nevada be in the chair because she has been doing very good work on the Senate Finance Committee. And as she knows, Senator Hatch was my partner in leading the Senate Finance Committee for 5 years.

The Senate greatly mourns his passing, and I am going to take a few minutes to reflect on the important work he did serving the people of Utah and all Americans, particularly with respect to the Finance Committee.

It is no secret that Senator Hatch and I did not always agree 100 percent of the time. We had differences on taxes. We had differences on asylum

and immigration. We had differences on the environment. One thing that the two of us did agree on was the value of showing up every day and searching for bipartisanship and for common ground.

And we were able to do that, sometimes defying the odds on the Senate Finance Committee, and I am going to briefly recount some of those accomplishments in honor of his memory. First, the landmark reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program, for a decade, the longest ever commitment to children's health since the program was created.

And by the way, Senator Hatch was the coauthor of the original bill with his Democratic partner, the late Ted Kennedy. What a success CHIP has been shown to be. A wonderful State-Federal partnership. More than 9 million kids have affordable, quality healthcare thanks to CHIP. Within 2 years of becoming law, 47 States have set up a CHIP program, and today every State participates in CHIP.

As my friend from Nevada knows, sometimes it is hard to get the States to agree on whether you might buy a 7Up, all the States, but the CHIP program is a huge effort, and what a remarkable accomplishment, led by Senator Hatch, in keeping kids covered and healthy. In fact, just 5 years after the program was enacted, CHIP reduced the uninsurance rate for children by half.

Now, the road to a 10-year reauthorization was not exactly smooth. In fact, the authorization actually expired for nearly 4 months, but despite the setbacks and, as I say, taking on long odds, Chairman Hatch and I just kept at it, focusing on the impact that this historic legislation would have on the reason we all do public service, which is to make people's lives better. And it was clear that this was a real opportunity to make a lasting investment in the well-being of kids, and we were committed to doing that together.

So, now, thanks to the leadership of Chairman Hatch, the healthcare for millions of America's kids is secure until 2027. And I know because I remember looking over just a few desks away to Chairman Hatch and wondering if we were going to be able to keep this effort bipartisan, if we were going to actually get it done. He would smile, and he would look over at me in that kind of way, just sort of "Stick with me, colleague," because he so often treated me almost like a son. And it always made me feel that there was a chance, as I said, to show people that even in a very polarized and divisive time, we could get something really important accomplished like standing up for kids.

Now, the next item that I want to mention involves transforming the Medicare Program. As my friend from Nevada knows, my roots are with the Grey Panthers, a senior citizens group. When I was coming up, Medicare was a program for acute illness—if you broke your ankle, if you had a horrible case

of the flu, you went to a hospital, you saw your doctor—not Medicare today in Nevada and Oregon.

Today, Medicare is about chronic illness: cancer, diabetes, heart disease, strokes, COPD. That is overwhelmingly the Medicare Program today.

And when I briefly was chairman of the Finance Committee, I held the first hearing on updating Medicare to place the focus squarely on updating what we always have called the Medicare guarantee. Medicare isn't a slip of paper; it is a guarantee. And Chairman Hatch graciously agreed to continue that effort.

It began when I was the chair. And it took the better part of 2 years and a lot of guts for Chairman Hatch to take that on because the rule—the rule at that time—was you didn't even bring up fundamental Medicare reform because everybody went to opposite sides, and that was the end of the discussion. Chairman Hatch said: Not on my watch. We are going to do something very different.

And there were groundbreaking developments in that chronic care bill that make a difference today for Americans. Throughout the pandemic, it was clear that we needed to make bold reforms to increase the role and opportunity for telehealth to serve our people.

All our colleagues would come back from a visit home, do something about telehealth. Well, what happened was that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services was trying to move quickly, and they were looking for a model. And I remember then-Secretary of Medicare and Medicaid Services Seema Verma called me up and said essentially: Would you mind if we used the model for expanding telehealth which Chairman Hatch and you led in the Finance Committee?

And we said: We are thrilled, all in, let's go.

And today that model continues to expand. As my colleague from Nevada knows, in the recent major budget bill, we expanded it to audio only because we had so many rural communities where they didn't have broadband, where there was a big senior population, and they wanted to expand telehealth. None of that was possible unless Chairman Hatch was willing to take on a big Medicare reform undertaking, updating the guarantee, recognizing that in the 21st century it wasn't like Medicare when it began, and it really is going to make a big, big difference.

And as I say, we are going to keep expanding telehealth. My colleague knows we are looking to have a major mental health reform effort in this session. A big part of it will be expanding telehealth in covering mental health services. Chairman Hatch did so much to make that debate possible.

Finally, a third area—and this was all in one Congress, three major bills—and I could take kind of another prism and talk about the chairman, but we

passed the Family First Prevention Services Act. What an incredibly important task that was.

We saw with foster care families, there was a challenge in getting the care that people needed in those facilities, and we saw that many families who weren't in the foster care system were trying to make decisions about how to do what was best for their family. Maybe a loved one, a parent of a child had had some drug challenges, an alcohol challenge, and the choice at that time—Madam President, I think you will recall this—was essentially two options: One, keep the child in a family situation that was far from desirable or, two, send the child off to a foster care facility that left something to be desired, some good foster care, some not so good.

Chairman Hatch led the effort to a third path, Family First, so that now when you have families, there might be an older relative, a grandparent, it is called Kinship Care. The grandparent can step in and help the family as a parent might be dealing with that alcohol challenge.

And States all over this country now are moving to use Family First. They are moving to make it possible for a grandparent to step in as a caretaker for grandkids.

Building flexibility into the system, as my friend from Nevada and I have often talked about, that is not a Democratic or a Republican issue, that is just common sense. And often—often—Chairman Hatch would say: What is just a commonsense approach here?

I am going to talk for the remainder of my time about what a pleasure it was to be with Senator Hatch, personally.

We met almost every week, alternating between our offices. He would tell stories. He wore a mezuzah with great pride because he so valued his friendship with the Jewish people.

He told wonderful stories about his childhood in Pittsburgh, saving up money to take the trolley to the symphony, and fascinating stories about his friendship with Muhammad Ali, which almost invariably led to putting his fists in the air and showing me a little bit about the shadowboxing that he did with his wonderful friend, Muhammad Ali.

And then, of course, you would always hear about his side career as a platinum-record-selling musician and composer. And, finally, he was so good to his friends; he almost invariably inflated their accomplishments to those he was with, such as he did for years with me about basketball.

He loved talking about books, especially history books. I gave him books that my father had written; he read them closely. He would often bring big books to the floor of the Senate on a late night. And I see so many of our wonderful staff who can probably picture Chairman Hatch sitting right there—and I see the nods—with a big book, reading, and that was a special

moment as he made his way through a thick history volume and then told us a little bit about it.

What an accomplished Senator. What a good man. Nancy and I send our condolences to Elaine, to their children, to the many staffers who worked with Chairman Hatch over the years. And I want to close this way because this is how Chairman Hatch often closed a meeting. We would meet in each other's offices every week.

And I remember, often he would stand up at the end of the meeting, giving me one of those inimitable Orrin Hatch smiles, and he would look at me and he would go: "So long, friend." That was Orrin Hatch today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 160. Had I been present for the vote I would have voted yea. •

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, if there had been a recorded rollcall vote on the motion to instruct from Senator MENENDEZ that moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4521 be instructed to contain provisions in section 73003 of the Senate amendment related to the establishment of an inspector general for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, I would have voted nay.

If there had been a recorded rollcall vote on the motion to instruct from Senator Luján that moves that the managers on the part of the Senate at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4521 be instructed to insist on provisions sup-

porting the work of the Department of Energy, user facilities of the Department of Energy, and National Laboratories, including work in microelectronics and across the key technology focus areas, supporting the Department of Energy and its national laboratories, I would have voted nay.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING P31 THERAPEUTIC GRADE ESSENTIAL OILS AND HOMEMADE PRODUCTS

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week, I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize the small business, P31 Therapeutic Grade Essential Oils and Homemade Products of Morgantown, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

As any small business owner knows, the path of entrepreneurship is rarely straight and narrow. As is the case with this small business owner, Tabby Daugherty, who opened P31 Therapeutic Grade Essential Oils and Homemade Products, also known as P31 Storefront Insiders, in 2018. P31's story began a couple years prior to her official opening date. In 2016, Tabby was a part-time employee at Life-Skills, working with adults with disabilities while she raised her several children. As a mother of a large family, she strived to keep the meaning of Proverbs 31 at the core of her work and home life. What served as a motto of sorts became the inspiration for her business and its name, hence the P31.

Proverbs 31:17-18 reads, "She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night." Taking from that verse, Tabby sought to make herself and her household more self-sustaining and started to make her own laundry soap. Word gathered around town, and soon, there was widespread interest in Tabby's homemade soap. This do-it-yourself project and the demand it garnered soon led to her founding her own business.

A business selling soap grew into a venture that offered over 100 products. After a friend suggested she start creating products using essential oils, Tabby expanded her variety of products and began to sell moisturizers, serums, bracelets, and diffusers. She also creates custom products used to treat maladies. Around town, people know Tabby as a giver, evident in her role as a mother of a big family and in her previous job at Life-Skills looking after those with disabilities. For that reason, many put their faith in her and her products, often coming to her with a special request for a specific blend. Tabby gladly takes all requests even though it requires extra time and care

on her part to learn how to create these specially-requested items.

Customers keep coming back to P31 Storefront Insiders because they appreciate the diligent care Tabby takes in creating her line of items. The citizens of Morgantown and beyond seek her out because they know that all her products are made with real ingredients, are made in store, and are created without fragrances or synthetic products. Moreover, Tabby and her business operations abide by a strict set of codes, the most fundamental of which is customer appreciation. Patrons walk in to feel welcomed and lifted up. Tabby keeps the essence of her favorite proverb at the core of her life and her shop, evident for all to see.

Tabby is a strong force within the Morgantown community. She stays involved with the local chapter of the Boys and Girls Club, as well as the local bass fishing team. She also makes sure her business is there to fill any sort of community need that may arise, for example, in previous clothes drives she has offered P31 Storefront Insiders as a drop-off location. And when her children's sports team needed to raise money for new equipment, she took a creative approach towards lending a hand: providing the ingredients of her famous soap to the team's players, requiring them to make it and sell it on their own. In this way, she provided the team the tools to achieve their fundraising goals but allowed the children to take responsibility for their efforts. Given its popularity, she has also opened that opportunity to other Butler County schools.

A giving and charitable spirit permeates throughout Tabby's life and her business. She currently offers a "Maggie Collection" product line of bracelets. Maggie is a local young girl who was diagnosed with leukemia, and P31 donates \$2 from every bracelet sold towards Maggie's treatment. Tabby also hosts an in-store bible study every Wednesday for local teenage girls, allowing them the opportunity to speak about devotion over pizza and soda. Without a doubt, Tabby is a force for good, and she capitalizes on her position as a local entrepreneur to help improve the lives of those around her. She truly captures the benevolent essence that so often goes hand in hand with the entrepreneurial spirit. I want to congratulate the whole team at P31 Therapeutic Grade Essential Oils and Homemade Products and wish Tabby the best of luck. I look forward to watching her continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 2838. A bill to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain an online portal accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-106).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. Lane Tucker, of Alaska, to be United States Attorney for the District of Alaska for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. TUBERVILLE:

S. 4147. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Labor from constraining the range or type of investments that may be offered to participants and beneficiaries of individual retirement accounts who exercise control over the assets in such accounts; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED:

S. 4148. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to complete and publish a study and develop a plan relating to the ability of the electric system to meet the electricity demand of new electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 4149. A bill to ensure that the background check system used for firearms purchases denies a firearm to a person prohibited from possessing a firearm by a lawful court order governing the pretrial release of the person; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COTTON, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4150. A bill to allow Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired service weapons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4151. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to prohibit certain acts related to fentanyl, analogues of fentanyl, and coun-

terfeit substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 4152. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize the Critical Path Public-Private Partnerships; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER:

S. 4153. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the credit for small employer pension plan startup costs; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 4154. A bill to provide better access to retirement plans through small businesses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4155. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize extraterritorial jurisdiction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 4156. A bill to improve the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 4157. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to promulgate regulations prohibiting the use of lead ammunition on all land and water under the jurisdiction and control of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and other for purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4158. A bill to amend the small business laws to create certain requirements with respect to the SBIR and STTR program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4159. A bill to ensure greater equity in Federal disaster assistance policies and programs by authorizing an equity steering group and equity advisor within the Federal Emergency Management Agency, improving data collection to measure disparate outcomes and participation barriers, requiring equity criteria to be applied to policies and programs, and permitting counties to seek emergency and major disaster declarations in certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

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

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. Res. 616. A resolution expressing support for the Association of South East Asian Nations, its 10 member states, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and

Vietnam, and the United States-ASEAN Special Summit in Washington, D.C., and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to continue to remain a strong, reliable, and active partner in the ASEAN region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KING, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 617. A resolution recognizing the roles and contributions of the teachers of the United States in building and enhancing the civic, cultural, and economic well-being of the United States; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 618. A resolution recognizing April 30, 2022, as “El Dia de los Ninos—Celebrating Young Americans”; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. Res. 619. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 620. A resolution designating May 5, 2022, as the “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr.

TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 621. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of the late Senator Orrin G. Hatch; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 622. A resolution recognizing the cultural and historical significance of the Cinco de Mayo holiday; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 443

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 443, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 586, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 905

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 905, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit certain expenses associated with obtaining or maintaining recognized postsecondary credentials to be treated as qualified higher education expenses for purposes of 529 accounts.

S. 1489

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1489, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to establish an Inspector General of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and for other purposes.

S. 1784

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1784, a bill to amend the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act to modernize verification of contact lens prescriptions, and for other purposes.

S. 2108

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2108, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate work disincentives for childhood disability beneficiaries.

S. 3176

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3176, a bill to establish a cause of action for those harmed by exposure to water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 3508, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 3678

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3678, a bill to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 3800

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3800, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish and support a network of Centers for Public Health Preparedness and Response.

S. 3861

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3861, a bill to require the Secretary of State to submit annual reports to Congress on the assistance provided to Somaliland and to conduct a feasibility study, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, on establishing a security partnership with Somaliland, without recognizing Somaliland as an independent state.

S. 3909

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3909, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 3915

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3915, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

S. 3944

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3944, a bill to improve the safety of the air supply on aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 3950

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3950, a bill to establish the Baltic Security and Economic Enhancement Initiative for the purpose of increasing security and economic ties with the Baltic countries and to establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of deepening security cooperation with the Baltic countries, and for other purposes.

S. 4105

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4105, a bill to treat certain liquidations of new motor vehicle inventory as qualified liquidations of LIFO inventory for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 4124

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4124, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for the Disinformation Governance Board of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 38

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 38, a concurrent resolution declaring a state of emergency due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, in order to establish a waiver of the minimum tonnage requirements of section 55305 of title 46, United States Code.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED:

S. 4148. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to complete and publish a study and develop a plan relating to the ability of the electric system to meet the electricity demand of new electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Electric Vehicle Grid, Improvement, and Development Act, which would take important steps to prepare our electric grid for the deployment of the electric vehicle charging infrastructure that is essential to meeting our climate goals.

Our Nation's dependence on fossil fuels has created serious challenges for our security, economy, and environment. The electrification of our trans-

portation system will play a crucial role in confronting those challenges. Indeed, electric vehicles will help reduce our dependence on oil, lower carbon emissions and save Americans money at the pump.

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act took great strides in advancing the deployment of electric vehicles. The bill provided \$15 billion for electric vehicles, including \$7.5 billion to create a national network of electric vehicle charging stations. Of these funds, Rhode Island should receive \$23 million for the deployment of new charging stations across the State.

Investments in electric vehicle charging infrastructure must be paired with grid readiness measures to ensure we can decarbonize as quickly as possible. To that end, the EV GRID Act would direct the Department of Energy to complete a study on the anticipated demand of electric vehicle charging infrastructure on our electric grid. It would also direct the Department, once the study is completed, to submit a plan with recommendations for policymakers to help the electric system meet demand.

This bill is critical to ensuring a smooth transition toward a cleaner, decarbonized transportation sector. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4155. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize extraterritorial jurisdiction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 4155

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 "Alien Tort Statute Clarification Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Since its founding, the United States has been a proponent of international law and a champion of universal human rights. Section 1350 of title 28, United States Code (referred to in this section as the "Alien Tort Statute"), originally enacted as part of the Act entitled "An Act to establish the judicial courts of the United States", approved September 24, 1789 (1 Stat. 73), continues to serve important purposes in providing remedies to victims of violations of international law and for holding perpetrators of human rights violations accountable.

(2) Some international law violations have been addressed in part by other statutes. But the Alien Tort Statute remains an important tool for addressing international law violations.

(3) Human rights abusers continue to seek refuge in the United States, including foreign government and military officials and leaders of death squads and other violent groups. This undermines the standing of the United States and its capacity to speak with authority on matters of human rights.

(4) When corporations commit or aid and abet human rights violations directly and through their supply chains, they should be held accountable. Failing to do so erodes the foreign policy interests of the United States and the priorities of Congress.

(5) Impunity for corporations who violate human rights unfairly disadvantages businesses that respect and uphold human rights. Companies that respect human rights should have a level playing field with companies that do not, such as those that would continue to do business in areas of the world known for mass atrocities or war crimes, including the Xinjiang region of the People's Republic of China or in the Russian Federation amidst the ongoing invasion of Ukraine.

(6) In many countries where human rights abuses occur, victims are unable to obtain justice because of ongoing conflicts and violence, corruption, and inadequate rule of law. In many such cases, a suit under the Alien Tort Statute is the only option for redress and accountability.

(7) The international law violations for which the Alien Tort Statute provides a remedy are universal and the Alien Tort Statute is a testament to the rule of law in the United States.

(8) The Alien Tort Statute should be available against those responsible for human rights abuses whenever they are subject to personal jurisdiction in the United States, regardless of where the abuse occurred.

SEC. 3. EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.

Section 1350 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—" before "The district"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.—In addition to any domestic or extraterritorial jurisdiction otherwise provided by law, the district courts of the United States have extraterritorial jurisdiction over any tort described in subsection (a) if—

"(1) an alleged defendant is a national of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence (as those terms are defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)); or

"(2) an alleged defendant is present in the United States, irrespective of the nationality of the alleged defendant.".

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4158. A bill to amend the small business laws to create certain requirements with respect to the SBIR and STTR program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the "Encouraging Small Business Innovation Act," which I introduced today.

During National Small Business Week, we are celebrating the resiliency of our Nation's entrepreneurs who are leading our economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To promote a strong recovery for the 32.5 million small businesses across the country, Congress should bolster Federal programs that support these entrepreneurs and innovators.

For more than 40 years, the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs have spurred innovation, job creation, and economic growth.

These programs have generated breakthroughs in a wide range of sectors, including agriculture, defense, energy, healthcare, and transportation.

Today, the Small Business Administration and 11 participating Federal Agencies leverage the SBIR and STTR Programs to help small innovative firms explore their potential and increase the commercialization of innovations arising out of Federal research and development.

While these critical programs have invested more than \$40 billion in small businesses, many firms, especially those that are minority- or women-owned, still face considerable barriers to participation.

As we look to spur innovation and drive small business growth, Congress should improve the diversity of these programs, enhance access to capital, and expand the eligible uses of funds to better support the needs of U.S. small businesses.

That is why I am proud to introduce this bill to increase the effectiveness of the SBIR and STTR Programs by improving diversity, enhancing access to capital, and expanding the eligible uses of funds.

This bill would direct participating Federal Agencies to use a portion of their SBIR allocation to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to underserved populations and states.

It would also allow Small Business Investment Companies to participate as investors in SBIR and STTR projects and permanently add testing and evaluation activities permanently as an eligible expense, which can be resource-intensive for small firms, across all relevant agencies.

Additionally, this bill would require participating Federal Agencies to conduct a joint annual meeting to share best practices for improving data collection and streamlining processes across the programs.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill to improve the effectiveness of the SBIR and STTR Programs.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 616—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS, ITS 10 MEMBER STATES, BRUNEI, CAMBODIA, INDONESIA, LAOS, MALAYSIA, MYANMAR, THE PHILIPPINES, SINGAPORE, THAILAND, AND VIETNAM, AND THE UNITED STATES-ASEAN SPECIAL SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE TO REMAIN A STRONG, RELIABLE, AND ACTIVE PARTNER IN THE ASEAN REGION

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. ROMNEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 616

Whereas the 10 members of the Association of South East Asian Nations ("ASEAN") represent a variety of different cultures and beliefs;

Whereas an estimated 7,000,000 United States citizens identify with an ethnicity represented in ASEAN;

Whereas the United States and ASEAN have been cooperating to advance mutual interests for approximately 45 years, having first established dialogue on September 10, 1977, through the Joint Communique of the First ASEAN-United States Dialogue and the United States acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia at the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference Session in Thailand on July 22, 2009;

Whereas the United States was the first non-ASEAN country to appoint an ambassador to ASEAN on April 29, 2008, and the first non-member to establish a permanent mission to ASEAN in 2010;

Whereas cooperation between the United States Government and the governments and people of ASEAN member states can help realize the common goals of a free, open, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region rooted in a rules-based order that promotes security, opportunity, and dignity to all people;

Whereas ASEAN member states have vibrant economies that have given rise to a flourishing middle class and collectively are predicted to become the fourth-largest economy in the world by 2050;

Whereas, in 2020, the 10 ASEAN member states represented the fifth largest economy in the world and constituted the fourth-largest export market of the United States, with total exports from the United States to ASEAN countries reaching \$111,900,000,000;

Whereas ASEAN is the number one destination for United States investment in the Indo-Pacific, with \$328,500,000,000 in cumulative foreign direct investment;

Whereas ASEAN member states surround critical global sea lanes, with \$5,300,000,000,000 of global trade and more than ½ of the world's total shipped tonnage transiting through the waters of such member states each year;

Whereas the ultimate goal of the ASEAN Economic Community (referred to in this preamble as "AEC") is to create one of the largest single market economies in the world and facilitate the free movement of goods, services, and professionals;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN Single Window custom facilitation system expedites intra-ASEAN trade and enhances the ability of United States businesses to operate in the region;

Whereas the United States-ASEAN Business Alliance for Competitive Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises has trained more than 20,000 small-to-medium size enterprises, with nearly ½ of the participants being women entrepreneurs;

Whereas the Mekong-U.S. Partnership, established in 2020 to expand upon the Lower Mekong Initiative, promotes sustainable long-term economic development throughout mainland Southeast Asia and fosters regional cooperation, integration, and capacity building;

Whereas the Japan-U.S.-Mekong Power Partnership aims to "promote a more sustainable energy sector and quality energy infrastructure development" and demonstrates the shared commitment of the United States and other Indo-Pacific nations to strengthen ties with Mekong countries;

Whereas, in 2021, the United States announced several additional initiatives to enhance cooperation with ASEAN, including the United States-ASEAN Health Futures, the United States-ASEAN Climate Futures, the United States-ASEAN Economic Futures, and the Billions Futures;

Whereas the United States is cooperating with ASEAN member states and providing emergency health assistance to enhance the resilience of such member states in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the recently announced United States-ASEAN Health Futures program that builds on the more than \$3,500,000,000 the United States has invested in global health collaboration with ASEAN member states over the last 20 years;

Whereas the United States remains committed to working with ASEAN to improve the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental dignity of the people of ASEAN member states, a key ingredient to maintaining stability, promoting economic growth, and advancing good governance and rule of law;

Whereas the Burmese armed forces conducted an illegitimate coup in 2021, usurped the democratic government of Myanmar, killed hundreds of civilians, and displaced more than 300,000 people;

Whereas the Burmese junta has failed to make meaningful progress on ASEAN's Five-Point Consensus or receive official recognition from ASEAN;

Whereas the United States remains concerned about democratic backsliding and the erosion of protections of fundamental human rights in Southeast Asia;

Whereas the United States opposes all actions and claims that infringe upon the freedom and lawful use of the sea and has a national interest in ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight, open access to the maritime commons of the Indo-Pacific region, and respect for international law in the South China Sea;

Whereas the United States is deeply concerned about recent assertive and unsafe behavior by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea and urges all countries with competing territorial claims to seek peaceful resolution of disputes through collaborative diplomacy and, as necessary, international dispute resolution mechanisms consistent with international law;

Whereas the United States supports the decision of the Government of the Philippines to use arbitration under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, done at Montego Bay December 10, 1982, to peacefully and lawfully address competing claims;

Whereas the United States supports development of a code of conduct that represents the interests of all parties and promotes peace and stability in the region surrounding the South China Sea, opposes efforts by any nation to use a code of conduct as a vehicle to limit presence in or lawful use of the South China Sea, encourages claimants not to undertake new or unilateral attempts to change the status quo since the signing of the 2002 Declaration of Conduct, including reclamation activities or administrative measures or controls in disputed areas in the South China Sea, and encourages ASEAN countries to adopt a unified position in negotiating the code of conduct;

Whereas the 20th Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training naval exercises featured more than 400 sailors from 21 countries, built greater maritime security on the strength of ASEAN, strengthened navy-to-navy bonds, and exemplified the shared belief in a free and open Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas the Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States declares that "the United States also welcomes a strong and independent ASEAN that leads in Southeast Asia" and "endorse[s] ASEAN centrality and support[s] ASEAN in its efforts to deliver sustainable solutions to the region's most pressing challenges";

Whereas natural disasters in the ASEAN region over the past 4 decades have resulted

in major loss and damage, with a disproportionate impact on developing countries;

Whereas the United States will pursue initiatives that are consistent with sustainable long-term economic development, including—

(1) achievement of food security and poverty alleviation;

(2) improvement of conservation and sustainable management of forests, fish stocks, and oceanic resources;

(3) resilience to extreme weather events that are increasing in frequency and severity; and

(4) provision of sustainable livelihoods for local communities throughout the ASEAN region; and

Whereas, in the invitation for the United States-ASEAN Leaders Summit, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., stated that “the United States is committed to ASEAN centrality and remains steadfast in its support for an ASEAN-centered regional architecture at the heart of the Indo-Pacific”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes official representatives from the Governments of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam to attend the first United States-ASEAN Special Summit in Washington, D.C.;

(2) supports the decision of the Association of South East Asian Nations (referred to in this resolution as “ASEAN”) to invite non-political representatives from Myanmar to high-level ASEAN events and, furthermore, welcomes such non-political representatives to vocalize concerns on behalf of the Burmese people at the United States-ASEAN Special Summit, and refutes any political representation for the Burmese junta;

(3) supports and affirms the full implementation of the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-409; 132 Stat. 5387 et seq.) with regard to elevating the relationship between the United States and ASEAN, including more than \$2,000,000,000 in annual appropriations for foreign assistance and diplomatic operations in the Indo-Pacific region;

(4) urges the United States-ASEAN Special Summit, scheduled for May 12 and 13, 2022, to prioritize—

(A) democracy, good governance, rule of law, and human rights and address the trend of democratic backsliding in Southeast Asia, including the 2021 coup in Myanmar; and

(B) the pursuit of a robust economic agenda;

(5) reaffirms the importance of United States-ASEAN economic engagement, including the elimination of barriers to cross-border commerce, and supports the goals of the ASEAN Economic Community (referred to in this resolution as the “AEC”) goals, including strong, inclusive, and sustainable long-term economic growth and cooperation with the United States that focuses on innovation and capacity-building efforts in technology, education, disaster management, food security, human rights, and trade facilitation, particularly for the poorest ASEAN member states;

(6) urges ASEAN to continue its efforts to foster greater integration and unity within the ASEAN community, as well as to foster greater integration and unity with non-ASEAN economic, political, and security partners, including Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, the European Union, Taiwan, and India;

(7) calls on ASEAN to reaffirm its commitment, consistent with the fundamental principle in the ASEAN Charter and Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally

recognized borders and call for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukraine;

(8) recognizes the value of strategic economic initiatives like United States-ASEAN Connect, which demonstrates a commitment to ASEAN and the AEC and builds upon economic relationships in the region;

(9) supports ASEAN member states in addressing maritime and territorial disputes in a constructive manner and in pursuing claims through peaceful, diplomatic, and, as necessary, legitimate regional and international dispute resolution mechanisms, consistent with international law, including through the adoption of a code of conduct in the South China Sea that represents the interests of all parties and promotes peace and stability in the region;

(10) urges all parties involved in the maritime and territorial disputes in the Indo-Pacific region, including the Government of the People's Republic of China—

(A) to cease any current activities, and avoid undertaking any actions in the future that undermine stability or complicate or escalate disputes through the use of coercion, intimidation, or military force;

(B) to demilitarize islands, reefs, shoals, and other features, and refrain from new efforts to militarize, including the construction of new garrisons and facilities and the relocation of additional military personnel, materiel, or equipment;

(C) to oppose actions by any country that prevent other countries from exercising their sovereign rights to the resources in their exclusive economic zones and continental shelves by enforcing claims to those areas in the South China Sea that lack support in international law; and

(D) to oppose unilateral declarations of administrative and military districts in contested areas in the South China Sea;

(11) urges parties to refrain from unilateral actions that cause permanent physical damage to the marine environment, and supports the efforts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and ASEAN to implement guidelines to address the illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the region;

(12) supports efforts by United States partners and allies in ASEAN—

(A) to enhance maritime capability and maritime domain awareness;

(B) to protect unhindered access to and use of international waterways in the Indo-Pacific region that are critical to ensuring the security and free flow of commerce;

(C) to counter piracy;

(D) to disrupt illicit maritime trafficking activities, such as the trafficking of persons, goods, and drugs; and

(E) to enhance the maritime capabilities of countries or regional organizations to respond to emerging threats to maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region;

(13) urges ASEAN member states to develop a common approach to reaffirm the 2016 decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in favor of the Philippines in the case against the People's Republic of China for excessive maritime claims;

(14) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to continue joint efforts with ASEAN to halt human smuggling and trafficking in persons, and urges ASEAN to create and strengthen regional mechanisms to provide assistance and support to refugees and migrants;

(15) supports the Mekong-U.S. Partnership, which promotes the stability, peace, prosperity, and sustainable development of the Mekong sub-region through cooperation between countries in the Mekong region and the United States in addressing transboundary challenges; ;

(16) urges ASEAN to build capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights by ASEAN member states and the implementation of related priorities, programs, and activities;

(17) urges the governments of such member states to engage directly with leaders of civil society and human rights organizations, including advocates of religious freedom, victims of human rights abuses, and environmental groups, to ensure these stakeholders have a voice in constructing public policy;

(18) encourages the President to communicate to ASEAN leaders the importance of promoting the rule of law and open and transparent government, strengthening civil society, and protecting human rights, including releasing political prisoners, ceasing politically motivated prosecutions and arbitrary killings, and safeguarding freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech and expression;

(19) supports efforts by organizations in ASEAN that address corruption in the public and private sectors, enhance anti-bribery compliance, enforce bribery criminalization in the private sector, and build beneficial ownership transparency through the ASEAN-USAID PROSPECT project partnered with the South East Asia Parties Against Corruption;

(20) supports the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative as an example of a people-to-people partnership that provides skills, networks, and leadership training to a new generation who will create and fill jobs, foster cross-border cooperation and partnerships, and rise to solve the regional and global challenges of the future; and

(21) applauds the governments of ASEAN member states that have fully upheld and implemented all United Nations Security Council resolutions and international agreements with respect to nuclear and ballistic missile programs in North Korea, and encourages all other governments of such member states to do the same.

SENATE RESOLUTION 617—RECOGNIZING THE ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE TEACHERS OF THE UNITED STATES IN BUILDING AND ENHANCING THE CIVIC, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. KING, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 617

Whereas education and knowledge are the foundation of the current and future strength of the United States;

Whereas teachers and other education staff have earned and deserve the respect of their students and communities for the selfless dedication of the teachers and staff to community service and the futures of the children of the United States;

Whereas school communities, teachers, and other education staff have risen to the occasion to support their students and communities amid the significant challenges

posed by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;

Whereas teachers and other education staff have taken on the challenges presented by schools reopening, including by—

- (1) helping to address pandemic learning loss;
- (2) supporting the mental and behavioral health needs of students; and
- (3) maintaining health and safety standards to prevent a reoccurrence of the pandemic;

Whereas the purposes of National Teacher Appreciation Week, celebrated from May 2, 2022, through May 6, 2022, are—

- (1) to raise public awareness of the unquantifiable contributions of teachers; and
- (2) to promote greater respect and understanding for the teaching profession; and

Whereas students, schools, communities, and a number of organizations representing educators are recognizing the importance of teachers during National Teacher Appreciation Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) thanks the teachers of the United States; and
- (2) promotes the profession of teaching and the contributions of educators by encouraging students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to recognize National Teacher Appreciation Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 618—RECOGNIZING APRIL 30, 2022, AS “EL DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS—CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS”

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 618

Whereas, each year in the United States, El Día de los Niños—Celebrating Young Americans is recognized as a day to affirm and recognize the importance of young children and adolescents in the United States;

Whereas children and adolescents represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States, and the well-being of children and adolescents is emphasized as a top priority in the United States;

Whereas, according to data of the Bureau of the Census, the Hispanic population in the United States is the youngest major racial or ethnic group in the United States, as—

- (1) more than 18,600,000 Hispanics in the United States, a group that represents approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Hispanic population in the United States, are younger than 18 years of age; and
- (2) in 2019, nearly 16,400,000 Hispanics in the United States, a group that represents more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Hispanic population in the United States, were individuals between 18 and 34 years of age;

Whereas the Hispanic population in the United States continues to grow and is a significant part of the workforce in the United States, and children in that population will be consumers, taxpayers, and voters in the future;

Whereas, as the United States becomes more culturally and ethnically diverse, the people of the United States must strive to bring about cultural understanding and celebrate a tradition that honors all children and adolescents on El Día de los Niños—Celebrating Young Americans, a day that acknowledges and shares traditions and customs with all people in the United States;

Whereas parents are at the center of teaching children about family values, morality, life preparation, health, survival, and culture;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition to honor children and adolescents in the United States—

- (1) will help affirm the significance of family, education, health, and community among the people of the United States; and
- (2) will provide an opportunity for those children and adolescents to reflect on their futures, to articulate their aspirations, to find comfort and security in the support of their family members, communities, and schools, and to grow to contribute to the United States;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, which served as an advocate and a voice for young Latino children, partnered with States and cities throughout the United States beginning in 1998 to highlight the contributions and challenges of young Latino children by advocating for the success and well-being of such children; and

Whereas April 30, 2022, would be an appropriate day to recognize as “El Día de los Niños—Celebrating Young Americans”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) recognizes April 30, 2022, as “El Día de los Niños—Celebrating Young Americans”; and
- (2) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to nurture and invest in children and adolescents in order to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the free and open exchange of ideas, which are concepts that are essential to the spirit of the United States; and

(B) to celebrate the gifts of children and adolescents and to help them take their rightful place in the future of the United States; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to join with children, families, communities, schools, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe El Día de los Niños—Celebrating Young Americans with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center on children and are free or of minimal cost so as to facilitate full participation by all people;

(B) uplift and help children positively envision a path to their futures by allowing children to voice their hopes and dreams;

(C) offer opportunities for children of diverse backgrounds to learn about the cultures of one another and to share ideas;

(D) include family members, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to—

- (i) promote understanding and communication among generations within families; and
- (ii) enable young people to learn from, and respect and benefit from the experiences of, their family elders;

(E) enable diverse communities to build relationships of understanding; and

(F) provide children with safe schools, homes, and communities that give them the long-term support they need to learn, develop, and become confident young adults who are ready and eager to believe in and contribute to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 619—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BURR,

Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 619

Whereas the week of May 1 through May 7, 2022, has been designated as “Public Service Recognition Week” to honor employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments and members of the uniformed services;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the diverse men and women who meet the needs of the United States through work at all levels of government and as members of the uniformed services;

Whereas millions of public servants have worked, and continue to work, to help the United States overcome the challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing essential services to continue and playing a critical role in protecting public health and safety;

Whereas millions of individuals work in government service and as members of the uniformed services in every State, county, and city across the United States and in hundreds of cities abroad;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions;

Whereas the ability of the Federal Government and State and local governments to be responsive, innovative, and effective depends on the outstanding performance of dedicated public servants;

Whereas the United States continues to reaffirm the critical importance of public service employees in responding to public health and economic challenges;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly trained individuals who work in public service;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend the freedom of the people of the United States and advance the interests of the United States and the ideals of democracy around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to the Armed Forces and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver benefits under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);

(6) fight disease, including COVID-19, and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and the parks of the United States;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the people of the United States recover from natural disasters, pandemics, and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore Earth, the moon, and space to improve knowledge on how the world changes;

(13) improve and secure transportation systems;

(14) promote economic stability and growth; and

(15) assist veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government—

- (1) make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States; and
- (2) are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security;

Whereas public servants work in a professional manner to build relationships with other countries and cultures in order to better represent the interests and promote the ideals of the United States;

Whereas public servants alert Congress and the public to government waste, fraud, and abuse, and to dangers to public health;

Whereas the individuals serving in the uniformed services, as well as the skilled trade and craft employees of the Federal Government who provide support to their efforts—

- (1) are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances; and
- (2) contribute greatly to the security of the United States and the world;

Whereas public servants have bravely fought in armed conflicts in the defense of the United States and its ideals and deserve the care and benefits they have earned through their honorable service;

Whereas public servants—

- (1) have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas; and
- (2) serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

Whereas the commitment and perseverance of public servants during the COVID-19 pandemic have allowed essential services to continue, mitigating the disruption to the daily lives of the people of the United States and playing a critical role in protecting public health and safety;

Whereas legislative branch employees, including members of the United States Capitol Police and officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives, ensure the smooth functioning of Congress and the safety and security of Members of Congress, their staffs, and visitors to the Capitol complex;

Whereas legislative branch employees working for Members of Congress, congressional committees, and legislative branch agencies work tirelessly to serve constituents and support Congress in fulfilling its constitutional obligations;

Whereas public servants have decisively and resolutely responded to conflicts around the globe, including the evolving crisis in Ukraine, through creative diplomatic approaches; and

Whereas the week of May 1 through May 7, 2022, marks the 38th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) supports the designation of the week of May 1 through May 7, 2022, as “Public Service Recognition Week”;

(2) commends public servants during Public Service Recognition Week for their outstanding contributions to this great country throughout the year;

(3) salutes government employees and members of the uniformed services for their unyielding dedication to, and enthusiasm for, public service;

(4) honors government employees and members of the uniformed services who have given their lives in service to their communities and their country;

(5) calls upon a new generation to consider a career in public service as an honorable profession;

(6) encourages efforts to promote public service careers at every level of government; and

(7) expresses gratitude to the Federal workers who have selflessly answered the call to serve their country.

SENATE RESOLUTION 620—DESIGNATING MAY 5, 2022, AS THE “NATIONAL DAY OF AWARENESS FOR MISSING AND MURDERED NATIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS”

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 620

Whereas American Indians and Alaska Natives are 2.5 times more likely to experience violent crimes and at least 2 times more likely to experience rape or sexual assault crimes compared to any other group of people in the United States;

Whereas, according to a study commissioned by the Department of Justice, in some Tribal communities, American Indian women face murder rates that are more than 10 times the national average murder rate;

Whereas, according to the most recently available data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2017, homicide was the sixth leading cause of death for American Indian and Alaska Native females between 1 and 44 years of age;

Whereas the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women released reports finding that 64 percent of trafficking survivors in Hawaii identified as being Native Hawaiian;

Whereas little data exists on the number of missing American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States;

Whereas, on July 5, 2013, Hanna Harris, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, was reported missing by her family in Lame Deer, Montana;

Whereas the body of Hanna Harris was found 5 days after she went missing;

Whereas Hanna Harris was determined to have been raped and murdered, and the individuals accused of committing those crimes were convicted;

Whereas the case of Hanna Harris is an example of many similar cases; and

Whereas Hanna Harris was born on May 5, 1992: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates May 5, 2022, as the “National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups—

(A) to commemorate the lives of missing and murdered American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women whose cases are documented and undocumented in public records and the media; and

(B) to demonstrate solidarity with the families of victims in light of those tragedies.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, on February 3 of this year, at 4 in the morning, outside of Reno, callers told police that there was a car on fire on the shoulder of the interstate. Inside, officers found the body of a 23-year-old woman named Anna Marie Scott. She had been murdered by an unknown assailant.

This is Anna—as you can see, a beautiful, beautiful young girl. She was a beloved daughter and a sister and a devoted mother of two young children. She was also a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. And she joins a

long and tragic list of Native women who have gone missing or been murdered, leaving families desperately waiting for answers.

Families like Anna’s will tell you one of the worst things about a tragedy like this is that they never had a chance to say goodbye to their loved one. Another is knowing that decade after decade, the United States has not done enough to protect Native women, leaving families all over Indian Country searching for answers.

A National Institutes of Justice study found that an unbelievable 84 percent of Native women experience violence in their lifetimes, along with 81 percent of men. It also reported that Native women are almost twice as likely as White women to have been the target of violence in the past year. These numbers confirm what Native communities have known for years: Native people are vulnerable, and they can be taken from their families at any time.

In 2020, I secured passage of two bipartisan bills with Senator MURKOWSKI, who we all know is a tireless advocate for Native communities, to finally create a national strategy to address the crisis of missing, murdered, and trafficked Indigenous women and girls. The Not Invisible Act instructs the Bureau of Indian Affairs to coordinate Federal efforts to address the epidemic of violence in Native American communities.

It also mandates a commission made up of Tribal, State, and local law enforcement, service providers, representatives of Federal Agencies, Tribal leaders, and survivors and family members.

The other piece of legislation, Savanna’s Act, which we passed, requires the creation of guidelines for law enforcement on how best to keep Native women safe, and it improves reporting of violent crimes against Native people and strengthens vital access to Federal crime databases.

These two laws create powerful tools that will help curb violence against Native people. But they cannot fulfill that mission if they are not implemented by the executive branch. And to date, the administration has missed too many deadlines mandated by statute for putting the legislation into effect. That is why this week, I sent a letter, with Senators TESTER and MURKOWSKI, to the administration urging them to implement key provisions of our bipartisan bills.

Now, I am thrilled to share that, today, Secretary Haaland announced the members of the Not Invisible Commission, which now can begin its work. This is excellent news, and I appreciate this and other important steps the administration has taken to address the problem.

But there is still more we need to be doing to implement the policies Congress has passed that will make a difference on the ground for so many families. That includes issuing Federal

guidelines to help local law enforcement with best practices to protect Native communities and implementing the data collection needed to address the crisis. The work must continue because families continue to wait.

Just as I call on this administration to do more, I am committed to doing more myself. My office is working to reintroduce legislation that I cosponsored with Senators UDALL, TESTER, and MURKOWSKI last Congress to improve coordination and data-sharing between Tribal and Federal law enforcement.

My congressional colleagues and I have, this year, once again introduced a resolution recognizing May 5 as a day of awareness for the crisis of missing and murdered Native women and girls. But let's be clear: A day of awareness is for those who don't know about the problem. Indigenous families in Nevada and across the country are only too conscious of the risks their sisters, brothers, cousins, and children face. And they are looking to Congress and to this administration for concrete progress in the long way for justice.

I will keep fighting for that justice and for Anna. But I am here to say to our Congress and administration, let's not have any more Annas. Let's do the right thing for these families and individuals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 621—HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE LATE SENATOR ORRIN G. HATCH

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr.

WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 621

Whereas the Honorable Orrin G. Hatch was elected to the Senate in 1976 and served Utah in the Senate with devotion and distinction for 42 years, which is the ninth longest term of service in the history of the Senate;

Whereas Orrin G. Hatch served as the Chairman of 3 significant Senate committees, including—

(1) the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate (now called the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate);

(2) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

Whereas Orrin G. Hatch dedicated his time in the Senate to strengthening the economy of the United States, protecting individual liberty, and safeguarding the system of limited government of the United States;

Whereas Orrin G. Hatch served throughout his career with determination, loyalty, diligence, compassion, a pioneering spirit, and an incredible devotion to his faith;

Whereas Orrin G. Hatch was regarded by many as an elder statesman who worked across the aisle to pass 750 bills into law, including—

(1) the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 2000bb et seq.);

(2) the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-417; 98 Stat. 1585) (commonly referred to as the “Hatch-Waxman Act”);

(3) the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-33; 111 Stat. 215), which established the State Children's Health Insurance Program under title XXI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.);

(4) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.); and

(5) the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (42 U.S.C. 2210 note);

Whereas Orrin G. Hatch, in addition to his prolific legislative achievements, assisted tens of thousands of Utahns through individual casework over more than four decades of public service;

Whereas Orrin G. Hatch established the Orrin G. Hatch Foundation to encourage commonsense policymaking, to cultivate bipartisan dialogue, and to provide educational opportunities for future generations; and

Whereas, on April 23, 2022, at the age of 88, Orrin G. Hatch died, leaving behind his wife Elaine, his 6 loving children, dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and a legacy of steadfast love for and service to the people of the United States, particularly Utahns: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, former United States Senator for the State of Utah;

(B) honors the life and legacy of the late Senator Orrin G. Hatch for his—

(i) unwavering dedication to Utah as a Senator and a public servant; and

(ii) accomplishments in legislating with principle and dedication for the good of the people of the United States; and

(C) requests that the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of Orrin G. Hatch; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Orrin G. Hatch.

SENATE RESOLUTION 622—RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CINCO DE MAYO HOLIDAY

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

S. RES. 622

Whereas May 5, or “Cinco de Mayo” in Spanish, is celebrated each year as a date of importance by Mexican and Mexican-American communities;

Whereas the Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates May 5, 1862, the date on which Mexicans defeated the French at the Battle of Puebla, one of the many battles that the Mexican people won in their long and brave fight for independence, freedom, and democracy;

Whereas the victory of Mexico over France at Puebla represented a historic triumph for the Mexican government during the Franco-Mexican war fought between 1861 and 1867 and bolstered the resistance movement;

Whereas the success of Mexico at the Battle of Puebla reinvigorated the spirits of the Mexican people and provided a renewed sense of unity and strength;

Whereas the French army, which had not experienced defeat against any of the finest troops of Europe in more than half a century, sustained a disastrous loss at the hands of an outnumbered and ill-equipped, but highly spirited and courageous, Mexican army;

Whereas the courageous spirit that Mexican General Ignacio Zaragoza and his men displayed during that historic battle can never be forgotten;

Whereas, in a larger sense, Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination, just as Benito Juarez, the president of Mexico during the Battle of Puebla, once said, “El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz”, meaning “respect for the rights of others is peace”;

Whereas the sacrifice of Mexican fighters was instrumental in keeping Mexico from falling under European domination while, in the United States, the Union Army battled Confederate forces in the Civil War;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder that the foundation of the United States was built by people from many countries and diverse cultures who were willing to fight and die for freedom;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of the close ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States;

Whereas Cinco de Mayo encourages the celebration of a legacy of strong leaders and a sense of vibrancy in communities; and

Whereas Cinco de Mayo serves as a reminder to provide more opportunity for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the historic struggle of the people of Mexico for independence and freedom, which Cinco de Mayo commemorates; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe Cinco de Mayo with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5028. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4373, making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5028. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4373, making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. 12____. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended to promulgate, implement, or enforce any rule, regulation, or other agency statement that voids, invalidates, or replaces the order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention titled "Public Health Reassessment and Order Suspending the Right To Introduce Certain Persons From Countries Where a Quarantinable Communicable Disease Exists" (86 Fed. Reg. 42828; August 5, 2021).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I have six request for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

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 5, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 5, 2022, 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 5, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, PRODUCT SAFETY, AND DATA SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sydney Beasley, a legislative fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

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

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Borchien Lai be granted floor privileges for the remainder of today's session.

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

APPOINTMENT

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 94-201, as amended by Public Law 105-275, re-appoints the following individual as a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress: Jean M. Dorton of Kentucky.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARBOR DAY

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 601.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 601) celebrating the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day.

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

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 601) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of April 28, 2022, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions introduced earlier today: S. Res. 617, S. Res. 618, S. Res. 619, and S. Res. 620.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE LATE SENATOR ORRIN G. HATCH

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 621 submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 621) honoring the life and legacy of the late Senator Orrin G. Hatch.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 621) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, 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. OSSOFF. 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 PHILIP S. GOLDBERG

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, this evening, I come to the floor of the U.S. Senate in order to move that we confirm Philip S. Goldberg to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. Ambassador Goldberg currently serves as U.S. Ambassador to Colombia.

We saw, just yesterday, North Korea test a ballistic missile. We have seen North Korea continue to develop and test ballistic missiles that threaten not just South Korea, not just our allies in the region but the United States and the entire world.

We need our Ambassador in Seoul. South Korea is one of our most important trading partners. South Korea is one of our most important security partners. Our alliance with the Republic of Korea is among the most important bilateral relationships that the

United States has in the world. And as the Presiding Officer knows, in our home State of Georgia, a vibrant Korean-American community thrives, and Georgia is a key destination for Korean investment, bringing technology, jobs, talent, and opportunity to our State and to the entire country.

We need a U.S. Ambassador to lead our mission in South Korea. I had the privilege of leading an economic delegation to South Korea in the middle of last year. I sat down at that time with now President-elect Yoon, then-Candidate Yoon. When he was running for President, I congratulated him on his election. I look forward to working with him.

I had the pleasure last month, alongside Senators SULLIVAN and SCHATZ, to host his special delegation to Washington and meet with the Foreign Minister Designate, Dr. Park. This alliance is essential, and we have to strengthen it. In order to strengthen it, we need to confirm our Ambassador to South Korea.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 897, 898, 899, 900, and 901; that the Senate vote on the nominations without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Marc B. Nathanson, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Norway; John N. Nkengasong, of Georgia, to be Ambassador at Large, Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally; Caroline Kennedy, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Commonwealth of Australia; MaryKay Loss Carlson, of Arkansas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the

Republic of the Philippines; Philip S. Goldberg, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Ambassador, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Korea.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Nathanson, Nkengason, Kennedy, Carlson, and Goldberg nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

CONFIRMATION OF PHILIP S. GOLDBERG

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, we look forward to Ambassador Goldberg's service in Seoul. He will continue his distinguished career in the Foreign Service, and we look forward to working with him.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m. on Monday, May 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Phillips nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session of the Senate ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 621.

There being no objection, under the previous order and as a further mark of respect to the late Orrin G. Hatch, former Senator from Utah, the Senate, at 4:33 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 9, 2022, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

ANNIE CAPUTO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2026. (REAPPOINTMENT)
BRADLEY R. CROWELL, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE

REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2022, VICE KRISTINE L. SVINICKI, RESIGNED.

BRADLEY R. CROWELL, OF NEVADA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2027. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CARLOS FELIPE URIARTE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE STEPHEN ELLIOTT BOYD.

MICHAEL M. CONTRADES, OF HAWAII, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE CHARLES L. GOODWIN, RETIRED.

DAVID C. DAVIS, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE BRADLEY A. MAXWELL, RESIGNED.

ENIX SMITH III, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE SCOTT PATRICK ILLING.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JONATHON B. HABA
ROBERT C. LIVINGSTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RONALD HUSTWIT

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

To be lieutenant commander

GREGORY J. ANDREWS
BRIAN E. BRADLEY
RICHARD D. BRADLEY, JR.
TYLER D. COX
CHRISTOPHER B. FONTANA
JOSHUA D. GRAY
TIMOTHY D. GREER
AUSTIN C. GUNDER
ALPHONSO HARRIS, JR.
ANDREA R. HOWARD
ZACHARY J. KERSCHER
ANTONIO C. MISTRON
TIMOTHY A. MOORE
NOLAN R. NICHOLS
NATHANIAL R. PERISHO
KARL J. REBHOLZ
RANDY G. RODRIGUEZ
NICHOLAS J. SCHWEICH
BRENT I. SPICER
JOSHUA A. TAFT
KATHLEEN T. WILSON

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 5, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

KATHRYN HUFF, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (NUCLEAR ENERGY).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARC B. NATHANSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY.

JOHN N. NKENGASONG, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE, COORDINATOR OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS GLOBALLY.

CAROLINE KENNEDY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

MARYKAY LOSS CARLSON, OF ARKANSAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

PHILIP S. GOLDBERG, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER AMBASSADOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.