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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Mighty God, turn to us and have compassion, for we sometimes feel overwhelmed. Rescue us from the traps of freedom's enemies, enabling our lawmakers to accomplish your work on Earth.

When the problems of our Senators seem to go from bad to worse, remind them that You are an ever-present help in times of trouble. Keep them from stumbling or slipping in their efforts to honor You. May integrity, honesty, and perseverance protect them as they put their hope in You. And, Lord, bring peace to our troubled world.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK,

a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will move to resume the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Operations and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601 and 8033: to be Admiral, Lisa M. Franchetti.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for months—for months—over 300 general and flag officer nominations have been indefinitely delayed because of the holds of the senior Senator from Alabama, and the consequences are mounting.

As war continues in the Middle East, the Senator's holds have prevented the

swift confirmation of the commander of the Navy's 5th Fleet and the deputy commander of the U.S. Central Command, both vital for our operations in that region of the world. The Senator continues his holds even as U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria have been attacked two dozen times in the last 2 weeks.

At one point this summer, the Senator's holds meant that for the first time ever—ever—all three branches of the military operated simultaneously without confirmed leadership. And now the U.S. Marine Corps is suddenly without a leader due to illness, but because of the Senator's holds, there is no No. 2 in place to step in.

And it will get much worse for our military if the Senator continues his recklessness. The Pentagon says that by the end of this year, up to three-quarters of the generals and admirals in the Defense Department will be affected by Senator Tuberville's holds.

Let me say that again. The Pentagon recently estimated that by the end of this year, up to three-quarters of the generals and admirals in the Defense Department will be affected by Senator Tuberville's reckless, reckless holds.

Patience is wearing thin on both sides of the aisle over the Senator's antics. Last night, a group of our Republican colleagues tried to confirm many of our military nominees by consent. For 4 hours, late into the evening, our colleagues moved from one nominee to the other, and the Senator from Alabama brazenly stood there and objected to each one.

Democrats and Republicans alike have tried to reason with the Senator from Alabama, offering him one solution for compromise after the other, but every step he has refused to cooperate.

So 2 days ago, Chairman REED of the Senate Armed Services Committee introduced a resolution that will allow the Senate to quickly confirm the

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



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nominees currently being blocked by the Senator from Alabama. This resolution was referred to the Rules Committee, and, when the time comes, I will bring it to the floor of the Senate for consideration. If we can't solve this problem another way, we will all have to vote to move these nominees forward.

We will work with our Republican colleagues in good faith to move this resolution forward because most of us want these holds on our military leaders to come to an end quickly. Our military deserves better. Our service members deserve better. Their spouses and their kids and their entire families deserve better. These holds must not continue. We will work to move this resolution, and I hope to see bipartisan support so we can finally get these hundreds of nominees appointed to their posts.

In the meantime, the Senate will move forward on three critical senior military nominees here on the floor. We will vote to confirm the nomination of Lieutenant General Mahoney to be the second in command at the U.S. Marine Corps. As I mentioned, Lieutenant General Mahoney's confirmation has become a top priority for the Senate after the Commandant of the Marines, Gen. Eric Smith, was unexpectedly hospitalized after a serious medical emergency. We pray for the General's recovery and for his family.

We will also vote to confirm ADM Lisa Franchetti to be the next Chief of Naval Operations. Admiral Franchetti's confirmation will mark a significant milestone in our military's history. Once confirmed, Admiral Franchetti will be the first woman ever to lead the U.S. Navy.

I am proud to say she is a Rochester, NY, native, and a graduate of Pittsford Mendon High School.

Admiral Franchetti is an exceptional leader with a distinguished career serving our Nation. I am confident she has the experience, the skills, and the vision to succeed as the U.S. Navy's top officer.

Finally, we will vote to confirm the nomination of Gen. David Allvin to be Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force.

Both parties must work together—work together—to ensure that our military is fully staffed and fully equipped to defend the American people at any time, but particularly at this time of crisis, and that begins by confirming these vital nominations today.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. President, now on the supplemental, today, the House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the GOP's unserious and woefully inadequate aid package. By now, it is glaringly apparent that the House aid package is even worse—worse—than what people originally thought because, yesterday, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office reported that the House Republican package will add over \$12 billion to the budget deficit.

Now, Speaker Johnson said he wanted a pay-for. He insists that emergency funding for Israel has to be paid for, when we usually don't pay for emergency funding. But the hypocrisy here is that, by cutting funding to go after tax cheats, he will actually explode the deficit by billions and billions of dollars—what a joke.

I am glad that the President issued a veto threat over this stunningly unserious proposal. Unserious at a time of crisis like this? From the House GOP leader?

The Senate will not be considering this deeply flawed proposal from the House GOP, and, instead, we will work together on our own bipartisan emergency aid package that includes aid to Israel, Ukraine, competition with the Chinese Government, and humanitarian aid for Gaza, so much needed.

Let me say that again. The Senate will not take up the House GOP's deeply flawed proposal and, instead, will work on our own bipartisan emergency aid package that includes aid to Israel, Ukraine, competition with the Chinese Government, and humanitarian aid for Gaza.

It still mystifies me that at a moment when the world is in crisis, at a time when we need to help Israel respond to Hamas, the House GOP thought it was a good idea to tie Israel aid to a hard-right proposal that will raise the deficit and is totally, totally partisan, and all the while helping wealthy tax cheats get away scot-free. Why would they make support for Israel conditional on this hard-right giveaway to the wealthy? It is truly astounding, and it shows you how weak and unserious—and what a joke, frankly—the House GOP proposal is.

And don't just take it from me, folks. The Republican vice chairman of the Joint Economic Committee had this to say about the House GOP bill, and he is a Member of the House GOP. He said:

I think it was intellectually lazy. . . . It's a little hard to have, "I care about debt," and then at the same time move something as your pay-for that actually will have a multiplier of raising the debt.

That is a top Republican saying this House Republican proposal "actually will have a multiplier of raising the debt."

I really regret that the House Speaker has chosen this as his first major legislative step. When we spoke the night he was elected, I said: Let's work together in a bipartisan way. And I reminded him that things only get done if you work in a bipartisan way.

Speaker Boehner, Speaker Ryan, and Speaker MCCARTHY had to learn that lesson the hard way. I hope the Republican leader will examine what he has done and change course and work in a bipartisan way to help fund these necessary items for Israel, Ukraine, and Gaza, and the South China Sea.

The right way forward is something very different from what the House GOP is pushing. We need to stand with Israel. We need to provide swift human-

itarian aid for Gaza. We need to help Ukraine, which desperately and immediately needs the help. And we need to stay one step ahead of the Chinese Government.

The Senate will work on our own emergency aid package, not the one proposed by House Republicans.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, America's status as a global superpower comes with global interests and global responsibilities. We have a direct interest in a stable and peaceful Middle East, and we have a responsibility to stand with Israel, our closest ally in the region, and to impose real costs on those who seek to harm U.S. personnel. We have a direct interest in preserving free commerce and deterring aggression in the Indo-Pacific, and we have a responsibility to future generations of Americans to win this century's long-term strategic competition with communist China. And we have a direct interest in stability and security in Europe, not only because we have treaty obligations to NATO allies but also because Europe is our largest trading partner, largest source of foreign, direct investment, and a critical engine of our own economy.

As I have explained repeatedly, the emergency funding we have appropriated in response to Russia's war against Ukraine isn't charity. These resources are helping a Western-oriented country degrade the military strength of a major U.S. adversary. Ukraine is blunting Putin's tools of aggression and disrupting his imperial ambitions in Europe, and all without involving American servicemembers in the fight.

But let's be honest. Aside from the funds we have appropriated for U.S. military training and logistic support in Europe, the bulk of America's security assistance is being spent in factories right here at home. Some of it goes to purchase new weapons for Ukraine, but far more of it is going to replenish our own arsenal. Our investment is growing American military strength to meet the challenges that come with global leadership.

Since Putin's brutal escalation last year, the United States has invested \$24 billion in replenishing our—our—arsenal with brandnew capabilities. We have poured \$692 million into new munitions and tactical vehicles produced in Missouri, almost a billion dollars in Alabama, and more than a billion dollars in Wisconsin.

But our investment is also expanding our production capacity. That means more factory floor space, new production lines, and new shifts of workers—all to help meet future threats. State by state, we are breathing new life into the arsenal of democracy.

And, crucially, America's allies and partners are following suit. They are investing historic sums in their own industries, their own militaries. They are expanding their own defense industrial bases, and many are also choosing to "Buy American."

Poland has invested \$3.75 billion in new Abrams tanks from Michigan, Alabama, and Ohio; Estonia has spent half a billion dollars on HIMARS rocket systems from Texas; and Slovakia and Romania have spent a combined \$350 million on new tactical vehicles from Wisconsin.

And it isn't just European allies who recognize the need to modernize. Japan has allocated \$1.3 billion for new E-2 command and control aircraft from Florida. Australia has put \$6.3 billion toward new C-130 aircraft from Georgia, and Indonesia has invested \$14 billion on a new crop of F-15 fighter jets from Missouri.

All told, America's allies and partners have invested \$120 billion and counting since February of 2022 to rebuild their defense capacities right here in America. They are buying American because they appreciate our cutting-edge technologies because they understand the importance of an interoperable combined force.

But, most of all, they are buying American because of American leadership. It has been the United States' example that has helped our allies wake up from years of neglecting their commitments to defense. It is confidence in our leadership and military edge that is driving their historic efforts to start sharing more of the burden of collective security.

And let's get something absolutely clear: This will not continue if America loses its resolve. We don't have the luxury of closing our gates and hoping for evil to leave us alone. America's allies are waking up to that fact. Now is not the time for the leader of the free world to go to sleep.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Now, Mr. President, on another matter, last week, the NLRB released a particularly unsavory new installment in the Biden administration's mess of overregulation. The NLRB's new rule dramatically expands the legal definition of an "employer-employee relationship," turning small business owners in a franchise setting into middle managers.

By one outside estimate, this rule will increase costs for small businesses, national franchisors, and consumers, all while decreasing the availability of jobs and business ownership possibilities. It would subject more of the American economy to the whims of the left's Big Labor allies, and it would force national companies to choose be-

tween offering less support for small business-owning franchisees and accepting greater liability for the policies of individual branches.

It is bad policy whichever way you slice it. Apparently, that is the self-described "most pro-union President in American history" in action.

Of course, the NLRB is just one example of how President Biden's radical nominees have led a campaign to drown the American economy in red-tape.

Since the day he took office, the President's war on affordable and reliable domestic energy has been driving up costs for working families. Last year, President Biden canceled three offshore oil and gas lease sales. This year, total U.S. oil production has fallen below the Department of Energy's predictions by 1.4 million barrels per day, and the administration's shortsightedness has left the Strategic Petroleum Reserve at its lowest level in 40 years.

Blanket bans on developing America's abundant energy reserves have already taken their toll on everything from grocery prices to home heating costs. But Washington bureaucrats continue to dream up new ways to micromanage families' choices on everything from home appliances to light bulbs. By one estimate, the Biden administration's energy regulations will drive up gas furnace costs by nearly \$500 and water heater costs by \$2,800. New efficiency standards could cost households an extra \$140 on lighting and another \$200 on washing machines.

And, while working families contend with this administration's maze of red-tape, the President is giving the architects behind it promotions.

Recently, President Biden designated Laura Daniel-Davis as Acting Deputy Secretary of the Interior. As several of my colleagues have noted, Ms. Daniel-Davis brings such an extreme record to the job that even the Democratic majority here in the Senate couldn't confirm her. For example, she has been a key player in the administration's efforts to curtail leasing on our Nation's abundant reserves of oil and natural gas.

Almost 3 years ago, President Biden handed the keys to his energy policy to the far left, and it shows. Working Americans are already struggling to contend with historic inflation and rising crime on the President's watch. The last thing they need is more of Washington Democrats' redtape.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, we are in complex and dangerous times.

Ukraine is fighting off a Russian invasion. Israel is defending itself against Hamas. American soldiers have been attacked by Iran's proxies. China is watching closely and testing the United States and our allies. We need our military to be stronger and more focused than ever. However, because of

one Senator, our military is being severely hamstrung.

The Senator from Alabama, Mr. TUBERVILLE, has a policy disagreement with the Pentagon. However, instead of addressing this policy, he has decided to singlehandedly shut down what has historically been a bipartisan process to promptly confirm military nominees.

My Republican colleagues made this very clear last night. His decision isn't affecting just a handful of positions; he is currently blocking 367 admirals and generals, and that number continues to grow. That has left members of our Armed Forces stranded and unable to get the promotions they have earned. It has put their lives and the lives of their family members on hold.

Today, we will vote to confirm three of them: the Chief of Naval Operations, the Air Force Chief of Staff, and the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. They are the top officers in the Navy and the Air Force and the No. 2 officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Now, that may seem like progress, and the Senator from Alabama may say that this is an example of how the Senate can confirm military nominees one by one, but here is the thing: The new leaders of the Air Force and the Navy won't have anyone confirmed as their No. 2s. So they will have to do two of the highest ranking jobs in their services at the same time—their new jobs and their old jobs. That is because of Senator TUBERVILLE. With hundreds of admirals and generals awaiting promotion because of his holds, it is impossible for the Senate to catch up by doing this one by one.

In the Marine Corps, the situation is even more serious. Over the weekend, we learned the terrible news that Gen. Eric Smith, confirmed just last month to lead the U.S. Marine Corps, suffered a medical emergency. General Smith was in the same position—forced to do two jobs at once. Today, we will confirm his deputy, who will have to immediately step up to be Acting Commandant of the Marine Corps for as long as General Smith is recovering.

It is an outrage that it takes an urgent vote of the U.S. Senate to fill a leadership gap at the top of the U.S. Marine Corps. That is the result of this blockade, and it is what we risk across our military leadership if, God forbid, another service chief has to step away from their job.

The Senator from Alabama doesn't think this does real damage to our military readiness. He either doesn't know what he is talking about or he doesn't care. At this very minute, the brave men and women of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit are aboard the USS *Bataan*, the USS *Carter Hall*, and the USS *Mesa Verde* just south of Israel in the Red Sea. This is our quick reaction force, trained to evacuate civilians in conflict zones. Those marines are in a dangerous part of the world at a dangerous time, prepared to do a very dangerous job. They deserve fully

staffed and focused senior leadership, able to advise the President while also giving the best guidance to their commanders. For 4 days this week, within arm's reach of a war, they didn't have it because of one Senator.

The solution is clear, and it has been clear since day one: The Senator from Alabama must remove his hold on our admirals and generals. We wouldn't be in this position if it weren't for him. He can stop this today if he wants to. If he continues to refuse, it is just too dangerous to wait for him to do the right thing. There is a proposal for the Senate to make a temporary change that will allow us to vote on the bulk of these nominees at once. It is designed to put our national security ahead of all else by addressing the dangerous circumstance these holds have put our military in.

Now, I have talked with many of my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—about this fact, and I encourage everyone to give it serious thought. At what George Will called “the most dangerous U.S. moment since World War II,” the Senate must consider whether it will allow the U.S. military to be without hundreds of confirmed admirals and generals and to be just one illness or accident away from once again having a service branch without senior leadership because, to me, that is a pretty clear choice.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF ADM. LISA M. FRANCHETTI

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for the nomination of ADM Lisa Franchetti to serve as the Chief of Naval Operations.

As some of my colleagues know, I was 17 years old when I raised my right hand to take the oath to defend our country and Constitution, Navy ROTC midshipman at Ohio State at the height of the Vietnam war. We had no women in our Navy ROTC unit at Ohio State or at any other Big Ten college, no women in the ROTC units. In the service academies, no women served in those roles, training roles. How things have changed. How things have changed. We are here today to actually put a really strong marker on that change and to applaud it.

I spent, all in, 23 years in Active and Reserve duty, and I am the son of a Navy chief petty officer, the nephew of a Navy chief petty officer, and the nephew of a deceased 19-year-old Navy veteran who was killed in a kamikaze attack in World War II on a carrier in the Pacific. My grandmother is a Gold Star mother. In my family, we bleed Navy blue.

I can tell you firsthand, folks, that we have before us a terrific, terrific nominee to serve as Chief of Naval Operations. She spent practically her whole life in the Navy, serving our country around the world in places including Italy, South Korea, as well as a number of posts here closer to home.

Admiral Franchetti's career has spanned nearly every theater of en-

gagement, every level of service—commanding ships, squadrons, strike groups, and fleet levels. She has been a commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea, deputy commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Africa, commander of Carrier Strike Group 9, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, and Acting Chief of Naval Operations, just to name a few. What a career. What a career. For her tremendous work, she has received almost two dozen prestigious awards and recognitions. She has even received some of the awards multiple times. What an impressive servant.

Admiral Franchetti has been making our country proud for not just a couple of years but for decades, from the day she signed up for the Navy ROTC Program at Northwestern University to this day.

The Senate stands poised to confirm her as Chief of Naval Operations, where, again, she will become the first woman to serve in that role and the first woman to serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I know she will continue her outstanding work as she breaks barriers for the Navy and for women everywhere.

So, today, I am here to urge my colleagues to join me and others to confirm ADM Lisa Franchetti to serve as the U.S. Navy's Chief of Naval Operations.

I would just say to the admiral, to her husband Jim, and to their daughter Isabelle: We have two words in the Navy that we use when we want to applaud service, and they are “Bravo Zulu.” I can think of no woman more deserving of those two words.

As a human being—for my colleagues who had an opportunity to meet with her, you could just tell, you could see and feel why she has received the kinds of promotions and the kind of recognition and the kind of responsibility. She is one terrific human being as well. So I am honored to stand here on her behalf.

I would also say that we have about 300 other men and women—senior officers in the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps—who are ready to be promoted, deserve to be promoted, and are not being promoted because we are not confirming them. Today, we have a chance to do something about it, and we can start with Admiral Franchetti. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 5 minutes and that, following my remarks, Senator BLUMENTHAL be allowed to speak for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for three military leaders whom we will soon be voting on: ADM Lisa Franchetti, Gen. David Allvin, and Lt. Gen. Christopher Mahoney. These are some of the finest leaders our Nation has to offer, and America is stronger because of their service and their sacrifice.

I am particularly proud to support the nomination of ADM Lisa Franchetti to be the next Chief of Naval Operations. Admiral Franchetti brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position. She has served in leadership roles at every level throughout the Navy, both ashore and at sea, and with postings around the globe. She has served as commander of U.S. Naval Forces Korea; commander of Carrier Strike Group 9; commander of Carrier Strike Group 15; commander of U.S. Sixth Fleet; commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and U.S. Naval Forces Africa; and director for strategy, plans, and policy on the Joint Staff, among many other operational roles. She has worked her way up the ranks in the U.S. Navy. She has commanded at sea. She has accepted and has excelled at every challenge that is presented to her. She is superbly prepared to be the Chief of Naval Operations.

As the current Vice Chief and now as the Acting Chief of Naval Operations, she brings an important perspective on the key challenges for the Navy. Her understanding of the Joint Force and the Navy's ever-expanding role within it will be critical.

I want to acknowledge the historic nature of Admiral Franchetti's nomination. If confirmed, she will be the first woman to serve as CNO and the first woman on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I am glad we have reached this moment.

At every step of her career, Admiral Franchetti has been a trailblazer and a team builder who focuses on the mission, leads by example, and gets the job done. She is an inspiration to many and someone who will always put the security of our Nation and all who defend it first—first before herself, first before anything else. Those are the qualities that make an outstanding officer and an outstanding leader.

Indeed, the Navy faces a dangerous and evolving global security environment. Threats from Russia, Iran, North Korea, and violent extremist groups remain persistent, and the Navy has an important role to play in addressing them. But the clear, pacing challenge for our naval forces is China. In the Indo-Pacific and in seas and ports around the world, the U.S. Navy will continue to be the first line of deterrence and defense against China's expanding global ambitions.

I am confident that Admiral Franchetti has the skills and experience to meet this challenge and provide the Nation's sailors, their families, and Navy civilian employees with the leadership they deserve.

I urge my colleagues to vote for Admiral Franchetti's nomination.

NOMINATION OF GEN. DAVID W. ALLVIN

Also, we will be considering later on the nomination of Gen. David Allvin to be the next Chief of Staff for the Air Force. General Allvin is highly qualified for this role. As the current Vice Chief of the Air Force, he has helped lead the service through a critical period of modernization, and he is well positioned to continue that progress.

General Allvin is a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has commanded at the squadron and wing levels, including the 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, and he has held major staff assignments and served on the Joint Staff.

General Allvin has served as commanding general, NATO Air Training Command-Afghanistan; commander of the 438th Air Expeditionary Wing, Afghanistan; commander of the 618th Air and Space Operations Center; and as vice director of strategy, plans, and policy of the Joint Staff.

This is a gentleman, an officer who has been in combat, who knows the rigors and demands of combat, and, like Admiral Franchetti, places his mission and his Air Force members ahead of any personal ambition. Prior to his current assignment, he was director of strategy, plans, and policy, J-5, on the Joint Staff. He is a command pilot who has more than 4,600 hours in over 30 aircraft, including 800 flight test hours and 100 hours flying in combat.

If confirmed, General Allvin will lead at a momentous time. Airpower is key to our strategic competition with China and other adversaries, and the entire Joint Force relies on the capabilities of the Air Force every day.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote for General Allvin.

NOMINATION OF LT. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. MAHONEY

Finally, I am proud to support the nomination of Lt. Gen. Christopher Mahoney to be promoted to four-star general and to be the Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. General Mahoney's promotion is well deserved and urgently needed.

The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Eric Smith, has been in the hospital this week after a serious medical emergency. I am wishing him a speedy recovery, and my thoughts and all of our thoughts are with his family at this difficult moment. He is a selfless servant of the marines who has given his all. At this moment, our prayers go out to General Smith and his family.

General Mahoney is a Marine fighter pilot. He has 5,000 hours of flight time. He has commanded at every level. He served on joint duty with other services. He has led with distinction and with diligence, again, with selfless service to his marines and to the Nation.

He is serving currently as the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources. He is an excellent candidate

for Assistant Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor.

I yield the floor.

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

MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow my colleague from Rhode Island and join him in urging confirmation of these highly qualified and experienced men and women to positions of great trust and responsibility in our military, but they are just a fraction of the total whom we have an obligation to confirm.

Rather than looking at the transcript of my remarks today, I urge my colleagues to view or read the record of last night. There were 3 to 4 hours of eloquence and intransigence—eloquence on the part of a number of our colleagues, including Senator GRAHAM, Senator YOUNG, Senator ERNST, and Senator SULLIVAN, seeking to persuade one Member of the U.S. Senate whose intransigence is preventing the Nation from having the benefit of military leadership that it needs and deserves.

Again and again and again, Senator TUBERVILLE objected to confirmation of individual nominees for the highest and most responsible position in our U.S. military. Make no mistake, he said repeatedly that he would permit those nominees to go forward as long as they were considered individually, and our colleagues gave him the opportunity to allow them to go forward. But he has continued to change the goalposts, to alter the conditions of approving their confirmation, simply because of a personal preference on policy that those nominees had nothing to do with. Our colleagues made that point repeatedly, as well as the damage to our national security that is resulting from his intransigence. Our military readiness is undermined. Morale is reduced. Recruitment is severely damaged. The health and well-being of military families, including, most prominently, the Commandant of the Marine Corps—our prayers are with him. Our hearts are with his family. We hope for General Smith's speedy recovery.

But, right now, our military is lacking the leadership that it needs in key positions around the world, and it is impacting not only their professional abilities but also their personal lives: kids going to school, selling homes. We are making life more difficult for men and women who serve and sacrifice to keep us safe.

As one of our colleagues said last night—and I am quoting—I think I am done with this. I hope this body will be done with the intransigence of the Senator from Alabama and move forward with a resolution. I am proud to say I participated in drafting it. It is narrowly tailored to fit this situation, applying only to this session, for key positions in our military that are essential to confirm, seeking to surmount the obstructionism that has gridlocked

and paralyzed this body in moving forward.

It is time to reform the rule. That time is, in fact, overdue. The regrettable illness of our Commandant, the threats around the world, in Israel and Ukraine, make it no longer a matter of choice. We must move forward with this draft resolution, and I hope my colleagues will recognize the importance of doing so.

As one of our colleagues on the other side said last night, this intransigence, this resistance to allowing the body to move forward and confirm these nominees is going to "wreck" the military. That is not some hypothetical fear; it is a real prospect that we need to avoid. The precedent of an individual Senator using a policy preference to stop confirmation is one that will potentially wreck this body's credibility and ability to move forward with key nominees for a variety of positions in the military and outside it.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read 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. 334, Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti for appointment as Chief of Naval Operations and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8033: to be Admiral.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Gary C. Peters, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Mazie Hirono, Angus S. King, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Peter Welch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Operations and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8033: to be Admiral, Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT)

would have voted "yea", and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea".

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 95, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 286 Ex.]

YEAS—95

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Gillibrand | Paul |
| Barrasso | Graham | Peters |
| Bennet | Grassley | Reed |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Ricketts |
| Blumenthal | Hassan | Risch |
| Booker | Hawley | Romney |
| Boozman | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Braun | Hickenlooper | Rounds |
| Britt | Hirono | Rubio |
| Brown | Hoeven | Sanders |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schatz |
| Butler | Johnson | Schmitt |
| Cantwell | Kaine | Schumer |
| Capito | Kelly | Shaheen |
| Cardin | Kennedy | Sinema |
| Carper | King | Smith |
| Casey | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Cassidy | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Collins | Lujan | Tester |
| Coons | Lummis | Thune |
| Cornyn | Manchin | Tuberville |
| Cortez Masto | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Cotton | McConnell | Vance |
| Cramer | Menendez | Warner |
| Crapo | Merkley | Warnock |
| Cruz | Moran | Warren |
| Daines | Mullin | Welch |
| Duckworth | Murkowski | Whitehouse |
| Durbin | Murphy | Wicker |
| Ernst | Murray | Wyden |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | Young |
| Fischer | Padilla | |

NAYS—1

Marshall

NOT VOTING—4

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Lee | Scott (SC) |
| Scott (FL) | Tillis |

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 95, the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

VOTE ON FRANCHETTI NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I know of no debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Franchetti nomination.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 287 Ex.]

YEAS—95

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Gillibrand | Paul |
| Barrasso | Graham | Peters |
| Bennet | Grassley | Reed |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Ricketts |
| Blumenthal | Hassan | Risch |
| Booker | Hawley | Romney |
| Boozman | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Braun | Hickenlooper | Rounds |
| Britt | Hirono | Rubio |
| Brown | Hoeven | Sanders |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schatz |
| Butler | Johnson | Schmitt |
| Cantwell | Kaine | Schumer |
| Capito | Kelly | Shaheen |
| Cardin | Kennedy | Sinema |
| Carper | King | Smith |
| Casey | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Cassidy | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Collins | Lujan | Tester |
| Coons | Lummis | Thune |
| Cornyn | Manchin | Tuberville |
| Cortez Masto | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Cotton | McConnell | Vance |
| Cramer | Menendez | Warner |
| Crapo | Merkley | Warnock |
| Cruz | Moran | Warren |
| Daines | Mullin | Welch |
| Duckworth | Murkowski | Whitehouse |
| Durbin | Murphy | Wicker |
| Ernst | Murray | Wyden |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | Young |
| Fischer | Padilla | |

NAYS—1

Marshall

NOT VOTING—4

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Lee | Scott (SC) |
| Scott (FL) | Tillis |

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 329, Gen. David W. Allvin for appointment as Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 9033: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Gary C. Peters, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Mazie Hirono, Angus S. King, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Peter Welch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, and appointment in

the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 9033: to be General, Gen. David W. Allvin, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 95, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 288 Ex.]

YEAS—95

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Gillibrand | Paul |
| Barrasso | Graham | Peters |
| Bennet | Grassley | Reed |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Ricketts |
| Blumenthal | Hassan | Risch |
| Booker | Hawley | Romney |
| Boozman | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Braun | Hickenlooper | Rounds |
| Britt | Hirono | Rubio |
| Brown | Hoeven | Sanders |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schatz |
| Butler | Johnson | Schmitt |
| Cantwell | Kaine | Schumer |
| Capito | Kelly | Shaheen |
| Cardin | Kennedy | Sinema |
| Carper | King | Smith |
| Casey | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Cassidy | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Collins | Lujan | Tester |
| Coons | Lummis | Thune |
| Cornyn | Manchin | Tuberville |
| Cortez Masto | Markey | Van Hollen |
| Cotton | McConnell | Vance |
| Cramer | Menendez | Warner |
| Crapo | Merkley | Warnock |
| Cruz | Moran | Warren |
| Daines | Mullin | Welch |
| Duckworth | Murkowski | Whitehouse |
| Durbin | Murphy | Wicker |
| Ernst | Murray | Wyden |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | Young |
| Fischer | Padilla | |

NAYS—1

Marshall

NOT VOTING—4

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Lee | Scott (SC) |
| Scott (FL) | Tillis |

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The yeas are 95, the nays are 1.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, and appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 9033: to be General, Gen. David W. Allvin.

Mr. HEINRICH. I know of no debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Allvin nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 289 Ex.]

YEAS—95

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Gillibrand | Paul |
| Barrasso | Graham | Peters |
| Bennet | Grassley | Reed |
| Blackburn | Hagerty | Ricketts |
| Blumenthal | Hassan | Risch |
| Booker | Hawley | Romney |
| Boozman | Heinrich | Rosen |
| Braun | Hickenlooper | Rounds |
| Britt | Hirono | Rubio |
| Brown | Hoeven | Sanders |
| Budd | Hyde-Smith | Schatz |
| Butler | Johnson | Schumer |
| Cantwell | Kaine | Shaheen |
| Capito | Kelly | Sinema |
| Cardin | Kennedy | Smith |
| Carper | King | Stabenow |
| Casey | Klobuchar | Sullivan |
| Cassidy | Lankford | Tester |
| Collins | Lujan | Thune |
| Coons | Lummis | Tuberville |
| Cornyn | Manchin | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Markey | Vance |
| Cotton | McConnell | Warner |
| Cramer | Menendez | Warnock |
| Crapo | Merkley | Warren |
| Cruz | Moran | Welch |
| Daines | Mullin | Whitehouse |
| Duckworth | Murkowski | Wicker |
| Durbin | Murphy | Wyden |
| Ernst | Murray | Young |
| Fetterman | Ossoff | |
| Fischer | Padilla | |

NAYS—1

Marshall

NOT VOTING—4

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Lee | Scott (SC) |
| Scott (FL) | Tillis |

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 333, Lt. Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney for appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8044: to be General.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Gary C. Peters, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Mazie Hirono, Angus S. King, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Peter Welch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8044: to be General, Lt. Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 91, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 290 Ex.]

YEAS—91

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Fischer | Mullin |
| Barrasso | Gillibrand | Murkowski |
| Bennet | Graham | Murphy |
| Blackburn | Grassley | Murray |
| Blumenthal | Hagerty | Ossoff |
| Booker | Hassan | Padilla |
| Boozman | Hawley | Paul |
| Britt | Heinrich | Peters |
| Brown | Hickenlooper | Reed |
| Budd | Hirono | Ricketts |
| Butler | Hoeven | Risch |
| Cantwell | Johnson | Romney |
| Capito | Kaine | Rosen |
| Cardin | Kelly | Rounds |
| Carper | Kennedy | Rubio |
| Casey | King | Sanders |
| Cassidy | Klobuchar | Schatz |
| Collins | Lankford | Schmitt |
| Coons | Lujan | Schumer |
| Cornyn | Lummis | Shaheen |
| Cortez Masto | Manchin | Sinema |
| Crapo | Markey | Smith |
| Daines | Marshall | Stabenow |
| Duckworth | McConnell | Sullivan |
| Durbin | Menendez | Tester |
| Ernst | Merkley | Thune |
| Fetterman | Moran | Tuberville |

| | | |
|------------|------------|-------|
| Van Hollen | Warren | Wyden |
| Vance | Welch | Young |
| Warner | Whitehouse | |
| Warnock | Wicker | |

NOT VOTING—9

| | | |
|--------|------------|------------|
| Braun | Cruz | Scott (FL) |
| Cotton | Hyde-Smith | Scott (SC) |
| Cramer | Lee | Tillis |

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 91, the nays are 0.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 8044: to be General, Lt. Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I know of no debate on the nomination.

VOTE ON MAHONEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Mahoney nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 291 Ex.]

YEAS—86

| | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Baldwin | Blumenthal | Brown |
| Barrasso | Booker | Budd |
| Bennet | Boozman | Butler |
| Blackburn | Britt | Cantwell |

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Capito | Hoeven | Romney |
| Cardin | Johnson | Rosen |
| Carper | Kaine | Rounds |
| Casey | Kelly | Rubio |
| Cassidy | Kennedy | Sanders |
| Collins | King | Schatz |
| Coons | Klobuchar | Schumer |
| Cornyn | Lankford | Shaheen |
| Cortez Masto | Lujan | Sinema |
| Crapo | Lummis | Smith |
| Daines | Manchin | Stabenow |
| Duckworth | Marshall | Sullivan |
| Durbin | McConnell | Tester |
| Ernst | Menendez | Thune |
| Fetterman | Merkley | Tuberville |
| Fischer | Mullin | Van Hollen |
| Gillibrand | Murkowski | Vance |
| Graham | Murphy | Warner |
| Grassley | Murray | Warnock |
| Hagerty | Ossoff | Warren |
| Hassan | Padilla | Welch |
| Hawley | Peters | Whitehouse |
| Heinrich | Reed | Wyden |
| Hickenlooper | Ricketts | Young |
| Hirono | Risch | |

NOT VOTING—14

| | | |
|------------|---------|------------|
| Braun | Lee | Scott (FL) |
| Cotton | Markey | Scott (SC) |
| Cramer | Moran | Tillis |
| Cruz | Paul | Wicker |
| Hyde-Smith | Schmitt | |

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO CAMERON JOOST

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today to honor one of the fiercest advocates for Illinois I have ever known: Cameron Joost.

I have had the privilege of working with Cameron for the past 7 years now, and over that time, she has been my State director, my campaign manager, my sounding board, and perhaps most importantly, my friend.

It is hard to find the words to express what Cam has meant to both my office and to me. She is an expert in everything from the nuanced politics of Illinois's smallest towns to the full range of Hill House Home nap dresses. She can tell you every detail of how the latest bill for a vote here in DC will affect Chicagoans, and she can plan the most frenetically perfect campaign RV tour that Illinois has ever seen, with 10 passengers on board ranging in age from 4 to 81 and lasting over 2 weeks. Most of all, she is our team's moral compass.

You know, all too often, when people think of American service, they only think of military service, but the truth is, service in this country isn't just limited to picking up a rifle to defend our democracy. American service also means picking up a soup spoon to feed the less fortunate, a hammer to rebuild a home destroyed by a wildfire, or, in a Cam's case, picking up a pen and notebook and going to work day after day, trying to better the lives of all those who call Illinois home. It means striving to ensure that they access the healthcare, education, SNAP benefits—you name it—that they deserve; push-

ing to help families recover from flooding on the Mississippi River; to help parents in Cairo get access to the safe, affordable housing their kids deserve; to help reunite Afghan refugees with their loved ones. She is ever-dedicated to serving others in every way she could.

Through it all, she has had one enduring trait: She is a problem-solver. I will never forget the first day I met her. President Obama was flying back to Springfield to deliver a speech, and I was lucky enough to catch a ride on Air Force One with the President and a few other Members of the Illinois delegation. But one thing that I knew and my colleagues did not was that it was just a one-way ticket on Air Force One. They were not flying us back, which no one else except for myself realized.

So one by one, my colleagues came up to me in the Illinois State Senate chamber, and they asked if I knew that Air Force One wasn't going back to DC and did I know how I was going to get back to DC. "Making the 2-hour drive to St. Louis for a commercial flight," I told them. One by one, my colleagues followed up with "Oh. Well, in that case, can I catch a ride with you?" Of course I said yes, but I wasn't the one in charge of logistics or the driving. My scheduler in DC quickly reached out to one of our brandnew staffers. It was actually this staffer's first day on the job, but she was based nearby, and she had a car, a Toyota Corolla.

That was how Cameron Joost learned that not only would she be meeting me for the first time that afternoon, but she would also be in charge of driving four Members of Congress—or roughly a quarter of the entire Illinois House delegation—the 100 miles across State lines. And, oh yeah, it was in the middle of a snowstorm, and we were all the female Members of the delegation. Somehow, she got us there. Somehow, she didn't lose a single one of us. And we didn't make it easy for her. That tells you a lot of what you need to know about Cam—nerves of steel. She can handle whatever you throw at her, always doing so with the best of intentions and biggest of smiles.

In the next few weeks, Cam will move on to help lead Illinois' Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, where she will continue a career-long mission of looking out for others. While I am sad our office will no longer have Cam to ourselves, I am so, so excited to see all the good she is about to do in Springfield.

Cam, I could go on for hours about all you accomplished as our State director. Please just know this: You have made a difference. You have changed lives. And you have probably saved lives through your efforts. Through your leadership, countless veterans have received the vital healthcare and benefits they have earned, and countless families have gotten Social Security checks they desperately needed or have been reunited with loved ones who were stranded across borders or have

gained access to a hot meal or a warm bed.

You have made Illinois proud. You made us all proud. I will miss you dearly, but I can't wait to follow your next steps—no longer as your boss but as your biggest fan. And I hope you will forever be willing to give me a ride in the middle of a snowstorm.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL G. WHITAKER

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, last week the Senate confirmed Mike Whitaker to be the FAA Administrator. I supported this nomination. He is very qualified. He has very valuable experience.

Obviously, this body has had a churn being able to look at previous FAA Administrators who came here and then were turned down in the process, and the administration has put forward someone who, I think, is very, very qualified. So I am pleased to be able to see that.

But many people may not know Oklahoma has a very special relationship with FAA, and we have for 70 years. For 70 years, the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center, which headquarters offices for so many different areas in the aeronautical center, has been in Oklahoma City. That spot has been there, and it establishes things like how to do testing, how to do research, the medical evaluation, occupational health wing, medical certification, a lot of education that happens there for aerospace. Air mobility is being tested there.

It is 1,100 acres and 133 buildings, across the airport site there in Oklahoma City, and it is just one of those hidden jewels of the United States that is actually there in Oklahoma City. As each of our States have different aspects and different tasks there, Oklahoma City is very, very proud to be a leader in aviation for the country.

There is also a vital component there at the FAA Academy. Now, again, most folks don't think about the air traffic controllers who are in the tower, but when you fly into any airport in the country, the folks who are in that tower were trained in Oklahoma City.

It is the academy. It is the first 60 days of training, and it is done consistently the same it is done everywhere in the country because, no matter where an air traffic controller goes, you want them to have the same consistent training in every location that they go to. So whomever they work next to in the tower, they have all been trained the same way in the basics.

Now, that academy is important to set the standard for all the basics in air

traffic control, and then they advance to the next level. They actually get out on the job and to be trained by folks who are in the towers. It is incredibly important as a task.

Now, for years, that academy has trained literally every single person that the FAA could send them. They haven't had a time where they were like: I am sorry. You have to stop. We can't take any more people.

They have got gaps and openings. In fact, right now we need more air traffic controllers, but, thankfully, the Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center is ready to go. They are ready to take on more students to be able to expand. In fact, they have got room to double in size. If we wanted to double the number of air traffic controllers across the country, let's do it. Our challenge has been getting enough students to actually do it, to get the training, not actually training space or trainers.

So I would tell you Oklahoma City is proud of that heritage.

We are grateful for Mike Whitaker and the position that he is now in. We look forward to him being back in Oklahoma City. He has been in Oklahoma City multiple times in previous tasks that he has had. He knows full well the value of that facility, and I look forward to training a lot more folks to be air traffic controllers in Oklahoma City, in the days ahead, because our trainers and our folks who are there are ready to put more folks in more towers.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, there are lots of conversations happening right now about border security, and rightfully so. I mean, it is not news in this Chamber. It is not news nationwide—the numbers that have increased and people crossing the border that are not legal.

Millions of them in the past 3 years have crossed the border asking for asylum. Now, a lot of folks have said: Hey, we want to help people all over the world. We are the United States of America. That is who we are.

I would say: I agree. We are the United States of America, and we are dominantly made up of immigrants in our country.

That is a good thing, and it is a strength of this culture that we have of people who want to succeed, want to be able to work hard, and want to be able to contribute to their neighbors and their families. Let's draw them from all over the world.

But things have really significantly changed. Americans see it on the headlines in the news, but they may not understand the data behind it and how significant the change has been.

If I go back to 2010—ancient history, 2010—that year we had 21,000 people cross our southern border and ask for asylum that year—21,000 in the year 2010. We now have 21,000 asking for asylum in 3 days now.

There is a huge shift. What has occurred is that the cartels have found a gap in our law. The gap in our law is

not new. It is just being exploited in a new way. That is that they are recruiting people worldwide and saying: I can get you into America for a fee.

And they are asking people worldwide to be able to give them thousands of dollars. They will get them across the border, teach them the magic words to say: "I have fear in my country." That meets the minimum threshold. No matter how many countries they have been through to be able to get there, they can say, "I fear my original country," and we allow them in and then put them in line to get to an immigration judge. That line currently in New York is 10 years long to get to a judge.

So they wait 10 years to get to a judge on the first stage. Then they still have got to do the next stage. It could be up to 20 years now, with the backlog, before they get an answer to the question: Are you eligible for asylum?

By the way, statistics show the vast majority are not eligible for asylum, and everyone knows the joke. But there is a gap in our law that is being exploited by cartels.

How can I say this so certainly? Well, Canada closed that gap two decades ago. Canada also saw the same gap that was being exploited there, and so they made a simple change in their law; that is, if you have crossed in another safe country and then come to Canada and want to ask for asylum, they will just respond to you: You should have asked in the previous country. That is the international standard, by the way. It is not crazy. That is actually normal. You see, asylum is the same as refugee status, the same in international law. A refugee is somebody who flees to a spot, who is afraid, gets to a refugee center, and says to the U.N.: I have dramatic fear of persecution in my country. If they do, then they actually share them all over the world, including here in the United States. We take refugees here from all over the world.

Asylum seekers are on the same standard. They are supposed to go to the next safe place, get there, and request asylum. That is the international standard, but we don't do that here.

Can I give you more evidence? So far this year, we have had 45,000 people from India who have crossed our southern border, paid the cartels, crossed into our country, and said they had fear in their country—from India. They take about four flights, including through dangerous countries like France, to be able to get to Mexico—the closest airport—and then literally take a bus rented by the cartels up to the border to be dropped off for their last delivery there to us so they can say: I have fear in my country.

This doesn't make sense to just about everyone in the world. Just about everyone in the world has shifted on this except for us. We are literally inviting people from all over the world to exploit our system.

I am a "tall fences, wide gates" person. I think we need to have good bor-

der security so that we know who is coming in but have wide gates so we are open to legal immigration and to say: We want the interchange of people from all over the world to be able to come here, work here, grow their families here, and invest in the future of America. But when we are encouraging illegal immigration, that is a real threat to us as a country.

Don't just take my word for it; ask mayors all over America. They will tell you. They don't know what to do with the number of people who are coming—this is not a red State-blue State issue—whether it be New York State and New York City, which are saying "Make it stop," or whether it is areas in South Texas and Southern Arizona that are saying "Our small communities are absolutely overrun." None of those folks are opposed to immigration. They are just opposed to illegal immigration, what everyone knows is an exploitation of the system. We should fix the system.

Now, this is more than dollars. There has been a lot of conversation in this body lately. We will just add more money to it. They just need more dollars. Well, I would say not only do I not agree with that, Secretary Mayorkas, the head of Homeland Security, doesn't agree with that. On Wednesday of this week, he released an opinion piece, published in the Washington Post, which I would encourage every one of these Members to read.

There you go—you just heard a Republican say: Read the Washington Post. It is a new day.

If you read that opinion piece from Secretary Mayorkas, in it, he calls the funding request for DHS a "tourniquet," saying that what they really need is a change in law to be able to make a difference for what is happening on the southern border.

It is not dollars that are needed. It is policy changes that are needed. It is this administration enforcing different policies, but it is also us fixing obvious gaps.

Right now, of the around 6,000 people a day who are currently crossing the border illegally—6,000 a day is the most current number—about half of those are being released under something called withholding. Now, I would dare say most of the folks in this room and most of the folks listening—of the five people watching C-SPAN right now—most of those folks are not familiar with the term "withholding." Withholding is a new thing that is being exploited by the cartels. It is another gap in our system like asylum is. It says basically: Hey, I am afraid—not on asylum necessarily—I am afraid there is going to be violence in my country. I want to go to an immigration judge.

As soon as they say that, they end up in the line that is 10 to 20 years long to get to an immigration judge, and they are in the country. Then their next step is, once they are in, they snap a picture of their new little document they have, send it back to their family,

and say: I paid this cartel. I said these words. I am in the country. And everybody else keeps coming from there.

We should fix this gap if we know there is a problem. Why? Not because it is just being exploited in sheer numbers; it is because we don't know who these folks are. Many of them are folks who are coming to work and coming to connect with family. I get that. They should come through a legal route, and we should encourage them to be able to do that. But some of these folks are not coming for our good.

In the past year, 150 people were picked up who are on our Terror Watchlist, coming across our southern border. That is more than the last 5 years combined just in the past year. And those are the people we picked up. This past year, over 1 million people crossed our border who literally the Border Patrol could see in the desert but couldn't get to. We have no idea for those million. They weren't turning themselves in like some other folks are; they are in camo and running from Border Patrol.

Right now, Border Patrol can't get to them because they are processing so many other folks, they don't have the manpower to do it. So the conversation is, well, let's just add more manpower. The problem still remains. We may have more manpower, but we still have millions of people crossing and mayors all over the country saying: Make it stop. We want a legal process to go through.

There is a way to be able to do this, and we should.

In the past 2 years, 70,000 people—in just the last 2 years—have been released into the country who are considered by DHS special interest aliens. These are folks from Syria, from Iran, from Iraq, from other areas of known terrorism. They weren't on our Terror Watchlist, and we don't have any criminal records for them, but where they are from and their specific areas cause national concerns. What happened to those folks? Those 70,000 who were released into our country are awaiting a hearing 10 years from now. That is what happened to them because the system is being gamed.

If there is any lesson we should have learned from 9/11, where 19 people who were not legally present in the country killed thousands of Americans, it should be that we have to be able to manage legal immigration, to encourage legal immigration and discourage illegal immigration.

It is an issue that I have talked about over and over again in this body, but it is an issue that continues to rise in the hearts and the minds of the American people because more people are feeling it nationwide and in more States, and they are just asking a simple question, and they usually catch me and say a simple statement: I am not anti-immigrant; I just want it to be legal. That shouldn't seem like a radical idea to a body that makes law, that we would want things to be legal

in America, but for whatever reason, it has become more and more challenging to just follow the law and to make clear law.

One other thing. The administration, a year ago just last week, put in a new Venezuela policy. We are at the 1-year anniversary. They put in this new Venezuela policy where they were going to limit access to only a certain number. They did see a decline a year ago for a couple of months. But if you go back to October of last year, we had 22,000 people who were crossing from Venezuela a month. If you look at September of this year, we had 66,000 people from Venezuela crossing a month.

The Venezuela policy didn't work, so do you know what the administration did in October? They started actually returning people back to Venezuela if they crossed and said: You are not eligible for asylum. Within days, the number of Venezuelans trying to cross the border plummeted. Just enforcing the law changes dramatically the policy and the reality on the ground.

Right now, Border Patrol and CBP are processing people they know are a threat to the United States. They know. When I visit with Border Patrol, they will often say to me: I picked up a person between ports of entry who was running, 25 years old, with two other 20-somethings, all dressed in camo, in the night, trying to be able to get across. We encountered them. Within 24 hours, they were released.

They are nervous because they have no idea where they are going or what they are going to do. As law enforcement, they did their best to interdict, but the current policy just releases them into the country anyway. That is not right.

This body should find a way to be able to solve the border crisis and not just ignore it. We should be able to come together and figure this out. Our country is at risk. This is a national security issue, not to mention drugs and everything else that the Border Patrol can't go interdict because they are processing so many migrants at this time.

It is not that migrants are going everywhere. And I have heard it a lot: Well, there are migrants all over the world. That is true. But the folks who are coming here are coming here because it is the greatest country in the world, and I don't blame them for coming here. But let's encourage them to do it legally, not through a process that we all know is being gamed and is illegal. Let's empower those families to be able to move here. If they fit who we are as Americans and add value and they pass their background checks, let's invite them to be a part of us as Americans. Let's not have the person screening the people coming into the country be the cartels in Mexico because that is who is currently controlling our immigration policy, are the Mexican cartels, not us. That should not be so, and I would hope this body would work in the very short period of time in the days ahead to resolve that.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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 Calendar No. 372.

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 Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

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. 372, Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of National Institutes of Health.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Mark Kelly, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto.

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 Calendar No. 28.

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 Kenly Kiya

Kato, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

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. 28, Kenly Kiya Kato, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse.

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 Calendar No. 36.

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 Julia E. Kobick, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

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. 36, Julia E. Kobick, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine

Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse.

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 Calendar No. 38.

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 Ramon Ernesto Reyes, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

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. 38, Ramon Ernesto Reyes, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, November 2, be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1055 AIR FORCE nomination of William D. Magee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 27, 2023.

PN1078 AIR FORCE nominations (21) beginning REAGAN HOWARD BEATON, and ending PILAR G. WENNRICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1081 AIR FORCE nominations (35) beginning JOSEPH BENJAMIN AHLERS, and ending LAURA ASHLEY WAGNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1082 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning JEREMIAH L. BLACKBURN, and ending THOMAS A. WEBB, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

PN238-3 ARMY nomination of ZARA M. SCRIBNER, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2023.

PN1087 ARMY nominations (6) beginning DONALD T. CRISWELL, and ending PETER A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1088 ARMY nominations (15) beginning JOSEPH M. BAUMANN, and ending JACOB H. YOUMANS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1089 ARMY nominations (17) beginning DAVID A. BRUNAIS, and ending JEREMIAH J. OLIGARIO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1090 ARMY nomination of Erick Leon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1091 ARMY nomination of Brian C. Satterlee, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1092 ARMY nomination of Michael D. Norton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1093 ARMY nominations (7) beginning MICHAEL A. BRYANT, and ending STEVEN L. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1094 ARMY nomination of Joshua W. Brown, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1057 MARINE CORPS nomination of Christopher F. Melling, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 27, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

PN1058 NAVY nomination of T. M. Alford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 27, 2023.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN1059 SPACE FORCE nomination of Dustin L. White, which was received by the

Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 27, 2023.

PN1059 SPACE FORCE nominations (4) beginning JOHN S. DONELSON, and ending RYAN M. WILSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 27, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-255, appoints the following individuals (effective January 1, 2024) to serve as members of the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee: Zeynep Sumer King of New York; and Derek De Young of Wisconsin.

ALL-AMERICAN FLAG ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 197, S. 1973.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1973) to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is in bold boldfaced brackets, and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is in italic.)

S. 1973

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 “All-American Flag Act”.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in subsections (b) through (d), funds appropriated or otherwise available to an agency may not be used for the procurement of any flag of the United States, unless such flag has been 100 percent manufactured in the United States from articles, materials, or supplies that have been grown or 100 percent produced or manufactured in the United States.

“(b) AVAILABILITY EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that the head of the agency concerned determines

that satisfactory quality and sufficient quantity of a flag described in such subsection cannot be procured as and when needed at United States market prices.

“(c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PROCUREMENTS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

“(1) Procurements by vessels in foreign waters.

“(2) Procurements for resale purposes in any military commissary, military exchange, or nonappropriated fund instrumentality operated by an agency.

“(3) Procurements for amounts less than the simplified acquisition threshold.

“(d) PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the requirement in subsection (a) if the President determines a waiver is necessary to comply with any trade agreement to which the United States is a party.

“(2) NOTICE OF WAIVER.—Not later than 30 days after granting a waiver under paragraph (1), the President shall publish a notice of the waiver in the Federal Register.

“(e) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each manufacturer of a flag of the United States shall maintain records related to such flags marketed by the manufacturer for a period of 5 years demonstrating that articles, materials and supplies used for the flags have been grown or 100 percent produced or manufactured in the United States.

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—The records described in paragraph (1) shall be made available to an agency upon request, at reasonable times and within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner, including allowing electronic access to such records.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term ‘executive agency’ in section 102 of title 40.

“(2) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—The term ‘simplified acquisition threshold’ has the meaning given that term in section 134.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 6310 of title 41, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall apply with respect to any contract entered into on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the committee-reported amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1973), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1973

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 “All-American Flag Act”.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in subsections (b) through (d), funds appropriated or otherwise available to an agency may not be used for the procurement of any flag of the United States, unless such flag has been 100 percent manufactured in the United States from articles, materials, or supplies that have been grown or 100 percent produced or manufactured in the United States.

“(b) AVAILABILITY EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that the head of the agency concerned determines that satisfactory quality and sufficient quantity of a flag described in such subsection cannot be procured as and when needed at United States market prices.

“(c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PROCUREMENTS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

“(1) Procurements by vessels in foreign waters.

“(2) Procurements for resale purposes in any military commissary, military exchange, or nonappropriated fund instrumentality operated by an agency.

“(3) Procurements for amounts less than the simplified acquisition threshold.

“(d) PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the requirement in subsection (a) if the President determines a waiver is necessary to comply with any trade agreement to which the United States is a party.

“(2) NOTICE OF WAIVER.—Not later than 30 days after granting a waiver under paragraph (1), the President shall publish a notice of the waiver in the Federal Register.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term ‘executive agency’ in section 102 of title 40.

“(2) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—The term ‘simplified acquisition threshold’ has the meaning given that term in section 134.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 6310 of title 41, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), shall apply with respect to any contract entered into on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

CONDEMNING RUSSIA'S UNJUST AND ARBITRARY DETENTION OF RUSSIAN OPPOSITION LEADER VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA WHO HAS STOOD UP IN DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW, AND FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN RUSSIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 52, S. Con. Res. 7.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 7) condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in *italic*, and with an amendment to the preamble to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in *italic*, as follows:

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was unjustly detained by Russian authorities for spreading supposedly "false information" in a speech in March 2022 to the Arizona House of Representatives;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin launched another unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal invasion into Ukraine in contravention of the obligations freely undertaken by the Russian Federation to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Minsk protocols of 2014 and 2015, and international law;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza has used his voice and platform to join more than 15,000 citizens of the Russian Federation in peacefully protesting the war against Ukraine and millions more who silently oppose the war;

Whereas, on March 5, 2022, Vladimir Putin signed a law criminalizing the distribution of truthful statements about the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and mandating up to 15 years in prison for such offenses;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza, in his March 15, 2022, speech presented a defiant condemnation of Vladimir Putin's policies and leadership outlining his corruption and malign intentions, and condemning the illegal war of aggression Putin has unleashed against Ukraine;

Whereas, prior to his arrest in April 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was poisoned twice by agents of the Russian government and the Russian Federation in 2015 and 2017 with a military-grade agent banned internationally, likely in retaliation for his defiant stance in support of rule of law and democracy in Russia;

Whereas, despite having survived two assassination attempts and the subsequent side effects of these poisonings, Mr. Kara-Murza regularly returned to Russia to advocate for democratic representation in Russia;

Whereas independent investigations conducted by Bellingcat, the Insider, and Der Spiegel found that the same unit of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation responsible for poisoning Mr. Kara-Murza was also responsible for poisoning Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and activists Timur Kuashev, Ruslan Magomedragimov, and Nikita Isayev;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza has consistently advocated for democracy in Russia and insisted that democracy in Russia must be advanced by Russians for all those living in Russia;

Whereas, on May 26, 2022, the United States Senate unanimously agreed to Senate Resolution 632 (117th Congress) calling for the immediate release of Mr. Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny, and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposing the regime of Vladimir Putin and the war against Ukraine;

Whereas, on July 27, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza for his engagements with Free Russia Foundation and Open Russia, both of which are nongovernmental organizations tar-

geted by the law of the Russian Federation on undesirable organizations;

Whereas, in August 2022, new charges were brought against Mr. Kara-Murza for "carrying out the activities" of an "undesirable foreign organization" and his arrest was extended for his work as a leading member of Russian civil society;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was further charged unjustly with "high treason" due to his public condemnations of the Kremlin's military aggression on Ukraine and domestic repressions;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, Mr. Kara-Murza was sentenced to 25 years in prison, one of the highest sentences given to any Russian opposition figure;

Whereas, since Mr. Kara-Murza's arrest, the state of his health has deteriorated and in addition to losing over 45 pounds, he was diagnosed with polyneuropathy, a condition that under Russian law, should preclude him from incarceration;

Whereas, as a result of his diagnosis, he has lost feeling in both his feet and has experienced symptoms similar to those he experienced following his 2015 poisoning due to peripheral nerve damage;

Whereas section 5599F of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) condemned Mr. Kara-Murza's unjust detention, expressed solidarity with Mr. Kara-Murza, his family, and all individuals imprisoned in Russia for their beliefs, and urged the United States and other ally governments to work to secure the release of Mr. Kara-Murza and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposition to Vladimir Putin's regime and his illegal war in Ukraine;

Whereas, in April 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was presented the McCain Institute's Courage and Leadership Award for his unwavering commitment to fundamental values and his acts of selfless courage which have inspired the world;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was awarded the Vaclav Havel Prize honoring outstanding civil society action in defense of human rights;

Whereas the late Senator John McCain said Mr. Kara-Murza "is a brave, outspoken, and relentless advocate for freedom and democracy in Russia" and introduced Mr. Kara-Murza as "a personal hero whose courage, selflessness and idealism I find awe-inspiring";

Whereas, in March 2023, the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State imposed Global Magnitsky and other targeted sanctions on six Russians involved in Mr. Kara-Murza's ongoing arbitrary detention, recognized his role as "a major advocate for the adoption of Magnitsky-style sanctions authorities by the United States, Canada, European Union, and United Kingdom to target human rights abusers and corrupt actors in Russia," and called for his immediate release;

Whereas, in April 2023, 81 Members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken urging that Mr. Kara-Murza be designated under the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) as "unlawfully and wrongfully detained"; and

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza remains a political prisoner and a victim of Vladimir Putin's authoritarian state: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),
That Congress—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian democratic opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza;

(2) calls on the Russian Federation to immediately release Mr. Kara-Murza and all other Russian opposition leaders, including Alexei Navalny, who are detained as a result of their opposition to the Putin regime;

(3) calls on all Russian citizens to outright condemn Russia's illegal and unjust invasion of Ukraine in the spirit of Mr. Kara-Murza's defiant stance in front of the Arizona House of Representatives in March 2022;

(4) expresses solidarity with and calls for the release of all political prisoners in Russia and Belarus, as well as Ukrainian citizens illegally held as prisoners by Putin's regime in violation of the rule of law as a result of their support for liberal democratic values; and

(5) calls on the President of the United States and leaders from across the free world to work tirelessly for the release of political prisoners in Russia and increase support for those advocating for democracy in Russia, as well as independent media and civil society which Mr. Kara-Murza has worked to further.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the concurrent resolution be withdrawn; that the Cardin substitute amendment at the desk to the concurrent resolution be agreed to; that the concurrent resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the preamble be withdrawn; that the Cardin substitute amendment at the desk to the preamble be agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or to debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 1359) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: That Congress—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian democratic opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza;

(2) calls on the Russian Federation to immediately release Mr. Kara-Murza and all other Russian opposition leaders, including Alexei Navalny, who are detained as a result of their opposition to the Putin regime;

(3) expresses solidarity with and calls for the release of all political prisoners in Russia and Belarus, as well as Ukrainian citizens illegally held as prisoners by Putin's regime in violation of the rule of law as a result of their support for liberal democratic values; and

(4) calls on the President of the United States and leaders from across the free world to work tirelessly for the release of political prisoners in Russia.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 7), as amended, was agreed to.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, to the preamble was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 1360) to the preamble, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble.)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was unjustly detained by Russian authorities for spreading supposedly "false information" in a speech in March 2022 to the Arizona House of Representatives;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin launched another unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal invasion into Ukraine in

contravention of the obligations freely undertaken by the Russian Federation to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Minsk protocols of 2014 and 2015, and international law;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza has used his voice and platform to join more than 15,000 citizens of the Russian Federation in peacefully protesting the war against Ukraine and millions more who silently oppose the war;

Whereas, on March 5, 2022, Vladimir Putin signed a law criminalizing the distribution of truthful statements about the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and mandating up to 15 years in prison for such offenses;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza, in his March 15, 2022, speech presented a defiant condemnation of Vladimir Putin's policies and leadership outlining his corruption and malign intentions, and condemning the illegal war of aggression Putin has unleashed against Ukraine;

Whereas, prior to his arrest in April 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was poisoned twice by agents of the Russian government and the Russian Federation in 2015 and 2017 with a military-grade agent banned internationally, likely in retaliation for his defiant stance in support of rule of law and democracy in Russia;

Whereas, despite having survived two assassination attempts and the subsequent side effects of these poisonings, Mr. Kara-Murza regularly returned to Russia to advocate for democratic representation in Russia;

Whereas independent investigations conducted by Bellingcat, the Insider, and Der Spiegel found that the same unit of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation responsible for poisoning Mr. Kara-Murza was also responsible for poisoning Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and activists Timur Kuashev, Ruslan Magomedragimov, and Nikita Isayev;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza has consistently advocated for democracy in Russia and insisted that democracy in Russia must be advanced by Russians for all those living in Russia;

Whereas, on May 26, 2022, the United States Senate unanimously agreed to Senate Resolution 632 (117th Congress) calling for the immediate release of Mr. Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny, and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposing the regime of Vladimir Putin and the war against Ukraine;

Whereas, on July 27, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza for his engagements with Free Russia Foundation and Open Russia, both of which are nongovernmental organizations targeted by the law of the Russian Federation on undesirable organizations;

Whereas, in August 2022, new charges were brought against Mr. Kara-Murza for "carrying out the activities" of an "undesirable foreign organization" and his arrest was extended for his work as a leading member of Russian civil society;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was further charged unjustly with "high treason" due to his public condemnations of the Kremlin's military aggression on Ukraine and domestic repressions;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, Mr. Kara-Murza was sentenced to 25 years in prison, one of the highest sentences given to any Russian opposition figure;

Whereas, since Mr. Kara-Murza's arrest, the state of his health has deteriorated and in addition to losing over 45 pounds, he was diagnosed with polyneuropathy, a condition

that under Russian law, should preclude him from incarceration;

Whereas, as a result of his diagnosis, he has lost feeling in both his feet and has experienced symptoms similar to those he experienced following his 2015 poisoning due to peripheral nerve damage;

Whereas section 5599F of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) condemned Mr. Kara-Murza's unjust detention, expressed solidarity with Mr. Kara-Murza, his family, and all individuals imprisoned in Russia for their beliefs, and urged the United States and other ally governments to work to secure the release of Mr. Kara-Murza and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposition to Vladimir Putin's regime and his illegal war in Ukraine;

Whereas, in April 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was presented the McCain Institute's Courage and Leadership Award for his unwavering commitment to fundamental values and his acts of selfless courage which have inspired the world;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was awarded the Vaclav Havel Prize honoring outstanding civil society action in defense of human rights;

Whereas the late Senator John McCain said Mr. Kara-Murza "is a brave, outspoken, and relentless advocate for freedom and democracy in Russia" and introduced Mr. Kara-Murza as "a personal hero whose courage, selflessness and idealism I find awe-inspiring";

Whereas, in April 2023, 81 Members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken urging that Mr. Kara-Murza be designated under the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) as "unlawfully and wrongfully detained"; and

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza remains a political prisoner and a victim of Vladimir Putin's authoritarian state: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 7

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was unjustly detained by Russian authorities for spreading supposedly "false information" in a speech in March 2022 to the Arizona House of Representatives;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin launched another unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal invasion into Ukraine in contravention of the obligations freely undertaken by the Russian Federation to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Minsk protocols of 2014 and 2015, and international law;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza has used his voice and platform to join more than 15,000 citizens of the Russian Federation in peacefully protesting the war against Ukraine and millions more who silently oppose the war;

Whereas, on March 5, 2022, Vladimir Putin signed a law criminalizing the distribution of truthful statements about the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and mandating up to 15 years in prison for such offenses;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza, in his March 15, 2022, speech presented a defiant condemnation of Vladimir Putin's policies and leadership outlining his corruption and malign intentions, and condemning the illegal war of aggression Putin has unleashed against Ukraine;

Whereas, prior to his arrest in April 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was poisoned twice by agents of the Russian government and the Russian Federation in 2015 and 2017 with a military-grade agent banned internationally, likely in retaliation for his defiant stance in support of rule of law and democracy in Russia;

Whereas, despite having survived two assassination attempts and the subsequent side effects of these poisonings, Mr. Kara-Murza regularly returned to Russia to advocate for democratic representation in Russia;

Whereas independent investigations conducted by Bellingcat, the Insider, and Der Spiegel found that the same unit of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation responsible for poisoning Mr. Kara-Murza was also responsible for poisoning Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and activists Timur Kuashev, Ruslan Magomedragimov, and Nikita Isayev;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza has consistently advocated for democracy in Russia and insisted that democracy in Russia must be advanced by Russians for all those living in Russia;

Whereas, on May 26, 2022, the United States Senate unanimously agreed to Senate Resolution 632 (117th Congress) calling for the immediate release of Mr. Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny, and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposing the regime of Vladimir Putin and the war against Ukraine;

Whereas, on July 27, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza for his engagements with Free Russia Foundation and Open Russia, both of which are nongovernmental organizations targeted by the law of the Russian Federation on undesirable organizations;

Whereas, in August 2022, new charges were brought against Mr. Kara-Murza for "carrying out the activities" of an "undesirable foreign organization" and his arrest was extended for his work as a leading member of Russian civil society;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was further charged unjustly with "high treason" due to his public condemnations of the Kremlin's military aggression on Ukraine and domestic repressions;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, Mr. Kara-Murza was sentenced to 25 years in prison, one of the highest sentences given to any Russian opposition figure;

Whereas, since Mr. Kara-Murza's arrest, the state of his health has deteriorated and in addition to losing over 45 pounds, he was diagnosed with polyneuropathy, a condition that under Russian law, should preclude him from incarceration;

Whereas, as a result of his diagnosis, he has lost feeling in both his feet and has experienced symptoms similar to those he experienced following his 2015 poisoning due to peripheral nerve damage;

Whereas section 5599F of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) condemned Mr. Kara-Murza's unjust detention, expressed solidarity with Mr. Kara-Murza, his family, and all individuals imprisoned in Russia for their beliefs, and urged the United States and other ally governments to work to secure the release of Mr. Kara-Murza and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposition to Vladimir Putin's regime and his illegal war in Ukraine;

Whereas, in April 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was presented the McCain Institute's Courage and Leadership Award for his unwavering commitment to fundamental values and his acts of selfless courage which have inspired the world;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was awarded the Vaclav Havel Prize honoring outstanding civil society action in defense of human rights;

Whereas the late Senator John McCain said Mr. Kara-Murza “is a brave, outspoken, and relentless advocate for freedom and democracy in Russia” and introduced Mr. Kara-Murza as “a personal hero whose courage, selflessness and idealism I find awe-inspiring”;

Whereas, in April 2023, 81 Members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken urging that Mr. Kara-Murza be designated under the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) as “unlawfully and wrongfully detained”; and

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza remains a political prisoner and a victim of Vladimir Putin’s authoritarian state: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian democratic opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza;

(2) calls on the Russian Federation to immediately release Mr. Kara-Murza and all other Russian opposition leaders, including Alexei Navalny, who are detained as a result of their opposition to the Putin regime;

(3) expresses solidarity with and calls for the release of all political prisoners in Russia and Belarus, as well as Ukrainian citizens illegally held as prisoners by Putin’s regime in violation of the rule of law as a result of their support for liberal democratic values; and

(4) calls on the President of the United States and leaders from across the free world to work tirelessly for the release of political prisoners in Russia.

VETERAN IMPROVEMENT COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 656 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 656) to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of commercial driver education programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 656) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 656

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 “Veteran Improvement Commercial Driver License Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF RULES FOR APPROVAL OF COMMERCIAL DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PURPOSES OF VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3680A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively;

(2) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting “(1)” before “The Secretary”;

(3) in paragraph (1)(B), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting “except as provided in paragraph (2),” before “the course”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):

“(2)(A) Subject to this paragraph, a commercial driver education program is exempt from paragraph (1)(B) for a branch of an educational institution if the commercial driver education program offered at the branch by the educational institution—

“(i) is appropriately licensed; and

“(ii) uses the same curriculum as a commercial driver education program offered by the educational institution at another location that is approved for purposes of this chapter by a State approving agency or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency.

“(B)(i) In order for a commercial driver education program of an educational institution offered at a branch described in paragraph (1)(B) to be exempt under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the educational institution shall submit to the Secretary each year that paragraph (1)(B) would otherwise apply a report that demonstrates that the curriculum at the new branch is the same as the curriculum at the primary location.

“(ii) Reporting under clause (i) shall be submitted in accordance with such requirements as the Secretary shall establish in consultation with the State approving agencies.

“(C)(i) The Secretary may withhold an exemption under subparagraph (A) for any educational institution or branch of an educational institution as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(ii) In making any determination under clause (i), the Secretary may consult with the Secretary of Transportation on the performance of a provider of a commercial driver program, including the status of the provider within the Training Provider Registry of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration when appropriate.”.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish requirements under section 3680A(e)(2)(B)(ii) of such title, as added by subsection (a).

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to commercial driver education programs on and after the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary establishes the requirements under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

WOUNDED WARRIOR ACCESS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1226 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1226) to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 1226) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ENSURING THE SECURITY OF OFFICE SPACE RENTED BY SENATORS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3222, introduced earlier today by Senator KLOBUCHAR.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3222) to ensure the security of office space rented by Senators, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 3222) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3222

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

SECTION 1. SECURITY OF OFFICE SPACE RENTED BY SENATORS.

Section 3 of the Legislative Branch Appropriation Act, 1975 (2 U.S.C. 6317) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (12) as subparagraphs (A) through (L), respectively;

(B) by striking “The aggregate” and inserting “(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the aggregate”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) The aggregate square feet of office space for purposes of paragraph (1) shall not include any portion of the office space used for security or safety enhancements that are—

“(A) of a kind authorized by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, which shall include an information technology security closet and a secure lobby or reception area; and

“(B) approved by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) by striking “The maximum” and inserting “(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the maximum”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) The portion of the cost of a rental described in subparagraph (A) that is attributable to building security and safety measures shall not be included in determining the annual rate paid for the rental for purposes of subparagraph (A) if—

“(i) the costs are for building security and safety measures—

“(I) of a kind authorized by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, which shall include guard services, access control, and facility monitoring; and

“(II) approved by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; and

“(ii) such costs are itemized separately in a manner approved by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.”.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 340

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 340) to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for terrorist organizations, including Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 447, S. Res. 448, and S. Res. 449.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolutions en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolutions en bloc.

The resolutions were agreed to en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that 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 preambles were agreed to en bloc.

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

DEBBIE SMITH ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 499 and

the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 499) to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 1361) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike section 2 and insert the following:

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 2(j) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701(j)) is amended by striking “through 2024” and inserting “through 2029”.

SEC. 3. AUDITS TO PROTECT INTEGRITY OF GRANT AWARDS.

Section 2(c)(4) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701(c)(4)) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2029”.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill, as amended?

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The bill (S. 499), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 499

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 “Debbie Smith Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 2(j) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701(j)) is amended by striking “through 2024” and inserting “through 2029”.

SEC. 3. AUDITS TO PROTECT INTEGRITY OF GRANT AWARDS.

Section 2(c)(4) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701(c)(4)) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2029”.

Mr. SCHUMER. I, finally, ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO SHERRI A. BERGER

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, today I have the honor of celebrating the exceptional contributions of Ms. Sherri A. Berger as she departs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Throughout her distinguished career, Ms. Berger has been a tireless cham-

pion of public health and a catalyst for positive change.

From her early days as an epidemiologist to her current role as senior counselor, Ms. Berger has been devoted to the mission of the CDC. This includes her leadership in establishing the Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics, which harnessed the power of data, expert modeling, and high-quality communication to meet the needs of public health decision-makers.

I celebrate Ms. Berger's dedication to public service, and I congratulate her on an extraordinary tenure at the CDC.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BENSON “BUZZ” ROBERTS

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear constituent, Benson “Buzz” Roberts, in recognition of his imminent retirement as president and chief executive officer of the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders—NAAHL—and his 45 years of dedicated service in the affordable housing and community development field.

Throughout his career, Buzz has been an influential voice on housing and community development policy and practices. He has been among the most important leaders in helping to advance key legislation to support the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, the New Markets Tax Credit, and more recently my Neighborhood Homes Tax Credit. As the lead Senate sponsor on legislation to expand New Markets Tax Credits and legislation to create Neighborhood Homes credits, I have personally been witness to Buzz's thoughtful leadership and relentless advocacy in support of these critical initiatives. Buzz has also been a key champion of many other key housing and community development initiatives over the years, including HOME Investment Partnerships grants, the Capital Magnet Fund, Treasury Department funding for Federal Housing Administration multifamily risk-sharing loans, and regulatory changes to the Community Reinvestment Act.

Buzz began his career as a community development organizer. He later served at a national association of nonprofit neighborhood development groups before serving for over 20 years as the senior vice president for policy and program development at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation—LISC—a leading nonprofit investor in affordable housing and community revitalization. Buzz then went on to serve as the first Director of the Office of Small Business, Community Development and Housing Policy at the U.S. Treasury Department.

In 2015, Buzz joined NAAHL as its president and CEO. NAAHL is a national association that brings together banks, Community Development Financial Institutions, and other capital providers. During his time at NAAHL, Buzz has helped further the mission of the organization, which is to expand economic opportunity through responsible private financing for affordable

housing and inclusive neighborhood revitalization. This includes ensuring that policies continue to be in place to support the critical work of NAAHL members and the millions of people in the Nation who need affordable and sustainable housing. Buzz also serves as a board member of several national and local nonprofit organizations and coalitions and has written extensively about affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization.

Buzz has spent his life advocating for affordable housing, community revitalization, and lifting families out of poverty. What a wonderful vocation for a truly special person. I know that NAAHL members, current and former colleagues, and industry friends will miss him. I ask that my fellow colleagues here in the U.S. Senate join me in thanking Buzz Roberts for his lifelong commitment to serving families and communities in need and congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement. I wish him all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WATSON

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize a Kansan who will be celebrating his 100th birthday this month, a man who has served others throughout his entire lifetime: Robert Watson of Overland Park, KS.

Robert came of age during the Great Depression and went to work at a young age. His work ethic and dedication were evident early on, and at the age of 12, he earned the nickname "Rapid Robert." During World War II, Robert was deployed to Germany and served as a second lieutenant in the Army. As an officer in the Army, he attended the Nuremberg Trials, but his experiences in Europe didn't end there. Robert was conveniently just the right height and weight for the Italian Olympic bobsled team, and while visiting Switzerland after the war, he trained with the team.

When he was finally back in the U.S., Robert was recruited from the Army by Southwestern Bell to help write the first manual for the home telephone in New York City. After working for Southwestern Bell, he moved back to Kansas to start a printing press company. Like so many World War II veterans, Robert's service didn't end after his time in the military. His service to others only deepened during his time in Kansas, serving as a pastor at Community Covenant Church in Lenexa for 35 years and as a church organist for 60 years. Even amidst his busy life, Robert found time to compete in the Senior Olympics in Kansas, earning a gold and silver medal in tennis and another gold in golf. In between his achievements and accomplishments, of which there are plenty, Robert also takes time to travel to nursing homes in Kansas, playing his piano to brighten the day for many seniors. His selfless service to others continues still and has blessed many people.

Members of the Greatest Generation likely didn't realize the full magnitude

of their sacrifices or the history they were witnessing firsthand. They simply went about life with a work ethic second to none. This describes Robert; he went where he was needed, made an impact in the lives of others, and set a remarkable example for many.

Mr. Watson, our country is grateful for you and your service to others. You have made our Nation, the State of Kansas, and your community proud. You are a dedicated father, grandfather and great-grandfather; and your family loves you dearly. Your grandson Tom, who shares your work ethic when serving Kansans daily through my office, is proud of you too. May your special day be filled with joy as you are surrounded by family and friends. Congratulations on this incredible milestone. Happy birthday.●

RECOGNIZING THE SOUP LADIES

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Idaho's Ginger "Mama" Passarelli and the Soup Ladies, a nonprofit organization she founded to serve first responders fresh meals following Hurricane Katrina. Since 2004, the Soup Ladies have served countless meals to those responding to tragedies across the country.

From hurricanes on the East Coast, wildfires across the West, and tornadoes in the South, Ginger and the Soup Ladies provide fresh meals to first responders, police and fire departments, search and rescue teams, and military personnel. Most recently, the Soup Ladies' pink trucks and trailers traveled to the southern border, where they cooked fresh meals for Border Patrol agents working the frontlines of our illegal immigration crisis. When the Soup Ladies are not responding to national emergencies, they support emergency personnel and law enforcement agents in their local communities. They recognize the important sacrifices first responders make to selflessly serve their communities and support them as they support us.

The Soup Ladies now consist of more than 80 volunteers across the country and serve countless meals each year. All Soup Ladies are certified in crisis management because they meet first responders where they are, on the frontlines. When the Soup Ladies answer a call, they aim to feed at least 100 people on site within an hour. Their favorite recipes include soup, stroganoff, and chicken pot pie for their nutritional value and convenience. In addition to recognition by communities across the country, the Soup Ladies' honorable work has received national attention from Mike Rowe on "Returning the Favor" and the Today Show.

Thank you, Mama Passarelli, for your commitment to supporting the emergency personnel, search and rescue teams, military personnel, and law enforcement officials who selflessly serve and protect our citizens. You are truly "warming the world, one bowl at a time."●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 340. An act to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for terrorist organizations, including Hamas and the Palestine Islamic Jihad.

H.R. 3266. An act to require the Secretary of State to submit annual reports reviewing the curriculum used by the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4364. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 3266. An act to require the Secretary of State to submit annual reports reviewing the curriculum used by the Palestinian Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4364. An act making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 340. An act to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for terrorist organizations, including Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 1564. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish, or otherwise ensure the provision of, a training program on artificial intelligence for Federal management officials and supervisors, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-109).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN for the Committee on Finance.

*Demetrios L. Kouzoukas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

*Demetrios L. Kouzoukas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the

Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

*Demetrios L. Kouzoukas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

*Patricia Hart Neuman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

*Patricia Hart Neuman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

*Patricia Hart Neuman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for a term of four years.

*Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 3198. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a fee on certain products imported into the United States based on the pollution intensity associated with the production of such products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3199. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase penalties for unauthorized disclosure of taxpayer information; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3200. A bill to reauthorize the loan repayment program for the substance use disorder treatment workforce; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 3201. A bill to prohibit drilling in the Arctic Ocean; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3202. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3203. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to impose certain requirements relating to the use of market indexes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 3204. A bill to amend Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to streamline and improve the

employer reporting process relating to health insurance coverage and to protect dependent privacy; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3205. A bill to require Federal agencies to use the Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology with respect to the use of artificial intelligence; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3206. A bill to provide for a study on the accessibility of substance use disorder treatment and mental health care providers and services for farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 3207. A bill to establish the Foundation for International Food Security to leverage private sector investments in order to improve agricultural productivity, build food systems to mitigate food shock, help alleviate poverty, reduce malnutrition, and drive economic growth in developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3208. A bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3209. A bill to authorize grants for crime victims to be distributed to angel families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. VANCE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3210. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3211. A bill to enhance our Nation's nurse and physician workforce by recapturing unused immigrant visas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3212. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require licenses to acquire or receive firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3213. A bill to establish a pilot program to address technology-related abuse in domestic violence cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3214. A bill to divert Federal funding away from supporting the presence of police

in schools and toward evidence-based and trauma informed services that address the needs of marginalized students and improve academic outcomes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 3215. A bill to conduct or support further comprehensive research for the creation of a universal influenza vaccine or preventative; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3216. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to include affordable housing incentives in certain capital investment grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 3217. A bill to amend section 431 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify requirements relating to disclosure of vessel, aircraft, or vehicle manifest information; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 3218. A bill to require Federal agencies to notify States and localities whenever transporting migrants from locations within 100 miles of the United States border to their jurisdictions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3219. A bill to protect against seasonal and pandemic influenza, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3220. A bill to expand the tropical disease product priority review voucher program to encourage prevention and treatment of coccidioidomycosis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. TESTER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3221. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a special limitation on pay for wildland fire responders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR:

S. 3222. A bill to ensure the security of office space rented by Senators, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3223. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent bulk sales of ammunition, promote recordkeeping and reporting about ammunition, end ammunition straw purchasing, and require a background check before the transfer of ammunition by certain Federal firearms licensees to non-licensees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3224. A bill to codify Internal Revenue Service guidance relating to treatment of certain services and items for chronic conditions as meeting the preventive care deductible safe harbor for purposes of high deductible health plans in connection with health savings accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 3225. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to any foreign person that the President determines engages in or has engaged in a significant transaction or transactions, or any dealings with, or has provided material support to or for a military or intelligence facility of the People's Republic of China in Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. Kaine):

S. 3226. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to establish an offshore wind career training grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S.J. Res. 48. A joint resolution to approve the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact, and related agreements, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact, and certain related agreements between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau, to appropriate funds to carry out the agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 445. A resolution recognizing the importance of the economic relationship between the United States and Israel and affirming that trade facilitated by the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement is a tool to support the economy of Israel during the conflict with Hamas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FETTERMAN:

S. Res. 446. A resolution prohibiting Senators charged with certain criminal offenses from receiving classified information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BUDD)):

S. Res. 447. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 23, 2023, as "Beirut Veterans Remembrance Day" to remember the tragic terrorist bombing of the Marine Corps headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1983; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. BUTLER (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. ERNST):

S. Res. 448. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 449. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31, 2023; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 138

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 138, a bill to amend the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002 to modify certain provisions of that Act.

S. 359

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

S. 431

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to withhold United States contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and for other purposes.

S. 499

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 499, a bill to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 663

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) were added as cosponsors of S. 663, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 801

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 801, a bill to address research on, and improve access to, supportive services for individuals with Long COVID.

S. 954

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 954, a bill to provide for appropriate cost-sharing for insulin products covered under private health plans, and to establish a program to support health care providers and pharmacies in providing discounted insulin products to uninsured individuals.

S. 1024

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1024, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to eligible entities to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in public elementary schools and secondary schools.

S. 1152

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1152, a bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1251, a bill to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct civilization and identity, and for other purposes.

S. 1269

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1269, a bill to reduce the price of insulin and provide for patient protections with respect to the cost of insulin.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and the 75th anniversary of the United States-Israel relationship.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1355

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1355, a bill to establish a program to develop antimicrobial innovations targeting the most challenging pathogens and most threatening infections, and for other purposes.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1538, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants for outdoor learning spaces and to develop living schoolyards.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1906, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a time-limited provisional approval pathway, subject to specific obligations, for certain

drugs and biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2501

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2501, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to promulgate an occupational safety and health standard to protect workers from heat-related injuries and illnesses.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2817

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2817, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employers from paying employees in the garment industry by piece rate, to require manufacturers and contractors in the garment industry to register with the Department of Labor, and for other purposes.

S. 2839

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2839, a bill to clarify the maximum hiring target for new air traffic controllers, and for other purposes.

S. 2861

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2861, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 3086

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3086, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish grants for tuition-free community colleges, student success grants, and grants for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 3193

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Massa-

chusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3193, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to allow for the use of telehealth in substance use disorder treatment, and for other purposes.

S. 3196

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3196, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a State option to extend Medicaid coverage for foster care children while receiving treatment from a qualified residential treatment program.

S. RES. 408

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 408, a resolution condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3202. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

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

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

S. 3202

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 "Paperwork Burden Reduction Act".

SEC. 2. ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING CERTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATEMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS.

(a) REPORTING OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—Section 6055(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING STATEMENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, any person required to make a return under subsection (a) shall be treated as timely furnishing the written statement required under paragraph (1) if—

"(A) such person provides clear, conspicuous, and accessible notice (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may provide) that any individual to whom a statement would otherwise be required to be furnished under paragraph (1) may request a copy of such statement, and

"(B) such person, on request of any such individual, furnishes a copy of such statement to such individual not later than the later of—

"(i) January 31 of the year following the calendar year for which the return under subsection (a) was required to be made, or

"(ii) 30 days after the date of such request."

(b) CERTAIN EMPLOYERS REQUIRED TO REPORT ON HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—Section 6056(c) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING STATEMENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, any person required to make a return under subsection (a) shall be treated as timely furnishing the written statement required under paragraph (1) if—

"(A) such person provides clear, conspicuous, and accessible notice (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may provide) that any individual to whom a statement would otherwise be required to be furnished under paragraph (1) may request a copy of such statement, and

"(B) such person, on request of any such individual, furnishes a copy of such statement to such individual not later than the later of—

"(i) January 31 of the year following the calendar year for which the return under subsection (a) was required to be made, or

"(ii) 30 days after the date of such request."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to statements with respect to returns for calendar years after 2023.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Ms. ERNST, Mr. COONS, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 3211. A bill to enhance our Nation's nurse and physician workforce by recapturing unused immigrant visas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 3211

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 "Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act".

SEC. 2. RECAPTURING UNUSED IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR PROFESSIONAL NURSES AND PHYSICIANS.

Section 106(d) of the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-first Century Act of 2000 (title I of Public Law 106-313; 8 U.S.C. 1153 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(d) RECAPTURE OF UNUSED EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANT VISAS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the number of employment-based visas made available under section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)) shall be increased by the number calculated in paragraph (3).

"(2) LIMITATIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Visas may only be made available under this subsection for up to 40,000 employment-based immigrants (and their family members accompanying or following to join under section 203(d) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(d))) whose immigrant worker petitions are filed not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act.

"(B) RESERVATIONS.—Of the visas authorized under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) 25,000 shall be reserved for professional nurses; and

“(ii) 15,000 shall be reserved for physicians.

“(C) EXEMPTION FROM COUNTRY CAPS.—Visas made available under this subsection—

“(i) shall not be subject to the per country numerical limitation set forth in section 202(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(2)); and

“(ii) shall be issued in order of the priority date assigned at the time the visa petition was filed.

“(D) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION.—Visas may only be made available under this subsection to a beneficiary and such beneficiary's dependents if visas are not otherwise immediately available to such individuals pursuant to the worldwide and per country allocations set forth in sections 202(a)(2) and 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(a)(2) and 1153(b)).

“(3) NUMBER AVAILABLE.—

“(A) UNUSED VISAS.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the number calculated in this paragraph is the difference between—

“(i) the total number of employment-based visas that were made available in fiscal years 1992 through 2021; and

“(ii) the total number of such visas that were used in such fiscal years.

“(B) REDUCTION AND LIMITATION.—The number described in subparagraph (A) shall be reduced, for each fiscal year following the fiscal year during which the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act is enacted, by the cumulative number of immigrant visas used pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(C) FAMILY MEMBERS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Family members described in section 203(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(d)) who are accompanying or following to join a principal beneficiary seeking admission under this subsection shall be entitled to an unreserved visa in the same status and in the same order of consideration as such principal beneficiary.

“(ii) EXEMPT FROM SKILL-BASED NUMERICAL LIMITATION.—Visas described in clause (i)—

“(I) shall be made available from the pool of recaptured unused immigrant visas calculated under subparagraph (A); and

“(II) shall not be counted against the total number of immigrant visas reserved for professional nurses and physicians under paragraph (2).

“(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed as affecting the application of section 201(c)(3)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(c)(3)(C)).

“(4) PREMIUM PROCESSING; EXPEDITED PROCESSING.—

“(A) PREMIUM PROCESSING.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Secretary of State, shall provide premium processing procedures, as provided for under section 286(u) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(u)), for reviewing and acting upon petitions and applications for immigrants described in paragraph (2). Notwithstanding such section, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may not charge a premium fee for such services.

“(B) SHIPPING PETITIONS.—The Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services shall expedite the shipping of each petition described in subparagraph (A) requiring consular processing to the Department of State immediately after—

“(i) the completed petition has been reviewed; and

“(ii) the petitioner has replied to any request from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for additional evidence.

“(C) EXPEDITED PROCESSING.—The Secretary of State shall expedite the processing of applications for immigrants described in

paragraph (2) after receiving a petition on behalf of such immigrants from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

“(5) LABOR ATTESTATION.—Before an immigrant visa reserved under paragraph (2)(B)(i) is issued to an alien, the petitioner shall attest, in the job offer letter presented by the alien to a consular officer during the consular interview or to the Department of Homeland Security as an application for an adjustment of status, that the hiring of the alien has not displaced and will not displace a United States worker.”.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. TESTER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3221. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish a special limitation on pay for wildland fire responders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Wildland Firefighter Fair Pay Act to permanently increase the pay caps of some of the United States' most hard-working employees, who risk their lives to keep our communities safe and manage the land from severe wildfire.

In every State, we rely on Federal firefighters who spend weeks to months away from their families in dangerous conditions. As fire season turns into a year-round issue, firefighters must be compensated for their overtime work that grows each year.

The Wildland Firefighter Fair Pay Act would increase the overtime pay caps Federal wildland firefighters and adjust for the new proposed pay scale.

This overtime pay cap increase boost the Federal Agencies' ability to recruit Federal wildland firefighters and avoid firefighters walking off the line midincident or leaving for other opportunities.

As it stands, current United States Code limits wildland firefighters' premium pay and hurts Federal Agencies' ability to recruit and retain firefighters.

Building off the bipartisan infrastructure law, a bipartisan group of Senators and the White House are working to ensure that our wildland firefighters are compensated appropriately for their intense line of work. The “Wildland Firefighter Fair Pay Act” complements these efforts by ensuring that any pay bump would not be limited by a pay cap.

I would like to thank Senators STEVE DAINES, MARTIN HEINRICH, BEN RAY LUJÁN, CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO, JACKY ROSEN, and JON TESTER for joining me in introducing this bill, as well as Representative ZOE LOFGREN for championing this bill in the House.

Lastly, we owe these efforts to California's Late Senator Dianne Feinstein, who had written the original bill. We must continue Senator Feinstein's legacy of supporting our firefighters and investing in wildfire mitigation efforts across the country by permanently increasing the premium pay cap.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this necessary legislation to improve pay for Federal firefighters.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3224. A bill to codify Internal Revenue Service guidance relating to treatment of certain services and items

for chronic conditions as meeting the preventive care deductible safe harbor for purposes of high deductible health plans in connection with health savings accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

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

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

S. 3224

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 “Chronic Disease Flexible Coverage Act”.

SEC. 2. SERVICES AND ITEMS FOR CHRONIC CONDITIONS TREATED AS PREVENTIVE CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The additional preventive care services and items for chronic conditions that may be treated as preventive care for purposes of section 223(c)(2)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as set forth in IRS Notice 2019-45 shall have the same force and effect as if included in the enactment of this Act.

(b) NO INFERENCE.—To the extent not inconsistent with this subsection, no inference shall be made from such subsection with respect to such other rules or guidance as the Secretary has provided, or may provide, with respect to preventive services for purposes of section 223(c)(2)(C) of such Code.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S.J. Res. 48. A joint resolution to approve the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact, and related agreements, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact, and certain related agreements between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau, to appropriate funds to carry out the agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, today, I have joined Senators MANCHIN, RISCH, CARDIN, BOOZMAN, and HIRONO in introducing the Compacts of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023. In the House of Representatives, Congressmen WESTERMAN, GRIJALVA, MCCAUL, and MEEKS are introducing identical legislation.

This legislation renews the compact agreements between the United States and the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, commonly referred to as the Freely Associated States.

This legislation will protect American interests in the Pacific and block

China's efforts to expand its influence. The Compacts of Free Association give the United States exclusive military authority over the Freely Associated States' lands and waters. This authority guarantees that our military can operate bases on the islands and deny access to any potential adversaries in the region. This is critical because Chinese aggression in the region is an ever-present danger.

China is expanding its power in the Indo-Pacific and is threatening the Freely Associated States. China is actively trying to upset the security and power dynamic in the region and threaten Taiwan. In March of this year, the outgoing President of the Federated States of Micronesia outlined Chinese attempts to undermine his country's ties to the United States through bribery and threatening public officials. China has also tried to use aggressive and coercive actions against the economies of the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands by threatening their tourism and fishing industries.

Today's introduction is a positive step. The House Natural Resources Committee intends to mark, up this legislation in order for it be included in the National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA. The Senate has already included language in the NDAA supporting renewal of the compacts. One important issue that is not addressed in this bill is how the legislation will be paid for. The question of a spending offset needs to be addressed as the bill makes its way through the legislative process.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 445—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL AND AFFIRMING THAT TRADE FACILITATED BY THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IS A TOOL TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMY OF ISRAEL DURING THE CONFLICT WITH HAMAS

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 445

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas launched violent and deadly attacks on Israel by air, land, and sea;

Whereas the United States and Israel have a longstanding economic and security relationship;

Whereas the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement was signed into law in June 1985 and was the first free trade agreement entered into by the United States;

Whereas, since the signing of the Agreement, total trade between the United States and Israel has grown more than sevenfold;

Whereas the United States is Israel's single largest trading partner;

Whereas the United States exported \$14,200,000,000 in goods and \$5,800,000,000 in services to Israel in 2022;

Whereas the United States imported \$21,400,000,000 in goods and \$9,200,000,000 in services from Israel in 2022;

Whereas the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement also underpins the robust exchange of capital between the United States and Israel;

Whereas Israeli companies directly invested \$10,600,000,000 in the United States during 2022, supporting more than 20,000 United States jobs; and

Whereas, following Hamas's atrocious attacks on Israel, maintaining and expanding trade and investment between the United States and Israel is paramount: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the economic relationship between the United States and Israel is strong and has benefitted both countries and the peoples of both countries;

(2) expresses support for the people of Israel and the economy of Israel in the face of Hamas's attacks against Israel; and

(3) affirms that—

(A) the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement set the stage for robust growth in trade and investment between the United States and Israel; and

(B) the Agreement can similarly serve as a tool for supporting the economy of Israel during the conflict with Hamas.

SENATE RESOLUTION 446—PROHIBITING SENATORS CHARGED WITH CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES FROM RECEIVING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. FETTERMAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 446

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON RECEIPT OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION BY SENATORS CHARGED WITH CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term "covered criminal offense" means a criminal offense under Federal law relating to—

(A) the unlawful disclosure or improper handling of classified information;

(B) acting as a foreign agent; or

(C) compromising the national security of the United States; and

(2) the term "period a Senator is charged with a covered criminal offense" means the period—

(A) beginning on the date on which an indictment or information is filed charging a Senator with 1 or more covered criminal offenses; and

(B) ending on the date on which, for each such covered criminal offense—

(i) the charge for the covered criminal offense is dismissed; or

(ii) the Senator is found not guilty of the covered criminal offense.

(b) **PROHIBITIONS.**—Except as provided in subsection (c), during a period a Senator is charged with a covered criminal offense—

(1) the Senator may not receive any classified information, including classified information received as a part of information provided to the personal office of the Senator, to a committee of the Senate or of Congress, or through a briefing of Senators;

(2) the Senator may not serve as a member of any committee of the Senate or of Congress;

(3) the Senator may not submit a congressionally directed spending request for any appropriation bill or other legislation;

(4) it shall not be in order to include an item of congressionally directed spending requested by the Senator in any appropriation bill or other legislation; and

(5) the Senator may not obligate official funds for any international travel.

(c) **WAIVER.**—Subsection (b) may be waived with respect to a Senator upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn.

SENATE RESOLUTION 447—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 23, 2023, AS "BEIRUT VETERANS REMEMBRANCE DAY" TO REMEMBER THE TRAGIC TERRORIST BOMBING OF THE MARINE CORPS HEADQUARTERS IN BEIRUT, LEBANON, IN 1983

Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BUDD)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 447

Whereas, in 1982, the United States deployed members of the Armed Forces to Lebanon as part of a multinational peace-keeping force;

Whereas, on October 23, 1983, a truck packed with explosives drove into the lobby of the Marine Corps headquarters building at Beirut International Airport in Beirut, Lebanon;

Whereas 241 members of the Armed Forces were killed in the Marine Corps headquarters bombing in Beirut, Lebanon, including 220 Marines, 18 Sailors, and 3 Soldiers;

Whereas many of the members of the Armed Forces who died in the Marine Corps headquarters bombing were from the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment Battalion Landing Team, based out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina;

Whereas, in the Marine Corps headquarters bombing, Marines suffered the highest loss of life in a single day for Marines since D-Day on Iwo Jima in 1945;

Whereas, on the same day as the Marine Corps headquarters bombing, a suicide bomber killed 58 French paratroopers housed in another building in Beirut, Lebanon; and

Whereas, on October 23, 2023, the United States remembers the members of the Armed Forces who were killed or injured by the terrorist attack on the Marine Corps headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 23, 1983: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 23, 2023, as "Beirut Veterans Remembrance Day" for members of the Armed Forces who were killed or injured by the terrorist attack on the Marine Corps headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 23, 1983; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to take time on October 23, 2023, to honor and recognize the memory of the brave members of the Armed Forces who served in Lebanon and should never be forgotten.

SENATE RESOLUTION 448—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. BUTLER (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms.

KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 448

Whereas, according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey—

- (1) up to 12,000,000 individuals in the United States report experiencing intimate partner violence annually, including physical violence, rape, or stalking; and
- (2) approximately 1 in 5 women in the United States and up to 1 in 7 men in the United States have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetimes;

Whereas, on average, 3 women in the United States are killed each day by a current or former intimate partner, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics;

Whereas domestic violence can affect anyone, but women who are 18 to 34 years of age typically experience the highest rates of domestic violence;

Whereas survivors of domestic violence are strong, courageous, and resilient;

Whereas most female victims of intimate partner violence have been victimized by the same offender previously;

Whereas domestic violence is cited as a significant factor in homelessness among families;

Whereas millions of children are exposed to domestic violence each year;

Whereas a study has found that children who were exposed to domestic violence in their households were 15 times more likely to be physically or sexually assaulted in their lifetime than other children who were not exposed to domestic violence in their households;

Whereas victims of domestic violence experience immediate and long-term negative outcomes, including detrimental effects on mental and physical health;

Whereas research consistently shows that being abused by an intimate partner increases an individual's likelihood of substance use as well as associated harmful consequences;

Whereas victims of domestic violence may lose several days of paid work each year and may lose their jobs due to reasons stemming from domestic violence;

Whereas crisis hotlines serving domestic violence victims operate 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, and offer important crisis intervention services, support services, information, and referrals for victims;

Whereas staff and volunteers of domestic violence shelters and programs in the United States, in cooperation with 56 State and territorial coalitions against domestic violence, provide essential services to—

(1) thousands of adults and children each day; and

(2) 1,000,000 adults and children each year;

Whereas domestic violence programs and hotlines have seen a substantial increase in contacts since 2020, and continue to experience a surge in requests for services, with the National Domestic Violence Hotline averaging approximately 3,000 daily contacts in 2023, up from 800 to 1,200 average daily contacts before the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas nearly 85 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced some form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime;

Whereas respondents to a survey of domestic violence programs reported that survivors of domestic violence often face financial challenges, with 8,000,000 days of paid work lost each year due to intimate partner violence;

Whereas medical professionals have reported that survivors of domestic violence presented with more severe injuries during the pandemic;

Whereas domestic violence programs changed the way they provide services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas advocates for survivors of domestic violence and survivors face the same challenges with child care and facilitating online learning that others do;

Whereas, according to a 2022 survey conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, 79,335 domestic violence victims were served by domestic violence shelters and programs around the United States in a single day;

Whereas some victims of domestic violence face additional challenges in accessing law enforcement and services due to conditions specific to the communities in which they live;

Whereas law enforcement officers in the United States put their lives at risk each day by responding to incidents of domestic violence, which can be among the most volatile and deadly calls;

Whereas Congress first demonstrated a significant commitment to supporting victims of domestic violence with the enactment of the landmark Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (42 U.S.C. 10401 et seq.);

Whereas Congress has remained committed to protecting survivors of all forms of domestic violence and sexual abuse by making Federal funding available to support the activities that are authorized under—

(1) the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (42 U.S.C. 10401 et seq.);

(2) the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291 et seq.); and

(3) the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021 (34 U.S.C. 10101 note; Public Law 117-27);

Whereas there is a need to continue to support programs and activities aimed at domestic violence intervention and domestic violence prevention in the United States;

Whereas domestic violence programs provide trauma-informed services to protect the safety, privacy, and confidentiality of survivors of domestic violence; and

Whereas individuals and organizations that are dedicated to preventing and ending domestic violence should be recognized: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) supports the goals and ideals of “National Domestic Violence Awareness Month”;;

(B) commends domestic violence victim advocates, domestic violence victim service providers, crisis hotline staff, and first responders serving victims of domestic violence for their compassionate support of survivors of domestic violence; and

(C) recognizes the strength and courage of survivors of domestic violence; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that Congress should—

(A) continue to raise awareness of—

(i) domestic violence in the United States; and

(ii) the corresponding devastating effects of domestic violence on survivors, families, and communities; and

(B) pledge continued support for programs designed to—

(i) assist survivors of domestic violence;

(ii) hold perpetrators of domestic violence accountable; and

(iii) bring an end to domestic violence.

SENATE RESOLUTION 449—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RED RIBBON WEEK DURING THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 23 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2023

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

S RES. 449

Whereas the National Family Partnership started the Red Ribbon Campaign in 1988—

(1) to educate the people of the United States and encourage participation in drug prevention activities;

(2) to preserve the memory of Enrique “Kiki” Camarena (referred to in this preamble as “Special Agent Camarena”), a special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration who—

(A) served the Drug Enforcement Administration for 11 years; and

(B) was murdered in the line of duty in 1985, while engaged in the battle against illicit drugs;

(3) to commemorate the service of Special Agent Camarena to the Drug Enforcement Administration and the people of the United States; and

(4) to further the cause for which Special Agent Camarena gave his life;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign is the longest-standing drug use prevention program in the United States, bringing drug awareness to millions of people in the United States each year;

Whereas Red Ribbon Week is celebrated every year during the period of October 23 through October 31 by—

(1) State Governors and attorneys general;

(2) the National Family Partnership;

(3) parent-teacher associations;

(4) Boys and Girls Clubs of America;

(5) the Young Marines;

(6) the Drug Enforcement Administration; and

(7) hundreds of other organizations throughout the United States;2

Whereas the objective of Red Ribbon Week is to promote the creation of drug-free communities through drug use prevention efforts, education programs, parental involvement, and community-wide support through specific actions such as lighting up buildings and landmarks, and activities that engage the public;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdoses are the leading cause of death in people in the United States between the ages of 18 to 45, outnumbering deaths by firearms, motor vehicle crashes, suicide, or homicide;

Whereas nearly 110,000 people died from drug overdoses in the United States in 2022;

Whereas reducing the demand for illicit controlled substances would—

(1) curtail lethal addictions and overdoses; and

(2) reduce the violence associated with drug trafficking;

Whereas, although public awareness of illicit drug use is increasing, emerging drug threats and growing epidemics continue to demand attention;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration hosts a National Take Back Day twice a year, on the last Saturdays of October and April, for the public to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs that can lead to accidental poisoning, overdose, or misuse;

Whereas the National Family Partnership hosts Lock Your Meds, a multi-media campaign and program to encourage individuals, businesses, and communities to dispose of

drugs appropriately and to reduce the demand for drugs;

Whereas Lock Your Meds is statewide in Idaho, North Carolina, and throughout the southeastern United States;

Whereas synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and the analogues of fentanyl devastated communities and families at an unprecedented rate, claiming more than 70,000 lives in 2022;

Whereas the presence of fentanyl and the analogues of fentanyl pose hazards to police officers and law enforcement agents;

Whereas 6 out of 10 fake prescription pills containing fentanyl tested at Drug Enforcement Administration laboratories contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration has created a special exhibit entitled "The Faces of Fentanyl" to commemorate the lives lost from fentanyl poisoning, and has received over 5,000 photos as of the date of enactment of this resolution;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration seized more than 59,600,000 fentanyl-laced, fake prescription pills and more than 13,000 pounds of fentanyl powder in 2022;

Whereas, nearly 6,000 people in the United States died from a drug overdose involving heroin in 2022, a rate of nearly 2 deaths for every 100,000 people in the United States;

Whereas, from 2021 to 2022, drug overdose deaths involving cocaine increased by nearly 13 percent, with almost 28,000 people in the United States dying from such an overdose in 2022;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2,500,000 people in the United States aged 12 or older reported having used methamphetamine in 2020;

Whereas psychostimulants with abuse potential, such as methamphetamine, were involved in 1.2 times as many drug overdose deaths as cocaine; and

Whereas parents, young people, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions and faith-based organizations, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during the week-long celebration of Red Ribbon Week; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31, 2023;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to wear and display red ribbons during Red Ribbon Week to symbolize their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles;

(3) encourages the people of the United States to light up buildings and landmarks to send a drug-free message;

(4) encourages children, teens, and other individuals to choose to live drug-free lives; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to promote the creation of drug-free communities; and

(B) to participate in drug use prevention activities to show support for healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1359. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 7, condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy,

the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia.

SA 1360. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 7, supra.

SA 1361. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 499, to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1359. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 7, condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: That Congress—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian democratic opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza;

(2) calls on the Russian Federation to immediately release Mr. Kara-Murza and all other Russian opposition leaders, including Alexei Navalny, who are detained as a result of their opposition to the Putin regime;

(3) expresses solidarity with and calls for the release of all political prisoners in Russia and Belarus, as well as Ukrainian citizens illegally held as prisoners by Putin's regime in violation of the rule of law as a result of their support for liberal democratic values; and

(4) calls on the President of the United States and leaders from across the free world to work tirelessly for the release of political prisoners in Russia.

SA 1360. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CARDIN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 7, condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on April 11, 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was unjustly detained by Russian authorities for spreading supposedly "false information" in a speech in March 2022 to the Arizona House of Representatives;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin launched another unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal invasion into Ukraine in contravention of the obligations freely undertaken by the Russian Federation to respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Minsk protocols of 2014 and 2015, and international law;

Whereas, since February 24, 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza has used his voice and platform to join more than 15,000 citizens of the Russian Federation in peacefully protesting the war against Ukraine and millions more who silently oppose the war;

Whereas, on March 5, 2022, Vladimir Putin signed a law criminalizing the distribution of truthful statements about the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation and mandating up to 15 years in prison for such offenses;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza, in his March 15, 2022, speech presented a defiant condemna-

tion of Vladimir Putin's policies and leadership outlining his corruption and malign intentions, and condemning the illegal war of aggression Putin has unleashed against Ukraine;

Whereas, prior to his arrest in April 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was poisoned twice by agents of the Russian government and the Russian Federation in 2015 and 2017 with a military-grade agent banned internationally, likely in retaliation for his defiant stance in support of rule of law and democracy in Russia;

Whereas, despite having survived two assassination attempts and the subsequent side effects of these poisonings, Mr. Kara-Murza regularly returned to Russia to advocate for democratic representation in Russia;

Whereas independent investigations conducted by Bellingcat, the Insider, and Der Spiegel found that the same unit of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation responsible for poisoning Mr. Kara-Murza was also responsible for poisoning Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and activists Timur Kuashev, Ruslan Magomedragimov, and Nikita Isayev;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza has consistently advocated for democracy in Russia and insisted that democracy in Russia must be advanced by Russians for all those living in Russia;

Whereas, on May 26, 2022, the United States Senate unanimously agreed to Senate Resolution 632 (117th Congress) calling for the immediate release of Mr. Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny, and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposing the regime of Vladimir Putin and the war against Ukraine;

Whereas, on July 27, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza for his engagements with Free Russia Foundation and Open Russia, both of which are nongovernmental organizations targeted by the law of the Russian Federation on undesirable organizations;

Whereas, in August 2022, new charges were brought against Mr. Kara-Murza for "carrying out the activities" of an "undesirable foreign organization" and his arrest was extended for his work as a leading member of Russian civil society;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was further charged unjustly with "high treason" due to his public condemnations of the Kremlin's military aggression on Ukraine and domestic repressions;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, Mr. Kara-Murza was sentenced to 25 years in prison, one of the highest sentences given to any Russian opposition figure;

Whereas, since Mr. Kara-Murza's arrest, the state of his health has deteriorated and in addition to losing over 45 pounds, he was diagnosed with polyneuropathy, a condition that under Russian law, should preclude him from incarceration;

Whereas, as a result of his diagnosis, he has lost feeling in both his feet and has experienced symptoms similar to those he experienced following his 2015 poisoning due to peripheral nerve damage;

Whereas section 5599F of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263) condemned Mr. Kara-Murza's unjust detention, expressed solidarity with Mr. Kara-Murza, his family, and all individuals imprisoned in Russia for their beliefs, and urged the United States and other ally governments to work to secure the release of Mr. Kara-Murza and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposition to Vladimir Putin's regime and his illegal war in Ukraine;

Whereas, in April 2022, Vladimir Kara-Murza was presented the McCain Institute's

Courage and Leadership Award for his unwavering commitment to fundamental values and his acts of selfless courage which have inspired the world;

Whereas, in October 2022, Mr. Kara-Murza was awarded the Vaclav Havel Prize honoring outstanding civil society action in defense of human rights;

Whereas the late Senator John McCain said Mr. Kara-Murza “is a brave, outspoken, and relentless advocate for freedom and democracy in Russia” and introduced Mr. Kara-Murza as “a personal hero whose courage, selflessness and idealism I find awe-inspiring”;

Whereas, in April 2023, 81 Members of Congress sent a letter to Secretary of State Anthony Blinken urging that Mr. Kara-Murza be designated under the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) as “unlawfully and wrongfully detained”; and

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza remains a political prisoner and a victim of Vladimir Putin’s authoritarian state: Now, therefore, be it

SA 1361. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 499, to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike section 2 and insert the following:

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 2(j) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701(j)) is amended by striking “through 2024” and inserting “through 2029”.

SEC. 3. AUDITS TO PROTECT INTEGRITY OF GRANT AWARDS.

Section 2(c)(4) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. 40701(c)(4)) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2029”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 2, 2023, 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, November 2, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

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, November 2, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, November 6; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Bertagnolli nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 3 P.M. MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:59 p.m., adjourned until Monday, November 6, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 2, 2023:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 803:

To be general

GEN. DAVID W. ALLVIN

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 804:

To be general

LT. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. MAHONEY

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 803:

To be admiral

ADM. LISA M. FRANCHETTI

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF WILLIAM D. MAGEE, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH REAGAN HOWARD BEATON AND ENDING WITH PILAR G. WENNRICH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 19, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH BENJAMIN AHLERS AND ENDING WITH LAURA ASHLEY WAGNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 19, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEREMIAH L. BLACKBURN AND ENDING WITH THOMAS A. WEBB, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 19, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF ZARA M. SCRIBNER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DONALD T. CRISWELL AND ENDING WITH PETER A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 19, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH M. BAUMANN AND ENDING WITH JACOB H. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 19, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID A. BRUNAIS AND ENDING WITH JEREMIAH J. OLIGARIO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 19, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ERICK LEON, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIAN C. SATTERLEE II, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL D. NORTON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL A. BRYANT AND ENDING WITH STEVEN L. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 19, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOSHUA W. BROWN, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF CHRISTOPHER F. MELLING, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF T. M. ALFORD, TO BE CAPTAIN.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF DUSTIN L. WHITE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN S. DONELSON AND ENDING WITH RYAN M. WILSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2023.