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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.

Savior, lead us today as a shepherd. Guide our lives and inspire our hearts. May the talents gathered here on Capitol Hill help in the awesome task of bringing healing to our Nation and world. Strengthen our lawmakers as they deal with unattended needs and unsolved problems. Make them eager to lift burdens and ready to respond in service to humanity. Lord, help each of us to feel a bit of the responsibility for the challenges that hang heavy over our land. In Your unfailing love, give us the wisdom to follow the leading of Your powerful providence. We pray in Your holy 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, March 30, 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. SCHUMER. First, on our work period recap, well, 66 to 30, that is the final count of yesterday's vote to repeal the Iraq AUMF of 2002 and 1991, a bipartisan success years in the making. That was a very good moment here on the floor yesterday—a sign that Senators on both sides want to see bipartisanship continue in this Chamber.

We can see it again if Members work together on issues that Americans care about, like lowering costs, preserving America's competitiveness, and in yesterday's case, stopping endless wars in the Middle East.

It is my hope that the AUMF repeal can be a model, a blueprint for how the Senate operates in the coming years. It is not easy, but it is very much possible, and I thank my Republican colleagues, particularly Senator YOUNG, for their cooperation.

The AUMF repeal was the conclusion of a successful busy work period—5-week work period that we just completed in the Senate—a busy and successful work period on and off the floor.

We confirmed another 14 highly qualified judicial nominees to lifetime

appointments to the bench, 13 district and one circuit court judge, bringing our total to 119 new judges—119 new judges; that makes us proud—under President Biden.

I also want to recognize our committee chairs for their good work over the past month or so in holding hearing after hearing, day after day, on important issues that Americans care about, like rail safety, the health of our banks, the rights of working Americans, the President's budget, and more.

The Senate will hit the ground running when we return from the April State work period by taking up the much needed Fire Grants and Safety Act. It is my hope that yesterday's 96–0 vote in favor of moving forward portends for swift action and argues very strongly against dilatory tactics. Let's do the same thing we did on the AUMF. We are willing to allow some amendments, but we have got to move forward. This is something that is supported broadly, as shown by the 96–0 vote.

Just this week, 29 fire emergency service groups warned Congress that with summer around the corner, local fire departments of all kinds are woefully understaffed, underfunded, and underequipped to meet their obligations to keep people safe. So, when we return, the Senate must move quickly to pass fire grants legislation without unnecessary delays to this overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the Senator from Alabama's holding up military nominations, the Senator from Alabama continues his hold on—more than 180 now—promotions, military promotions, blatantly ignoring the many warnings of the harm he is causing to our national security. It is reckless. It is just reckless.

Yesterday, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin warned that blocking

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



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these promotions “creates a ripple effect through the force that makes us far less ready than we need to be.”

Do you hear that, the Senator from Alabama? The Secretary of Defense is saying that what you do makes us far less ready than we need to be at a time when China and Iran and Russia are all causing all kinds of security problems and threats.

But Secretary Austin also emphasized another point, a very important point: The Senator’s stonewalling is having consequences—bad consequences, heart-wrenching consequences—for our military families. By blocking these promotions, the Senator from Alabama is blocking pay raises for these officers and their families. By blocking these promotions, the Senator from Alabama is blocking military kids from starting at new schools, setting them back in their educations.

When a member of the military serves, their family serves, too. Does the Senator from Alabama understand the disruption and chaos he is causing for military families?

These are people serving us. They are not political. They have worked hard. They have done a good job. They got a promotion. A promotion means moving—a change of venue, a change of school. It means a career path—how long you have been at one rank and then to another.

The Senator from Alabama is playing havoc with so many military families, who are nonpolitical, who have served our country well, who thought they were ready for promotions until this cruel act of the Senator from Alabama stopped them. These military families have done nothing—nothing—to deserve the disrespect and disdain shown by the Senator from Alabama. It is insulting to our servicemembers that one Senator—just one—is holding up what has long been a routine and non-partisan process.

Again, I urge my colleague from Alabama to think this through and stand down. We understand he has passion on the issue. We disagree with it vehemently; so do most Americans. But passion on the issue is not an excuse for causing havoc in the military in terms of force and in terms of the lives of the families.

I would again plead with my Republican colleagues, whether it is public or private, to go to the Senator from Alabama and dissuade him from his folly.

BUDGET AND DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the budget and debt ceiling and “show us your plan,” House Republicans are themselves starting to see why their attempts to threaten default to secure spending cuts has been a terrible idea from the start. It is not only reckless; it is not only dangerous—it turns out they can’t even follow through on it.

This week, the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee

admitted that he doesn’t even see a path to an agreement for lifting the debt ceiling, and at least 16 Republicans have never voted to raise the debt ceiling at all, even under President Trump. That is true.

But the problem here isn’t that there isn’t a path. Of course, there is a path. It is staring Republicans in the face. The solution is what we Democrats have said from the start: Instead of threatening default, instead of brinksmanship, Republicans should work with us on a clean extension of the debt ceiling. We did it three times under Donald Trump. We have already done it under President Biden, and we should do it again.

If Republicans want to push a separate discussion on the budget, that is their prerogative. In fact, it has been done many times by both parties in the past. But the Republicans would be reckless to take the full faith and credit of the United States hostage in order to force a conversation on the budget, particularly when there is an alternative tried-and-true path that has been used before: Separate the debt ceiling and raising the ability of us to pay our debts and discuss things on the budget—on taxes and on spending—which we always do. It is tying the two together that is reckless.

So it is becoming clearer and clearer to Republicans themselves—even those in the House—that the only legitimate path forward is this: Let’s have a bipartisan and clean extension of the debt ceiling, as we have done many times before, and then Republicans can push a separate discussion on the budget.

The American people have listened to us. A month and a half ago, I started telling the Republican leader: Show us your plan.

President Biden, HAKEEM JEFFRIES, and many others have joined in on that call, and it is resonating from one end of America to the other. Of course, you can’t sit down and discuss something if you don’t have a plan. Speaker MCCARTHY just says: Let’s meet. But what are they going to do—discuss the weather? the rearrangement of the furniture?

Come on. Do it the right way.

You are beginning to see what we have said all along—that the best way to do this is with no hostage-taking, no brinksmanship on the debt ceiling, but with a strong, avid, and passionate discussion on spending issues—one separate from the other.

House Republicans cannot show us their plan, and as we said—as I predicted 2 months ago—a month and a half ago—it is going to be very hard for them to get 218 votes on any plan.

So come on. Look in the mirror. See what is going on, and do it the right way.

Speaker MCCARTHY, today is March 30. It has been long enough. You still haven’t come up with a single specific cut that makes any difference in the debt that you want to do. Show us your plan. Drop the brinksmanship. Join Democrats on a clean extension of the debt ceiling.

LOWER ENERGY COSTS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on H.R. 1, the House is expected today to vote on Republicans’ partisan, unserious, and so-called energy package that they call H.R. 1.

First, once again, I want to make it clear: H.R. 1 is dead on arrival in the Senate, not because of politics but because it is so ridiculous and has been drawn up by a bunch of pro-oil Senators who have no regard for anyone else. No Democrat has been consulted. Obviously, the Republicans knew that in the House when they passed it, but they seem to want to go back. In H.R. 1, they go back to the MAGA supporters back home—the big oil companies, the oil wildcatters, and so many of the oil States that don’t want to pay any taxes and that don’t want anything to do with moving us forward as the climate gets worse and worse.

The Senate is not going to waste our time on a bill that sets America back decades in our transition to clean energy. All it takes is a brief glance at H.R. 1 to realize it is just a giveaway to Big Oil. House Republicans’ so-called energy package just guts important safeguards, environmental safeguards, on fossil fuel projects. It would lock America into expensive, erratic, and dirty energy sources while setting us back more than a decade on our decision to move forward on clean energy, which this Nation fully supports. Transmission, of course, is hugely important to increasing access on clean energy, but the Republican plan hardly even mentions it.

So, again, the way to do this, Republicans in the House, is in a bipartisan way. We have a Republican House. We have a Democratic Senate. No party is going to be able to jam its way through without consulting the other side. That is true on the debt ceiling. That is true on the budget, and it is certainly true on H.R. 1.

There are Republicans in the House and Democrats in the House, and there are Republicans in the Senate and Democrats in the Senate who want to sit down and do a serious energy package. We need to do it. Let’s stop this brinksmanship. Let’s stop this political game-playing. Let’s stop this throwing of bones to the MAGA hard right, which represents, maybe, 5 percent of America. Let’s roll up our sleeves. Let’s get down to work and get something done on energy and on so many other issues.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 870, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 28, S. 870, a bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, all postclosure time is expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 870) to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

AMENDMENT NO. 58

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk, and I ask that it be reported by number.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 58.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:45 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 69, Richard R. Verma, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources; that there be 5 minutes for debate, equally divided in the usual form, on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 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. DURBIN. 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.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when I took the gavel as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, one of my first goals and objectives was to restore the committee's oversight role.

Since the beginning of the 117th Congress, we have kept a close watch on those Agencies in the executive branch which are within our jurisdiction. We have held oversight hearings on the Justice Department, the FBI, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons, to mention a few. This last Tuesday, we continued that tradition with a second oversight hearing on the Department of Homeland Security.

It is worth noting that, under the previous administration, the previous President, the Homeland Security Secretary only appeared before our committee one time in 4 years. So we were glad to welcome Secretary Mayorkas back to the hearing room and learn about the work that he is undertaking to keep America safe.

As I mentioned on Tuesday, I think Secretary Mayorkas has one of the hardest jobs in Washington. The Department of Homeland Security is responsible for defending our Nation from a wide range of threats from domestic terrorism, narcotics trafficking, the climate crisis, and even cyber attacks. But, despite this broad mandate, our discussion kept returning to one subject last Tuesday: America's broken immigration system.

It was interesting to hear the Republican Senators on my committee being critical of the job that Mr. Mayorkas is doing as head of the DHS while, at the same time, it has been over 30 years since this body, the U.S. Senate, has enacted legislation to upgrade and modernize our immigration system—30 years. Trust me. The world has changed dramatically in that period, but the Senate has refused to keep pace.

It is easy to criticize Secretary Mayorkas about our border situation, and he faces some amazing challenges. But let's face it. We share in the responsibility for this situation, and we certainly share in the burden of coming up with solutions that help.

For years, I have tried my best to pass appropriations reform. There was a bipartisan moment 10 years ago when the so-called Gang of Eight Senators—four Democrats, four Republicans, and I was included in that group—sat down and wrote a comprehensive immigration reform package. I think it was pretty good. In fact, it was so good that it passed on the floor of the U.S. Senate with over 60 votes in favor of it.

We had our fingers crossed and sent it across the Rotunda over to the Republican-controlled House, and, for 2 years, they refused to even consider it,

even call it for a debate, or even offer their own amendments. They did nothing—nothing—and we are paying the price for that today.

So here is the question after this week's hearing: Are we going to keep pointing our fingers and mugging for the cameras or are we going to come together to fix our immigration system?

I am ready. I certainly hope the Members of the House are ready. But we need a bipartisan consensus to get that done.

RESTORING AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE AND READINESS ACT

On another topic, Mr. President, it is a problem I am going to discuss that affects roughly 100 million Americans. In the wealthiest Nation in the world, nearly one in three people in this Nation lives in an area with too few doctors.

You know the story in your home State of Georgia. I know it in Illinois. I have seen it. Whenever I visit a clinic or a hospital outside of Chicago, I hear the same thing: Our healthcare system is understaffed, underfunded, and underequipped to address the health needs of American families.

The greatest healthcare system in the world is suffering from serious shortages and deficiencies. The pandemic brought this to light. It may not have broken us, but it showed us where our health system is broken.

Over the past 3 years, our doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers have been pushed to the brink, and, as a result, nearly one out of every five healthcare workers has quit their jobs. Think about that: 20 percent quit their jobs.

These departures have taken a massive toll in the healthcare of America. In the years ahead, as our population ages, our needs grow, and more providers leave the profession. Those challenges will get worse unless we in Congress do something.

In the next decade, America is expected to face a shortage of more than 120,000 doctors. By 2025, we may face a deficit of nearly a half a million nurses. And that is on top of our current shortage of about 100,000 dentists that we need now and hundreds of thousands of mental healthcare professionals.

This is a ticking timebomb for every community in America, especially rural communities and communities of color that already have less access to affordable care.

So here in Congress, we need to prevent these shortages from becoming a crisis. Earlier this month, MARCO RUBIO, Republican of Florida, and I joined in introducing the Restoring America's Health Care Workforce and Readiness Act. It is a bipartisan measure to address the healthcare work shortage in America. Over the next 3 years, our bill would provide hundreds of millions of dollars to the National Health Service Corps Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program, more than doubling the current funding level.

This program is vital to pay for the education and training and recruitment of the next generation of doctors, nurses, dentists, and behavioral health specialists.

Why is this program, in particular, so important? Let me tell you, one of the biggest drivers of the American healthcare shortage is the cost of medical education. Doctors graduating from medical school with \$200,000 or \$300,000 in student loan debt or more can hardly consider taking posts in rural and underserved areas. They have got to pay off those loans. So because of those debts, they may not be able to do what they want to do—give care and professional treatment to some of the most needy people in America. We take our best and brightest, we educate them so well, but we heap debt on them unimaginable that makes a real difference in their career choices.

So with the National Health Service Corps and Nurse Corps, aspiring health professionals have another option. If they will serve in areas of need, we will forgive student loans—in fact, in some cases, providing scholarships for those who are in medical training.

The National Health Service Corps was created 50 years ago. More recently, we have seen the difference it can make. In the American Rescue Plan that Congress passed in 2021, I included a one-time, \$1 billion funding increase for scholarships and loan repayments for the National Health Service Corps. It was the largest single-year appropriation for our healthcare force in history. At this very moment, that funding is supporting thousands—thousands—of doctors, nurses, dentists, and other professionals across America. Today, 21 million Americans receive healthcare from the National Health Service Corps personnel.

I recently received a letter from one of those who provide that kind of healthcare. Her name is Shannon. She is a licensed clinical social worker in Illinois. She is a first-generation college student from a working-class family. She tells me her life-long dream was to have a professional career in social work, but her ambitions were limited because of the cost of graduate school. She just couldn't imagine taking on that debt.

Then, in July of 2022, she found a path forward. She was accepted into the program I described. In Shannon's words, "being accepted into this program has changed my life. . . . [It] has given me a chance at financial freedom . . . [and] professionally, this program allowed me to grow into my career."

Today, Shannon is working as a behavioral healthcare provider in Carbondale, IL, in wonderful Jackson County.

In Shannon's words, this role allows her to "come into contact . . . with those in rural southern Illinois who are in great need of behavioral health services, such as counseling."

It is hard to imagine a better investment in America's future than pro-

grams like the National Health Service Corps and Nurse Corps. In Shannon's case, this program enabled her to pursue her life-long passion. The community is winning. Shannon is winning. It is a win-win situation.

We need to make more stories like Shannon's possible, and we have a chance to do it with the bipartisan bill that Senator RUBIO and I have.

If you go home to your State as a U.S. Senator, and you visit and ask local healthcare providers, they are going to tell you the same thing from one corner of America to the other corner: We are in desperate need of medical professionals to care for people who are underserved now.

What are we going to do about it? What is the Senate going to do about it? What will our generation do about it? Can we put together the resources now to meet these shortages and needs in the healthcare workforce? That is the challenge that we face.

The National Health Service Corps is up for reauthorization this fall. I will be working with the HELP chair, BERNIE SANDERS, and Ranking Member BILL CASSIDY to pass our legislation.

SIREN ACT

Mr. President, there is one last point I would like to make. It was several years ago that I was visited by a couple of emergency medical service personnel from Illinois, Mark and Mavis Kennedy. They are EMTs in Nauvoo, IL, a storied and historic town on the western part of downstate Illinois. They told us about trying to provide ambulance and emergency health services in a rural county, in this case Hancock County, where Nauvoo is located.

They talked about the expense of upgrading the equipment in their ambulances so that they can make sure that the person that they were trying to help gets all the necessary medical care on their way to the hospital. They dreamed up an idea. I want to credit the Kennedys of Nauvoo, as well as Andrew Jackson, the fire chief in Magnolia, and many others who said: Why don't we have a grant program specifically for our equipment in these ambulances and for the training of emergency medical personnel?

At the time, we were debating the farm bill. I think it was about 4 or 5 years ago. I went to the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Senator Pat Roberts of rural Kansas, and said to him: Pat, I think we have got an idea here that is going to help communities not only in our States but across the Nation. He generously agreed to serve as my cosponsor on a bill that we called SIREN Act.

The SIREN Act said to these ambulance services and emergency medical responders: You can apply for assistance and help to the Federal Government, and we will try to help you buy the new equipment you need to make sure that your ambulance is right where it needs to be.

You have to understand, if you don't live in a rural area, that some of these

ambulance services are really the difference between life and death. They are the first responders. In fact, they are the only responders. They come to scenes across smalltown America and provide the kind of medical services to keep people alive for those precious minutes on their way to a hospital. So the idea of giving them the best and most modern equipment makes all the difference in the world.

Well, thanks to Senator Roberts, who has since retired from the State of Kansas, we included the SIREN Act in the farm bill several years ago.

I have talked to Senator DEBBIE STABENOW of Michigan, who is now the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, and told her that I hope we can reauthorize this program in the next farm bill. She supports it. I am going to talk to the Republicans on the committee as well. I hope that we can do that.

What we have done has been able to make grants available: First, \$5 million in fiscal year 2020, \$10½ million in 2023, and we hope to go higher in the years to come.

Does it make any difference?

Just a few minutes ago, Mark and Mavis Kennedy of Nauvoo, IL, were in my office. They were in uniform, and they are very proud of the work that they do in Hancock County. Because of the assistance that we provided to them on one of their applications, they have been able to extend their emergency medical services to virtually all the towns in Hancock County. What it means for their ambulance service is, instead of 140 calls a year, they are now receiving 361—virtually a call every single day for services—and they have the equipment and the personnel well trained by the same SIREN Act to respond and save lives as they are transporting people who live in that county to nearby hospitals.

If it is someone you love in your family who is in desperate medical need, if it is your child or your grandchild or your parents, and you have that one phone call to make, you want that ambulance there as quickly as possible and the people on board as well trained as possible. The SIREN Act does that.

It is small by Federal standards. I hope it will increase in the years ahead. But it just proves that, when people are willing to sacrifice and volunteer to help in local communities and we stand by them and give them a helping hand, it is the difference between life and death.

I hope all of my colleagues will join us in this effort to reauthorize the SIREN Act as part of our commitment to increase healthcare personnel and their qualifications across the United States.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

SENATE INSTITUTIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in January of this year, a former Democratic

Senator penned an op-ed urging Democrats to do away with the Senate tradition of blue slips. This was followed within weeks by an editorial from the New York Times and an op-ed in the Washington Post making similar arguments.

While the Democratic chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee has indicated his desire to maintain the blue slip process, talk of abandoning blue slips remains concerning, especially given Democrats' attempt last year to do away with the legislative filibuster, a mainstay of Senate procedure and a guarantor of minority party representation.

Blue slips—so-called because they are literally blue slips of paper requesting perspective on judicial nominees from their home State Senators—are a long-time Senate tradition. They serve the important function of ensuring that Senators are consulted about judicial appointments from their State, and that is particularly relevant when it comes to nominees to serve as Federal district court judges.

The Founders set up the Senate in such a way as to provide a voice for States in the national legislature, and Senators continue to provide a voice for a whole State in a way that a Representative in the House of Representatives does not simply because he or she only represents a single district.

State representation is of particular relevance when it comes to the most numerous type of judicial nominee, and that is Federal district court judges. Unlike circuit court judges or Supreme Court Justices, Federal district court judges are responsible for a limited physical jurisdiction that is entirely contained within a single State, and they are regularly required to interpret State law as well as Federal law. Now, given that fact, Senators, as the representatives of their States, should have a particular say in who will receive a lifetime appointment to interpret their State's laws.

The Constitution gives the President the power to appoint judges by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and the blue slip process in the Senate encourages Presidents to seek that advice—not to just send a nominee over to the Senate for consideration and vote but to actually discuss a nominee with the relevant home State Senators before sending that name over.

Blue slips also serve as a check on more extreme or problematic nominees, first, by encouraging the President not to nominate excessively controversial candidates, and second, by providing a way for home State Senators to block a nomination for their State if the President does nominate someone problematic.

Senators of both parties regularly return blue slips for judicial nominees; in other words, they sign off on the nomination of judicial nominees who would not be their first choice but whom they recognize as suitable to sit on the

bench. When the nominee in question has problems beyond just not being a home State Senator's preference, blue slips have provided a way for Senators of both parties to stop the nomination.

In the pieces that have come out in support of abolishing the blue slip process, I have noticed two strands of thought in particular: one, that things have gotten so partisan that we should just do away with things that are meant to foster bipartisanship, and two, that doing away with blue slips is worth it for the political goal to be achieved, and that is getting more Democratic judicial nominees confirmed.

When it comes to the first, the idea that things have gotten so partisan that we should just give up and embrace it, I would say that I think the last solution—the last solution—to increased partisanship is to abolish measures that promote collaboration and comity.

Now, we have seen a lot of virulent partisanship around here lately, but the truth is that bipartisanship still exists even though it may not always receive the same kind of sensational coverage that major disputes between the parties receive. And anything that promotes bipartisanship, that encourages Members of both parties to work together, to listen to each other's concerns, and to compromise when possible, is a good thing.

But while I may not agree that the solution to increased partisanship is to just give in to it, I am really troubled by the second idea put forward by those who want to abolish blue slips: that it is worth abandoning a significant Senate tradition—a tradition that promotes compromise, checks unfettered majority power, and serves as a critical check on the President—for the sake of temporary political gain.

This, of course, is hardly the first time we have seen this attitude during the Biden administration. We have also seen it displayed with Democrats' attempt to abolish the legislative filibuster, the Senate rule that today almost unquestionably does more than anything else to preserve the Founders' vision of the Senate as a place of stability and deliberation and a check on the power of faction.

I will be frank. The legislative filibuster can be frustrating in the extreme. When Republicans were in control of the Senate, we took multiple votes on the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, a piece of legislation that would enshrine what should be the most commonsense thing imaginable, and that is that a living, breathing child born after a botched abortion should be granted protection. The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would have passed without the legislative filibuster.

So there is no question that the filibuster can stop good legislation from getting passed just as a blue slip could prevent a good judge from being confirmed, but that is not a reason to do

away with either of these Senate procedures, and above all, it is not a reason to do away with the legislative filibuster.

Yeah, the filibuster can be frustrating, and it can certainly be used to stop good bills, like the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, but it is a powerful protection against bad legislation. Without the legislative filibuster, there is very little, if anything, to prevent terrible legislation from getting passed by an extremely narrow or even merely technical Senate majority.

The legislative filibuster offers a host of other benefits. It encourages compromise, it discourages extremism, and it provides a voice for Americans represented by whatever party is in the minority, who also deserve representation. The Founders knew that tyranny didn't just come in the form of individual despots and dictators. They knew that majorities could be tyrants as well and trample on the rights of Americans in the minority, and the legislative filibuster helps guard against that.

So I believe very firmly in the Senate rules and traditions that preserve the Founders' vision of the Senate as a place of consensus and deliberation and that help prevent tyrannical majorities from trampling on rights and representation for members of the minority.

While the legislative filibuster or the blue slip process may prevent a good piece of legislation from getting passed or a good nominee from getting confirmed, the alternative—the alternative—which is a system without meaningful representation for the minority party and the Americans it represents, without a meaningful check on extreme nominees or legislation that threatens our constitutional rights is, in fact, much, much worse.

So before Democrats think about abolishing key Senate protections against extremism or the tyranny of the majority, I hope they will consider what things might look like when they are once again in the minority and they want to stop a nominee or piece of legislation that they view as dangerous or extreme, and I hope they will decide in favor of checks and balances in Senate institutions.

Mr. President, 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. TESTER. 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. TESTER. 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. TESTER. 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.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2023

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, Montanans proudly serve in our Armed Forces at one of the highest rates in the Nation. These veterans put their lives on the line to defend our freedoms every day. Their families make sacrifices too. These veterans and their survivors, who depend on VA benefits, deserve certainty when it comes to providing for their families.

As chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am proud to have introduced bipartisan legislation with my good friend JERRY MORAN to ensure that these benefits are keeping pace with the cost of living. This bill, the Veterans' Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act, is legislation that must pass.

Each year, millions of disabled veterans, surviving spouses, and their children rely on tax-free compensation for disabilities sustained during their military service. This income helps cover groceries and prescription medications, rent and electrical bills. It also helps veterans replace clothing damaged by their prosthetic or orthopedic devices.

Our bill directs the VA to increase veterans' compensation so that folks across the country—including 30,000 veterans in Montana and survivors—get the support they need to stay afloat. At a time when many Montanans are struggling with rising costs, from housing, to healthcare, to groceries, this cost-of-living increase will help give our veterans a little more peace of mind.

Today, we have the opportunity to put political differences aside and come together for the men and women who risk their lives for this country. Let's pass this bill.

With that, I will turn it over to my friend Senator JERRY MORAN.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise today to join the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs in asking that the Senate pass the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment—COLA—Act of 2023.

This is not the first time we have done this. This is an annual occurrence, and it is good to be back and suggesting to my colleagues that this nonpartisan bill—that we once again come together to pass it this year, 2023.

This legislation makes certain that the VA's compensation benefits, which millions of veterans—thousands of Kansans—receive and which their survivors rely on, keep pace with Social Security and are adjusted to match the Consumer Price Index.

As we enter another year of crushing inflation—as we unfortunately enter another year of crushing inflation—

this commonsense legislation is necessary so that veterans and survivors are able to keep pace with rising costs, make ends meet, and continue to receive the support they have earned and deserve.

Yesterday, March 29, was National Vietnam War Veterans Day and the 50th anniversary of the last combat troops leaving Vietnam. This is an opportune time for us as a Senate, us as a Congress, us as a country to once again commit to making certain that veterans and their survivors receive the due support, the due respect, and the due recognition they deserve.

I want to take a moment to address a concern that veterans have brought to me regarding a December 22 report from the Congressional Budget Office and a proposal that was put forth to means test veterans' disability benefits. I do not support this idea, nor am I aware of any Member of Congress who is pursuing that idea, but it is running around on social media. If we can assure our veterans that is not a likelihood, that is a valuable thing to do and provide them some certainty and eliminate some fear they and their families may have.

Let me assure veterans and their loved ones right now I would oppose any legislation to enact that proposal.

As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I know it is our responsibility not only in our committee but within this Senate Chamber to take care of our veterans—many of whom rely upon the Department of Veterans Affairs for financial support. This bill once again this year will help do that. I appreciate the cooperation from the chairman of the committee.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President.

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

Mr. TESTER. Senator MORAN, I appreciate your comments on means testing. It is absolutely a nonstarter. That information is revolving around on the Hill, and it is best to nip it in the bud, so thank you for that.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 777.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 777) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2023, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 777) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 777

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 "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023" or the "Veterans' COLA Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1, 2023, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in effect on November 30, 2023, for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount under section 1162 of such title.

(4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

(5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—Each dollar amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 2023, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased under that section, not later than the date on which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, the Senate has just come together to do our job by Passing the Veterans' COLA Act. We would now urge our House colleagues to quickly follow suit. Let's continue to show our fighting men and women that when you get sent off to war, it is with the promise that you will be cared for when you return home, not through words but by action.

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

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE BUDGET

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss, again, a key constitutional duty to provide for the common defense. The Constitution lays this weighty task at the feet of Congress. We hold the purse strings, and today our task is to provide for sustained growth in the capacity and capability of our Armed Forces. For 30 years, we have lived off the military investments of the eighties and these investments have kept China and Russia and others from attacking us. They have kept us safe.

Today, those investments have largely expired, and both Beijing and Moscow are acting increasingly adversarial. In particular, China's military is growing so quickly that we will not long deter them unless we invest more in our military too. It will cost a lot to deter Beijing, but it will cost a lot more if we do not.

In February, I delivered a speech on our most dire national security challenge: preventing the Chinese aggression against Taiwan. Defending our security and prosperity means defending Taiwan. If the island falls, the global balance of power tilts for decades. Our children and grandchildren would then not live in an American-led 21st century.

Today, I will focus on the Chinese Communist Party's rapid military buildup and the U.S. ability to boost our military capability. I will show how both demand sustained real growth in our defense budget alongside increased reform and prioritization. Inexplicably, in the face of these facts, the President has proposed another military cut. Twice now, he has proposed cuts and twice Congress has replied with an emphatic and bipartisan no. Instead, Congress has added, over the last 2 fiscal years, \$70 billion of targeted investments to our military to help us catch up with China. I am confident, on a bipartisan basis, again, we will do this for the next fiscal year.

Let's begin by outlining the rising threat of the Chinese Communist Party. As Congress considers this year's military spending commitments, we need to consider what we are up against. The U.S. military investment must counter Chinese military investment. If we do not, history may one day bestow on our moment—on this time—the ignominious title of a “pre-war period.” I hope we are not in a pre-war period. If we are prepared, there is a much greater chance that we can avoid a war in the future.

We know China intends to dominate the Pacific. They boast about it in pub-

lic speeches, and they are building a military capable of turning their rhetoric into reality. We have debated what year we should be worried about. Some say 2023, 2025, 2027; some say 2035. Secretary Blinken says China wants to seize Taiwan on a much faster timeline than we have previously thought. The 2027 date, what some call the Davidson window, is based on Xi Jinping's orders to his military about when he expects them to be ready. We would all do well to remember that dictators start wars of aggression before their militaries are ready. Look no further than Germany and Japan in World War II and look at Putin's Russia today. If Putin's invasion of Ukraine taught us anything, it is that the plans of dictators are often driven as much by delusions of grandeur as by honest assessments of relative military capabilities. This is what makes the next few years so dangerous.

Last year, Xi Jinping fully consolidated his control over the Chinese Communist Party, beginning a historic third term which lasted through 2028 with very few restraints on his power, and it shows. As the People's Liberation Army grows more capable and the Chinese Communist Party faces growing domestic turmoil, Beijing may soon decide that its power is peaking. That may prompt them to act sooner rather than later.

China is certainly signaling a sinister intent. Last August, they concluded unprecedented military drills around Taiwan's most trafficked waterways and flight routes. They did so arguably to project strength in response to NANCY PELOSI's visit to the island, when she was then Speaker of the House. They build replicas of U.S. Navy ships, aircraft, and air defense systems, and they regularly practice striking these replicas.

Their military buildup is the strongest signal of their intent to dominate the Pacific. I, along with many other Senators, have seen the sobering classified reports, but the public picture is grim enough. The Chinese Communist Party just announced the expansion of its defense budget by 7.2 percent for this year, about six times the increase the Biden administration proposed. Beijing has increased its military spending every year for more than 20 years, and we know that they actually hide many portions of their defense budget. By simply looking at Beijing's quantitative and qualitative improvements, we see that Beijing spends freely on its military.

China has expanded its nuclear forces faster than anyone thought possible. Already, they have more ground-based nuclear weapon launchers than we do. This changes our entire nuclear readiness calculus. For seven decades, we focused on matching the Russian nuclear arsenal. But we experienced a new Sputnik moment when we watched the Chinese hypersonic glide vehicle perform maneuvers we had never contemplated.

China has also rapidly expanded its conventional sea, air, and rocket forces.

Their Navy outnumbers ours. They will have more than 460 ships by 2030. U.S. naval intelligence indicates these ships may already be as high quality as our own. Yet our senior Navy leadership continues to underestimate Chinese capabilities. China's civilian fleet is expanding also, and the People's Liberation Army has used it in mock amphibious invasions—the civilian fleet.

The Chinese Air Force has shed its third-generation, Vietnam-era fighters and built an impressive fourth-generation fighter force. They are building fifth-generation fighters at scale today, just like we are. And their air-to-air missiles have greater range than U.S. missiles. China's air warfare training has advanced beyond anything we thought possible 5 years ago.

The Chinese rocket force points thousands of short-range ballistic missiles at Taiwan and hundreds of long-range missiles at U.S. bases in Japan, Guam, and elsewhere.

China has not restricted its advances to traditional military domains either. It is a major player on the cyber battlefield. Top U.S. cyber commander, General Nakasone, says the increase in Chinese cyber warfare capabilities has been unlike anything he has ever seen—unlike anything General Nakasone has ever seen. Earlier this year, our top nonmilitary cyber official told us the Chinese would combine an attack on Taiwan, if that occurs, with broad attacks on U.S. cyber infrastructure. And that certainly makes sense.

Beijing has also overtaken Russia in space. Russia is now the junior partner to communist China, not only in space communications and intelligence satellites, but also in space warfighting capabilities.

Finally, China is building a multinational syndicate of bad actor nations. Beijing envisions itself as the central character in an anti-U.S. coalition that includes junior partner Russia as well as North Korea. Xi Jinping took a significant step in that direction last week when he visited Vladimir Putin, a man he has described as his “best, most intimate friend.” As China's military rises, regrettably, the U.S. military treads water.

I will identify five areas of improvement to help our military catch China.

First, we have not focused nearly enough on honing our capabilities in a set of key areas we need to win. Our efforts to build a series of modern and flexible command-and-control networks are just now gaining steam. We still possess no relevant mine warfare capabilities. After three decades of neglect, we are just beginning to rebuild core competencies in electronic warfare. We have finally begun to build the right bases in the right locations in the Western Pacific. We have Senators REED and Inhofe, the authors of last year's NDAA, to thank for that. I issue my thanks to this bipartisan team.

Our munitions industrial base is in woeful shape, and we have only begun to scratch the surface of our production capacity. I am pleased to see the Pentagon moving in the right direction, but it remains clear to me that Congress can take additional actions—should take additional actions this year to accelerate and expand production.

Secondly, we should rapidly work to expand our naval fleet. As I said, China's fleet has eclipsed ours, and yet the Department of Defense proposes ship decommissionings. The Marine Corps was unable to assist victims of the earthquakes in Turkey just a few months ago because the Navy lacked enough amphibious ships. Yet President Biden's budget proposes to end an entire amphibious ship production line—an entire production line. I do not believe this Congress will allow that to happen.

Our Navy Secretary recently noted that one Chinese shipyard—one Chinese shipyard—has more capacity than all of ours combined. For many years, we tried to wring more efficiency out of our shipbuilding industrial base, and for many years we have largely failed. Without a massive change in direction and an infusion of funds, we are unlikely to grow the fleet beyond 300 ships over the next decade. I would remind my colleagues that the statutory minimum requirement enacted by this Congress and signed by the President of the United States is 355 ships at a minimum. It is time for the U.S. Congress to lead the Nation in expanding the shipbuilding industrial base.

Third, our Reagan-era Air Force fleets grow older. For years, we have known we need to purchase 72 tactical aircraft each year to have a healthy fleet—72 each year. For years, we failed to do so. Our next-generation fighters are still nearly a decade away, as are significant numbers of autonomous wingmen for them. And the Air Force remains almost 2,000 pilots short this year.

Fourth, we are on the leading edge of a recruitment crisis. By the end of this year, the Army could be 40,000 soldiers smaller than it was just 18 months ago—40,000 soldiers short. Even as its missions continue to increase, the Navy and Air Force are not far behind. The recruiting crisis is a complex problem that will require a multifaceted solution. We had the Chief of Staff of the Army before the Armed Services Committee, along with the Secretary of the Army, just this morning to discuss this and other important issues. However, the budget can, right away, provide one solution. We should set aside funds for barracks and facility improvements. Potential recruits have frequently cited poor living conditions as one reason not to enlist.

Fifth, we must boost our defense infrastructure. Almost 2 years ago, I led an amendment on the infrastructure bill—not the Defense bill, the infrastructure bill—along with Senators

Shelby and Inhofe, that would have devoted \$50 billion to begin boosting this foundational infrastructure.

We never got a vote. Unfortunately, that amendment was blocked. Our shipyards, military family housing, hypersonic test ranges, ammo plants, and other sites are key in enabling our military to be ready and capable.

Perhaps such an amendment would pass today with broad bipartisan support. The facts certainly call for it.

And, finally, we must link increased investment with accelerated reform in the Pentagon. The Department of Defense's audit championed by former Deputy Secretary David Norquist progressed more in the last 5 years than in the last 25 years before that.

The Marines may become the first service to earn a clean financial bill of health this year. That is good news.

Deputy Secretary Hicks has also embraced and accelerated efforts begun by Deputy Secretary Norquist to bring 21st century data-driven management practices to DOD. This work has already saved us tens of billions of dollars.

Congress will continue to lead and partner with the Pentagon in ongoing and new reform efforts. This year, experts with the Pentagon budgeting commission will help Congress to innovate more quickly and improve the relationship between Congress and the Department of Defense.

I also believe the Office of Strategic Capital will help us partner with American private capital. American capital is an advantage we have. Yet we do not leverage it often enough in the national security space. The Office of Strategic Capital can help diversify our defense industrial base to compete with the People's Republic of China in a cost-effective manner.

Cost-saving measures, though necessary, will not be enough. Counterintuitively, many reforms cost money up front. Senator Inhofe, my predecessor, as ranking member of the committee, was correct when he said: We cannot spend our way out of the challenges we face, but we can spend too little to give ourselves a chance.

The United States has not faced national security challenges of this scale, scope, and complexity since World War II. This moment is a fork in the road. Neither the peace we have enjoyed nor the war some predict are inevitable. Decisions we make will determine whether that occurs.

Effective deterrence will be a complex operation, but its starting place is simple: We must, once again, for the third year, increase the military budget.

And, as we grow the budget, we will save where we can, prioritize the most effective purchases, and share the load with our allies and partners and insist that they do their share.

Again, it would cost a lot to deter China, but it will cost a lot more if we do not.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, 5 years ago, I stood in this Chamber and condemned the Saudi military campaign in Yemen. Today, I rise once again to condemn the egregious violence that continues to haunt the Yemeni people.

Last weekend marked the 8-year anniversary of the start of the conflict—8 years of families being torn apart by war; 8 years of children going without access to food, healthcare, and quality education; 8 years of destruction that has caused one of the greatest humanitarian crises since World War II.

The Republic of Yemen has been torn apart by multiple armed conflicts, and, as a result, the Yemeni people have been caught in between an internal power struggle as well as a regional proxy conflict. Saudi Arabia has taken advantage of Yemen's domestic strife and led a military campaign that has only heightened the conflict and caused further destruction.

The previous conflicts, along with the current war, have collectively eroded central governance in Yemen and left more than 24 million of Yemen's 31 million citizens in dire need of assistance and protection.

I am proud that Michigan is home to the largest Yemeni population outside of Yemen. The diaspora community is vibrant and has endured harms that no community should have to.

The circumstances under which many have immigrated to the United States is truly devastating. It is estimated that there are roughly 4.5 million displaced Yemenis as a result of this conflict, with a majority of those displaced still in Yemen. Those that remain continue to face food and housing insecurity, with over half of the total population requiring humanitarian assistance.

We have failed the Yemeni people with our longstanding military support for the Saudi Arabian military coalition in Yemen, and I applaud—I applaud—President Biden's decision to end all U.S. support for offensive operations in Yemen. We must continue to build on this measure and ensure that the United States is in no way—in no way—involved in the continuation of this war.

The failure of warring parties to come to an agreement to extend the U.N.-backed truce demonstrates that this conflict is, unfortunately, far from over. The United States must continue to leverage all diplomatic tools available to assist in the peace process.

As we enter into the ninth year of this conflict, I encourage all of my colleagues to reflect on the lives lost, the children who never got to grow up, and the communities that will never be the same. The Yemeni people have remained resilient in the face of extreme adversity, and it is our responsibility to ensure that we continue to be strong partners in providing aid and securing peace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, earlier this week, myself, Senator CASSIDY, and Senator CORNYN, along with 35 of our Republican colleagues, introduced an effort to block President Biden's plan to transfer student loan debt onto the back of hard-working Americans. This includes ending the pause on student loan payments, which has been extended six times since the start of the pandemic.

What might seem like a "free pass" in making payments on student loans is, actually, a scheme orchestrated by the Biden administration that could cost taxpayers an estimated \$900 billion.

Let's break it down: \$400 billion to cancel student loan debt, \$195 billion to pause loan payments and interest accrued during the pandemic, and \$200 billion to implement President Biden's loan repayment rule.

Folks, \$900 billion is more than the Federal Government has ever spent on higher education in our Nation's history. To give you some additional perspective, this radical proposal costs—get this, folks—three times more than what the government will spend on Pell grants in this decade—in this decade—a program designed to help our neediest students.

This is not debt cancellation. It is socialism.

President Biden is rewarding those who chose the path of higher education by strapping their debt onto the backs of those who did not.

This is a personal issue to me.

My brother chose to enter the workforce directly out of high school. My brother is a hard-working union laborer.

My sister worked to put herself through community college. She received an associate's degree in Southwest Iowa. She works for a trucking company and farms.

Their stories are similar to many Iowans across my home State. Why should countless Americans who made responsible, financial planning decisions be forced to take on the debts of others?

Biden's plan is unfair and unaffordable. It is fanning the flames of inflation and is a driving factor in our growing Federal debt. Most importantly, this transfer of student loan debt does nothing to address and may actually be contributing to the real issue of rising costs to attend college.

What message does this send to veterans who pursue higher education through the GI bill or medical professionals who joined the National Health Service Corps?

I was able to cover a portion of my college tuition at Iowa State University through an ROTC scholarship. Joining the Army after graduation was a privilege and an honor. I made a commitment to my country, and, in return, they made a commitment to me to help me receive my college degree.

President Biden's radical proposal invalidates many other successful loan

forgiveness and repayment programs designed to incentivize participation in critical fields, including the military, public service, and medicine.

Instead of putting a bandaid on the problem and passing the buck, we should be giving students and their families a clear picture up front about the true costs associated with their education. That is why I am working in a bipartisan way to ensure that students know, before they take out a loan, the estimated total interest amount based on their repayment plan.

Folks, we have warned for years that the left is on the march toward socialism. Look no further than Biden's student debt transfer plan.

I am proud to join my Republican colleagues in working to stop this scheme.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

NOMINATION OF RICHARD R. VERMA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I am extremely pleased that the Senate will be voting shortly to confirm Ambassador Richard Verma to be the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources at the Department of State. This role is one of the most critical positions at the Department of State.

DMR, as it is known, has wide-ranging responsibility for overseeing personnel and ensuring the Department is sufficiently resourced to carry out effective U.S. diplomacy.

And there are no shortages of challenges. As we reorient our foreign policy toward strategic competition with China, as we counter malign influence by Russia across the globe, as we work to address global health, food insecurity, and climate crisis, it is imperative that our diplomatic corps has the tools they need to address the challenges ahead.

Ambassador Verma is superbly qualified to lead this part of the Department in confronting these challenges. His long public sector career, which includes service in the Air Force, the Senate, and the State Department, will help him be an effective leader who can advance the Department's modernization agenda.

And as our first-ever Indian-American Ambassador to New Delhi, he has firsthand experience leading a major U.S. Embassy and a deep understanding of the strategic advantage of cultivating and retaining a diverse and expert workforce.

I have full confidence that Ambassador Verma will be a constructive partner with Congress and work to make sure the Department has the support, the resources, and the leadership it needs to succeed.

Given the challenges ahead, I am pleased that we are finally voting to confirm Ambassador Verma today, and I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this nomination.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard R. Verma, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 5 minutes of debate, equally divided, on the nomination.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to yield back all time.

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

VOTE ON VERMA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Verma nomination?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Missouri.

The nomination was confirmed. (Mr. SCHMITT).

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 81 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Baldwin	Heinrich	Romney
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Boozman	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Capito	Lujan	Sinema
Cardin	Manchin	Smith
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	Marshall	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Thune
Coons	Merkley	Tillis
Cornyn	Moran	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Mullin	Warner
Cramer	Murphy	Warnock
Crapo	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Ossoff	Welch
Durbin	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Reed	Young
Grassley	Ricketts	
Hassan	Risch	

NAYS—26

Blackburn	Cruz	Hyde-Smith
Braun	Daines	Johnson
Britt	Ernst	Kennedy
Budd	Fischer	Lankford
Cassidy	Hawley	Lee
Cotton	Hoeben	Lummis

Paul	Scott (SC)	Vance
Rubio	Sullivan	Wicker
Scott (FL)	Tuberville	

NOT VOTING—7

Barrasso	Hagerty	Schmitt
Feinstein	McConnell	
Fetterman	Murkowski	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1082

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I wish we were not here facing these issues yet again. In recent days, our Nation has seen yet another horrific school shooting. In September of last year, I stood on the Senate floor and tried to pass legislation to stop these school shootings. There have been too damn many. I have been there on the ground at too damn many of them.

Sante Fe High School in Texas, about 45 minutes away from my house—the morning of that shooting, I got the call within minutes of the shooting. I was down on campus just over an hour after it occurred. I saw the tragedy, the tears, the grieving parents, the children in shock.

Uvalde, I was there shortly after that shooting as well—the horror, the mayhem.

Too many of our children have been murdered by deranged lunatics.

Mr. President, when you and I were kids, this wasn't a thing. When you went to school, when I went to school, there wasn't a single day that I woke up going to school worried that some idiot, some sociopath, was going to shoot up the school. You might worry about getting punched at recess, but this didn't happen 30, 40, 50 years ago. Now it is a brutal reality over and over again.

There are lots of causes that we could debate for a long time: causes in our culture; causes of disconnected, emotionally disturbed young men who want to become famous. I think Columbine may have started this whole tragic cycle where an angry young person seeks to lash out by murdering little kids.

With respect to becoming famous, one rule I try to follow is that I will never say the names of these mass murderers. If they want to be well-known, I hope everyone in elected office—I would like everyone in the news media to follow that rule as well. They deserve to be forgotten in utter obscurity.

But we also have an obligation to stop this. Every time there is a mass murder, there is a pattern that plays out. No. 1, there is an expression of

grief, of love for the community. There are millions of us who lift the community up in prayer. Inevitably, that produces a response from the political left where they scream in unison: Thoughts and prayers aren't enough.

I will tell you, Mr. President, I believe in the power of prayer, and I will continue praying for communities that are hurting, whether from a natural disaster or a horrific crime or anything else. But I agree with the sentiment "thoughts and prayers are not enough." That is exactly right. We need action.

And what is so infuriating is, every time there is a mass shooting, Democrats in this Chamber stand up, and they don't actually want to do something to stop the murderers. Instead, they want another gun control bill to disarm law-abiding citizens that won't actually stop the murders, that won't actually protect our kids.

In September of last year, I introduced legislation that would be the most far-reaching school safety legislation ever enacted. It would double the number of police officers on campuses, devoting \$15 billion to putting armed police officers on campus to protect our kids, the single most important step we can do. It would also devote \$10 billion for mental health professionals on campuses because so many of these troubled murderers had warning signs leaping off the page. It also devotes \$2.56 billion for physical security at schools to help enhance the security of schools.

When I introduced this bill, it first came up as an amendment on the much-touted bipartisan gun control bill last year that did nothing to stop violent crime but satisfied the leftwing donors of the Democratic Party. When my amendment was voted on, on the Senate floor, I am sorry to say every single Democrat in this Chamber voted no—all of them, every one.

Afterwards, I went to this floor, I stood on this floor, and I tried to pass the bill by unanimous consent. And when that happened, the Senator from Connecticut stood up and objected.

Now, I have to say, leading up to that unanimous consent request, numerous reporters had asked me in the hallway: Why are the Democrats objecting to this?

And I was forced to say "I do not know," because, to date, they have not articulated any reason. They have not explained why they oppose more police officers in schools. They have not explained why they oppose more mental health counselors in schools. They have not explained why they oppose more funding for enhanced physical security in schools.

So I was quite interested to hear the Senator from Connecticut give his reasons. I was disappointed that day. The Senator from Connecticut stood up and uttered two words: "I object." Then he sat down. That was it. His answer was just no.

Mr. President, I stood on this floor then, and I said something that—I said:

God forbid there is going to be another school shooting—I pray to God there isn't—but we are going to find a day when another one of these happens, another deranged lunatic commits this kind of mass murder. And if there is not a police officer at the front door, I said, remember this moment, remember this moment. Because if the Senator from Connecticut had not stood up and said "I object," this bill would have passed the Senate unanimously.

If this bill had passed into law, \$15 billion to double the number of police officers on campus—and that was available at public schools, at private schools, at parochial schools—what that would have meant is that there is a very real possibility an armed police officer would have been at the front door of the Covenant School in Nashville.

As we look at what happened, every one of us—every one of us—who is a parent or a grandparent is beyond horrified at what sort of deranged person murders little children, but we also know that that shooter came to the front door and shot the front door open. If this bill had passed, funding for school security, that front door could have been made more secure so the shooter couldn't have blasted in.

But even more importantly, what many of us have watched in the body cam footage is horrific. It is deeply disturbing. But, I will tell you, it is also awe-inspiring. You saw the Nashville police officers arrive on campus about 15 minutes after the shooting began. They enter the campus. They are scared. They don't know what is going on, but they are looking for the shooter. They are wearing bulletproof vests. They are searching for the shooter. They are going up the stairs, and they hear the sound of gunshots. The police officers do what police officers should do: They head toward the shots. They risk their lives. And they encounter the shooter and shoot the shooter dead.

The heroism of those officers saved lives that day. If this bill had passed, those officers might not have been 15 minutes away; they might have been standing at the front door. The purpose of this bill was to have those officers at the front door so that when the deranged shooter showed up and tried to shoot in the door, the officers could stop the shooter right there and then, which would have meant that not a single child needed to die.

I told this body that if we didn't act, the consequences would be horrific. Yet the sad reality—I do not understand why our Democrat colleagues in this body do not support having police officers keep our kids safe; why, when it comes to this issue, the only thing that interests them is disarming the people at home who pose no threat rather than protecting our kids.

As I said, I wish I wasn't back here today. I wish this had passed last year. I wish Democrats were willing to work together on really solving this problem. But, sadly, this pattern replays over and over again.

I have two different bills that I am going to put before this body, but I am going to start with the first one, the one I have just described—\$15 billion for police officers to double the number of police officers on campus to protect our kids.

You know, when you go to the bank and you deposit money in the bank, there are armed police officers in the bank. Why? Because we want to protect the money we save. Why on Earth do we protect a stupid deposit more than our children? If there are parents who don't want police officers protecting their kids, I don't know those parents.

We have the opportunity right now to double the police officers on campus and keep kids safe. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1082, which is at the desk; further, 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 (Mr. PETERS). Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Reserving the right to object, as I understand, the Senator has two unanimous consent requests. I will object to both, and I will make my comments when the Senator makes his second unanimous consent request.

For now, on this first objection on this first request, so as to save time, I will wait for my comments on the second and simply object to this one.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. So history has repeated. We still don't have an explanation as to why police officers on campus is not a good thing. Maybe we will get it. We were told we will get a speech, so we will see what that is. That is what happened last time.

All right. The Democrats don't like that.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1081

Let me give you a simpler bill—a simpler bill that would spend unused COVID education funds. There is over \$100 billion in funds that Congress has appropriated to the schools. Under the restrictions put in place from the Democrats, that money cannot be used for school safety. That money cannot be used to make our kids safer.

In September, I introduced this bill as well. It is a one-page bill. It is a very simple bill. It says schools can choose to use that money to enhance school safety. It says if a school wants to use some of that money to hire a police officer, the school can do so. It says if the school wants to use some of that money to enhance their physical security, the school can do so. It gives flexibility to the schools.

In September when I attempted to pass this, I asked: Why would anyone possibly oppose this?

I don't know how a Democratic Senator goes home to your State—I don't

know how you go home to Connecticut or New Jersey or Michigan and look in the eyes of a superintendent, look in the eyes of a teacher, and say: No, I will not let you spend the money on school security. It doesn't matter if your kids are afraid. It doesn't matter if your teachers are afraid. We the Democrats in Congress know better than you, and you may not spend a dollar of this on school security.

Let me be clear. This would have passed in September except for two magic words uttered by the Senator from Connecticut: "I object."

Now, last time, he went on a discourse about how this was not the full legislative process, that we hadn't negotiated with him, and, goodness, that must be comfort to the parents who are scared at home, that we hadn't sat there in a detailed negotiation.

Every year, this body passes bill after bill after bill by unanimous consent. Every Senator here knows how to do that.

The reason it doesn't go through the committee process, by the way, is because the Democrats control the committees, and they don't want to debate this.

So if you hear a bunch of process arguments from the Senator from Connecticut—"Gosh"—what he said last time—"this isn't real," it is only not real because the Democrats are objecting. That is what makes it not real, because they are blocking it. But to say it is not passing because I am objecting is like the arsonist complaining there is a fire.

I ask you in all seriousness, Mr. President, how do you explain to a parent back home, how do you explain to a superintendent, how do you explain to a teacher that there is something wrong with your having the ability to spend this money on school safety? I don't know how to articulate that. I am looking forward to hearing it. We will see if we do.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1081, which is at the desk; further, 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. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, the Senator is right—I have very little interest in engaging on the merits of these proposals in a dialogue on the floor of the Senate because they are not serious attempts to make our kids safer.

These unanimous consent requests that Senator CRUZ makes—they are going to get a lot of clicks online. The confrontation that he is looking for will probably lead to a bunch of cable news appearances being booked, but it is not going to save any kids' lives.

The Senator knows this is not how the Senate works. This isn't an autoc-

racy. It is not a dictatorship. You don't come down here and introduce a piece of legislation and 2 minutes later demand that the entirety of the Senate agree to it without any debate, any negotiation.

The Senator says these are the same bills he introduced last year, but as far as I can tell, he introduced the bills he is making unanimous consent requests on minutes ago. They are not even fully formed pieces of legislation. This thing is so ham-handed—one of the bills—that there are literally brackets and question marks in the text. The legislative drafters—at least in the version I see—haven't made decisions on when the money is being spent.

The Senator says there is this pattern that plays out after these shootings in which Democrats make demands about taking people's guns away but aren't serious about making our kids safer. Is that how it played out after the shooting in Uvalde? Is that what happened last summer? No, that is not what happened. What happened last summer after the shooting in the Senator's State is that serious Members of this body—Members of this body who are more interested in legislating than enacting political theater—sat down together and negotiated a bill to save children's lives. Did it solve all of the problems in this country? Did it guarantee every child's safety? No, it did not. But let's be clear. Senator CRUZ never expressed one iota of interest in being part of those negotiations. Other Republican Senators did.

While I understand he objects to the gun provisions in that bill, guess what—that bill also put \$15 billion into school safety, into mental health, into hardening our schools, into community anti-gun-violence programs.

I can't speak about the other Members of the group who authored that bill, but I never got a single phone call from Senator CRUZ during the month of negotiations suggesting that we add the language he is talking about to that proposal. Last summer, there were serious legislators who came to this floor to enact legislation, to set aside our differences and pass legislation that makes our kids safe—willing to make compromise. Senator CRUZ didn't even sniff that room.

He references the unanimous consent requests he made later last year that I objected to. I think I suggested then, as I suggest now, that the result of that unanimous consent request was to create political theater and book cable news hits. The result was not going to be a piece of legislation being enacted. I figured that if I was wrong about that, if the Senator's purpose was to pass a piece of legislation, that the result of my objection would have been to get outreach from the Senator's office, to try to figure out a way forward, to try to find a compromise. And I waited. And I waited. And I waited. And I waited. But not once did Senator CRUZ reach out and say, "Let's work together to get this

done," which confirmed my suspicions that these unanimous consent requests are not about passing legislation; they are just about creating conflict for the sake of conflict.

This legislation was introduced minutes ago, so I am not able to debate the merits of it on the floor of the Senate right now. It appears to make a whole bunch of changes to the not-for-profit Security Grant Program, which the Presiding Officer knows very well, changes that have little to do with school safety. It seems there are a bunch of processes changes to the not-for-profit security grant program. That is probably something worth having a conversation with the chairman of the committee about before we pass it by unanimous consent.

It makes broad structural changes to title IV, which is a very important program to schools. They use that money for school security, but they also use that money for a host of other important programs. That is probably worth having a conversation with the members of the Education Committee about.

A very quick look at this bill suggests it likely opens up the use of those funds to arming teachers in our school. I think that is a terrible idea.

This is all to say that this isn't how the process works. You don't drop a piece of legislation on the floor of the Senate and 2 minutes later demand that the whole Senate pass it. You do that if your intent is to create conflict for the purposes of publicity. I don't know what the Senator's intentions are, but if that was your intention, this is what you would do.

If you were interested in actually passing something, you would have dialed up the authors of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and asked to be part of that negotiation. You would have reached out to my office after the objection last year and said: What is your objection? Let's sit down and do something together.

That is how legislation gets passed in this place. I know because I have done it on this topic.

I am not saying the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act solved the problem. I know we have more work to do. I know it because I spend time with those same families every single week. I know it because I live in a dangerous neighborhood in South Hartford. I talk to those kids who have to fear for their life when they go to school. That is why my purpose for being in the Senate is to work like hell across the aisle, through compromise, not by coming down here, dropping a bill on the floor and then immediately demanding that the entire Senate vote for it. That is not how we save kids' lives—compromising, working toward compromise, behind the scenes, not always in front of the cameras.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. As the Senator from Connecticut walks away because he is unwilling to debate the topic, I will note several things he said not a word about.

But let's focus on—he said: Oh, this bill is very hard to figure out; it is very complicated. Well, the second bill, the one he just objected to, is all of one-page long. I am going to read you the statutory text. The Senator from New Jersey is here. He is a learned Senator. It says:

The unobligated balance of funds made available in the COVID funding—

I won't read the actual citation, but the COVID funding:

The unobligated balance of funds made available . . . shall be made available to local educational agencies to keep elementary schools and secondary schools served by such agencies physically secure.

That is the entirety of the bill. You can use the \$100 billion that Congress has appropriated to make schools safer.

Now, not a word from the Senator from Connecticut addressed that bill. He just said: "I object." And as for his caterwauling that the first bill—gosh, he can't figure out what is in it; you don't do it this way. I will point out the first time I introduced it, it was Cruz-Barrasso, and every Senator voted on it because I introduced it as an amendment to the bill the Senator from Connecticut introduced.

Mind you, in the wake of Uvalde, with great fanfare, the Senator from Connecticut passed a meaningless gun control bill that did nothing to prevent what happened in Nashville. That is not going to prevent the next mass murder. Why? Because it doesn't target criminals. It doesn't go after the bad guys. It doesn't put police officers in a position to protect our kids. I find some rich irony that the Senator from Connecticut suggested: Gosh, the purpose of this is to get on cable news. I don't know if the Senator from Connecticut has difficulty getting on the news, but I can assure you that I don't.

What I do know is this is about stopping these damn murders. The Senator from Connecticut suggests this is about conflict with him. I can assure him, very few people outside of Connecticut have any awareness of what he says. Why is that? Well, for one thing, when we did this last time, there were zero reporters in the Gallery; now there are two. The corporate media doesn't report on this. If you turn on cable news, they won't tell you that the reason there wasn't a police officer at the Covenant School is because every Democrat in the Senate voted against it. Corporate media won't tell you the reason the Covenant School couldn't spend these funds on hiring a police officer and hardening that front door so you couldn't shoot through it is because the Senator from Connecticut objected. He knows—he knows, to an absolute certainty, that a dishonest press corps will not tell anybody.

By the way, he made great fanfare of saying: Well, the legislative text has a

bracket. What he didn't tell you is his staff gave him an old version of the bill, not the one that is filed. And he was focused, in particular, on the one edit that was made, which was to change the fiscal year because we are now 1 year later, so it was to alter the date from the appropriate date last year to the appropriate date this year. That was the amendment.

He reported: Gosh, no one knows what is in this. You all voted on it. You know what he didn't say once? Why having police officers—more police officers in schools—is a bad thing. He didn't talk at all about \$10 billion for mental health program counselors.

I am tired of these games. I told you that he would give you process arguments and, oh, boy, did he. He said: Gosh, CRUZ didn't call me. I guess his feelings were hurt.

I have also done this a long time. I have seen the political posturing that too many Democrats do on this issue. The Senator from Connecticut suggests that this is a newfound interest. I served 11 years on the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. I have fought for 11 years. I have introduced legislation after legislation after legislation to lock up gun criminals. If you commit a crime with a gun, you should be prosecuted and go to jail. If you are a felon or fugitive or someone with serious mental illness and you try to illegally buy guns, you should be prosecuted and sent to jail, and, repeatedly, Democrats block those bills.

The sad reality of this body is, if you are a mom at home who wants to be able to protect your kids, the Democrats are really eager to disarm you. But if you are a gangbanger in Chicago, they are not interested in a gun task force to lock you up and take the murderers off the street.

Why is it an unreasonable question to ask what is wrong with having more police officers to protect our kids?

I want to show you how little interest the Democrats have. The Senator from Connecticut is gone. He gave his little speech and ran away. This is supposed to be the world's greatest deliberative body. But as long as the press doesn't do its job, the Senator from Connecticut can send out a fundraising email tonight to all the gun control groups saying: Guess what. We are coming after the Second Amendment. Please click here.

That is cold comfort to the parents who are scared at home right now, to the kids who are scared at home right now.

The solutions put forth by the Democrats in this body are not designed to stop crime; this bill is. You know, for a long time, in the weeks and months following Uvalde, there has been a talking point raised by the left on Twitter and echoed just moments ago by the Senator from Connecticut that says: Well, we don't want more police because the police don't stop these crimes, and they point to Uvalde. I will say, having been in Uvalde right after

that shooting, what the police officers did there was tragic. Hundreds of officers showed up at that school, and for an hour and 14 minutes, they did nothing. They didn't go in and take out the shooter. That was true even as shots rang out repeatedly. That was true even as little children were calling 9-1-1 begging for help. For over an hour, they didn't go in. I agree the conduct of law enforcement that day was inexplicable and indefensible.

I will say, when I went to Uvalde immediately after the shooting, senior law enforcement there in Uvalde sat in the room and lied to me and lied to JOHN CORNYN and lied to Greg Abbott, the Governor, about what happened. The story they described was utterly false, as would come out in the days to follow. One of the things they claimed that day was to say: Oh, an officer was there when the shooter arrived. That was not true.

You want to know why having an officer there matters? Watch the body cam footage. In Nashville, those heroic officers who heard the sounds of gunshots ran toward them, risking their lives. There are children who are, thank God, alive because of the heroism of those officers. Is it too much to ask how things would have been different if the officer could have been at the front door to begin with? They could have been, if not for Senate Democrats.

The Senator from Connecticut said, gosh, he hasn't had time to read this bill that he voted on before; that he has objected to before. But, you know, it really did make his head hurt to have to read this legislative language. I tell you what. We are ready to go on a 2-week recess. When we come back, we can do this again. Senator from Connecticut, take 2 weeks to read the bill. It is not complicated. And then I look forward to the Senator from Connecticut telling me why, on behalf of the Democratic Party, he thinks having police officers on school campuses is a bad idea.

By the way, I would note, even though it is just the Senator from Connecticut objecting, every Democrat in this body voted against this bill, and not a single Democrat has come to the floor to say they disagree with what the Senator from Connecticut is doing. When he stands up and does this objection, he is doing it on behalf of the whole Democratic Party. I will make an invitation to any one of you. If there is a Democratic Member in this body who actually believes that having police officers protecting our kids would be a good thing; that actually believes having mental health program counselors in our schools would be a good thing; that actually believes that providing funding to enhance physical security in schools would be a good thing, then come join me. I don't have a whole lot of optimism that is going to happen. But if it doesn't, this is all going to happen again.

The bill passed last fall. Nobody—nobody, nobody, nobody—thinks it is

going to do anything to stop mass murders. It wasn't designed to do that. It was designed to assuage gun control activists. If you want to stop mass murders, go after the murderers. If you want to stop mass murders, protect our kids.

We can do this. But to do it, we have to have someone from the Democratic Party willing to stand up and say: Let's actually get it done. Right now, today, the answer from Democrats is thoughts and prayers. I agree, thoughts and prayers are not enough. How about action? By the way, they do want action. They would be happy to confiscate all the law-abiding citizens' firearms, which doesn't work and wouldn't have kept anybody safe. How about action to keep our kids safe?

If the Democrats had that objective in September of 2022, this horrific murder in Nashville could have been prevented. It should have been prevented. And we have a responsibility to do everything we can to prevent the next one.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 185

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I am back again, seeking unanimous consent for the passage of my FREEBIRD Act.

Now, previously, my request for unanimous consent was met with an objection, an objection on the grounds that we are still in the midst of a public health emergency.

It was obviated. This unanimous consent request was objected to on the grounds that if we were going to do this, we should end the vaccine requirement for foreign travelers and the public health emergency at the same time, in the words of the objector, to make it clean.

Well, just last night, the Senate voted to terminate the COVID-19 pandemic national emergency order. That makes this as clean as it gets.

We have passed this now, and early this morning the White House announced that the President will be signing that measure—which had previously been passed by the House—into law. So that is happening now. That means that this is as clean as it gets. These things would go out at the same time with a bang—as well they should.

Now, that also means that there is no reason why we shouldn't end this particular restriction, the restriction on unvaccinated foreign travelers coming into the United States today.

Now, to those who might think that the Senate passed something last night that might somehow make it unnecessary to pass the FREEBIRD Act, make it unnecessary, separately, to enact legislation ending the foreign traveler vaccine requirement, they are mistaken.

And they are mistaken because those two legal documents—the proclamation issued by President Trump in 2020 declaring a national public health emergency and the October 2021 Execu-

tive order issued by President Biden putting in place the foreign traveler vaccine requirement—are separate things; neither depends on the other. And so the fact that the public health emergency Executive order is now on its way out the door, it will be no more in a matter of hours or days, makes no difference as to this one. This one remains in effect unless or until it is undone.

So to paraphrase the words of the Member of the Senate from the Democratic Party who objected to this just a few days ago, we can make it clean. Now, we should make it clean. In fact, we should make it clean by getting rid of this just as the other expires.

Now, look, so basic question, right, why does this matter so much? Why do we care about the fact that we are requiring foreign travelers to prove that they have been vaccinated prior to entering the United States? Well, we care, and we should care because it is levying a really heavy cost on State and local economies and on the American economy and on American relationships across this country.

Continuing to keep this mandate in place at a time when President Biden himself has declared that the pandemic is over and is prepared, apparently, to sign into law legislation passed by both Houses, officially ending the order declaring the existence of a public health emergency over COVID, it doesn't make any sense to continue this, especially at a time when this body has voted and the President's prepared to sign the other measure.

Look, those who oppose this really are unjustified in what they are trying to do, especially because they are ignoring the new risk calculus that is affording Americans a renewed sense of normalcy, much needed normalcy after 3 years of chaos.

This policy has separated loved ones for far too long. It is time to end the COVID-19 vaccination requirement for foreign travelers, prohibit using Federal funds to carry out the requirement, and prevent the CDC from ordering future COVID-19 vaccine mandates for foreign travelers. It is costing us too much.

In 2021 alone, Utah visitors, travelers coming into Utah, spent nearly \$11 billion, generating over 130,000 jobs and almost \$2 billion in State and local tax revenue.

Now, look, Utah's tourism sector experienced so much decline during COVID, particularly during 2020. By 2021, and even more so by today, it really has recovered quite well, except in one area. We still haven't recovered, much less made any gains, with regard to foreign visitors to the State of Utah.

Why? Well, I think a lot of it has to do with this unnecessary, draconian requirement, a requirement that the developed world no longer recognizes the need for. We are outliers in the free world for keeping this in place. But by lifting the vaccine mandate, Utah and

the United States stand to benefit tremendously from increased international travel.

Look, it is not just that it is costing us tourism. It is costing us meaningful connections, connections that enrich and promote our shared humanity.

Right now, foreign travelers, including family members, including friends, business relations, and even international sports figures are being kept off of U.S. soil arbitrarily due to this draconian vaccine mandate.

Look, right now today, this very moment, we have the opportunity to reverse course. In fact, the House of Representatives has already passed this very bill ending the vaccine mandate, and it passed it with bipartisan support.

Today, we can restore our personal and business relationships, boost our tourism, not just in Utah but across America, and reengage in the competitive spirit that brings nations together.

It is time to end this mandate. It is time to join the rest of the developed and the free world. It is time to free the bird and to pass the FREEBIRD Act.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 14, H.R. 185; further, that the Lee substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill as amended be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BOOKER. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am here on behalf of Senator SANDERS, who was pulled away from the floor on an important matter, and he asked me to object on this matter. He gave me some documentation and some points. I don't want to burden the Senate with reading everything I was given, but I would like to ask unanimous consent to enter into the RECORD the objection on behalf of Senator SANDERS, if there is no objection to that, sir.

And I will say, I really feel so blessed to be a Senator, and one of the great blessings for me has been getting to know my colleagues. I know folks on both sides of the aisle and have sincere friendships and admiration.

Senator LEE is one of the people I respect in this body the most. He is learned. I have learned from him. My positions on issues have evolved by taking time to actually listen to my colleague from Utah speak.

I see both colleagues from Utah are here. I need to get MENENDEZ down to this floor and get some firepower here.

But I have also learned a lot about Utah itself, and when he talks about the reasons for getting rid of this, they are very compelling to me. The reality

is, tourism is one of our greatest industries. It creates jobs and opportunities.

When he talks about sports teams—I am not sure if it is because he is a sports fan—I think he understands that sports teams help promote economic growth and economic opportunity. And even more than that, what I have learned from my colleague and my friend is that Utah is a very special place.

I remember the Senator from Utah told me that I think one of the cities in Utah is one of the places in America that most foreign languages are spoken and mastered in all of our country, and I imagine because of the extensive foreign travel, there are real connections.

And he said something that resonated with my spirit, which is this idea that it is affecting families; that we might have blended families. Americans do often marry people from outside of our country.

All of those reasons I feel are very compelling. When I read Senator SANDERS' remarks here, though, I found them compelling as well. And one of the things I found most compelling—I don't know about the Senator from Utah, but I actually have a science degree, a political science degree, so I tend to rely on health professionals.

And then Senator SANDERS' remarks, all of which I will put in the RECORD, talk to the point about the fact that people are still dying in the United States from COVID, but they also point out that COVID didn't originate here.

We know it came from another country. We know that a zoonotic disease spread from wet markets in other countries into human beings. It then traveled to our Nation, most likely, and spread to us. We know that variants are still happening. Many of them can come from outside of our country, and there are many health professionals who believe that doing the right thing, ensuring people are vaccinated, may help us to stop a future variant.

Now, again, there are reasonable objections on the other side on this, and my hope is that perhaps we as a body can come together and find a just way forward.

We are, indeed, a body where a lot more happens in a bipartisan way than I think most of the public understands.

And I know from my experience of 9 years in the Senate that a lot of the bipartisan legislation I respect most, Senator LEE, especially on our Judiciary Committee, has been involved in those.

So I, on behalf of Senator SANDERS, am objecting because of his reasons, but I do hope to continue my personal conversations with Senator LEE on that.

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

H.R. 185 would terminate the current requirement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for proof of COVID-19 vaccination for foreign travelers

entering the U.S. The requirement was first imposed in October 2021, and renewed in April 2022 and specifically requires that incoming travelers are "fully vaccinated" against COVID, which means they've received the primary series of the COVID vaccine.

VOTE RECOMMENDATION: OPPOSE H.R. 185

1. Senator Lee's bill proposes to overturn the current COVID-19 vaccination requirements for foreign travelers entering the United States by air.

2. COVID vaccines are one of the most important tools we have to protect against the pandemic.

3. While I know many people want the COVID pandemic to be over—Americans are still getting sick and dying from this illness every day.

4. This bill not only undermines the recommendations from our public health officials—it further harms public confidence in our public health system.

5. It is irresponsible to take away tools from the Administration that they might need in the future to protect against COVID.

6. I object.

Mr. BOOKER. So, officially, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. If I can respond very quickly because I know the floor is backed up, and I know we want to get back on schedule.

First of all, I really appreciate the kind remarks from the Senator from New Jersey. He is a dear friend. I am a former resident of his State, and I first heard his name when I lived there about 25 years ago.

I have always enjoyed working with him, and I appreciate the dignified manner in which he responded to this request today. He drew the short stick, and you have got a job to do. I get it.

I do look forward to working with you on this because I suspect you and I could get to the point where we agree on this. I would love nothing more than to add you as a cosponsor, but the bottom line is, I haven't reviewed what Senator SANDERS has submitted through Senator BOOKER, but I look forward to doing that.

I surmise, based on the summary, that these are relying on certain experts, some of the same experts who have given some phenomenally bad advice, much of which turned out to be wrong; the same experts who told us it didn't leak from a lab; the same experts who told us that it wouldn't spread among the vaccinated; the same experts who have told us that we should have to mask 2-year-old children when getting on a plane; that there would be no adverse consequences from sending children to school during COVID and that it was absolutely necessary and apparent to do so—some of the same experts who tell us to vaccinate young children, sometimes infants, with this particular vaccine.

So I have great reluctance to defer to those same experts, when especially—especially considering the fact that even though some of those very same experts are telling us not to end the public health emergency, we have now

done so, and President Biden is going to sign that into law.

Let's end the madness of deference to experts who have been proven time and time again to be wrong.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed 10 minutes before our vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, yes, the vote is at 1:45.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Laura Taylor-Kale, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense. (New Position)

VOTE ON TAYLOR-KALE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Taylor-Kale nomination?

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays, or whatever means yes and no.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT).

The result was announced—yeas 63, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 82 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Duckworth	King
Bennet	Durbin	Klobuchar
Blumenthal	Ernst	Lujan
Booker	Fischer	Manchin
Boozman	Gillibrand	Markey
Brown	Graham	Menendez
Cantwell	Grassley	Merkley
Capito	Hassan	Murphy
Cardin	Heinrich	Murray
Carper	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Casey	Hirono	Padilla
Collins	Hoeven	Peters
Coons	Kaine	Reed
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Ricketts

Romney	Smith	Wanock
Rosen	Stabenow	Warren
Rounds	Tester	Welch
Schatz	Thune	Whitehouse
Schumer	Tillis	Wicker
Shaheen	Van Hollen	Wyden
Sinema	Warner	Young

NAYS—27

Blackburn	Daines	Mullin
Braun	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Budd	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Vance

NOT VOTING—10

Barrasso	Hagerty	Sanders
Cramer	McConnell	Schmitt
Feinstein	Moran	
Fetterman	Murkowski	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The senior Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, earlier this week, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Under Secretary Mayorkas's leadership over these last 2 years, we have seen more than 4.8 million migrants encountered at the southern border. We have seen deadly drugs pouring into our country, killing more than 108,000 Americans in a single year. There is no question but that the transnational criminal organizations, known as the cartels, are fueling the chaos and the destruction.

When Attorney General Merrick Garland testified before the Judiciary Committee just a few weeks earlier, I brought up the role that the cartels were playing in this ongoing crisis. I asked the Attorney General if he was familiar with the business model of the cartels: Flood the border with migrants, overwhelm law enforcement, and then allow the movement of the illegal drugs across the border and into the interior of the United States.

Attorney General Garland said, yes, he was aware—not only that, he highlighted actions that he had taken at the Department of Justice to crack down on these operations.

Earlier this week, when I posed the same question to Secretary Mayorkas—I asked if he was familiar with this tried-and-true strategy of the cartels, and he was clueless. He said: I am not aware of any such strategy.

I don't know how that could possibly be true. This is a well-known tactic that has been used throughout Secretary Mayorkas's tenure. One of the

most notable examples was in 2021 when the small town of Del Rio, TX, all of a sudden was flooded with 15,000 migrants from Haiti. Thirty-five thousand people live in that small town, and they were overwhelmed by the huge volume of people from—I know it is hard to imagine but from Haiti.

To state the obvious, the Del Rio Border Patrol Sector doesn't have the capacity to process or care for that many individuals at one time. In an attempt to help, the administration moved agents from other checkpoints to the sector where the surge was happening. But, after all, that is exactly what the cartels had hoped for. As there was a surge of agents to Del Rio, that left other portions of the border unprotected.

Administration officials later told congressional staff that this massive surge of migrants was a coordinated effort by the cartels. They directed Haitian migrants to a single location so that other areas would be left uncovered and clear a path for their illicit trade.

Officials from the Biden administration admitted that this surge was coordinated by the cartels, but yet the Secretary of Homeland Security is unaware? How could that possibly be? Secretary Mayorkas is either trying to deceive the Senate or he is completely unaware of the reality on the ground. I think both of those are fireable offenses. Either you are lying or you are completely oblivious to the threat to public safety posed by the current crisis, which is singularly of the making of the Biden administration and their unwillingness to use the tools they have, the laws that are already on the books, in order to deal with this crisis, this humanitarian crisis and this public health crisis.

Every day, the United States is getting played, and criminal organizations whose illegal businesses are making them a lot of money are getting richer. These groups are what I like to call commodity-agnostic because they deal in any product or service that makes them money. They really don't care. They certainly don't care about the migrants, who are frequently abused and many of whom unfortunately are left to die on that long and dangerous journey from their home.

We are well aware of their drug trafficking operations, which bring all sorts of illegal drugs into the United States. Over the years, law enforcement has interdicted everything from marijuana to methamphetamine to cocaine and heroin, but recently, we have seen an alarming rise in fentanyl.

When I was in Mexico City just a couple of weeks ago visiting with the Drug Enforcement Administration, they said fentanyl is made from chemicals that are imported from China to Mexico, where the cartels simply mix them up and then put them through an industrial-size pill press and make them look like regular prescription drugs, although these are laced with

fentanyl—a deadly drug in very, very small amounts.

We know a lot of communities throughout Texas and throughout the country have experienced waves of deaths caused by unintentional fentanyl poisoning. In other words, the person taking the pill—usually a teenager—thinks they are taking something innocuous that won't kill them certainly. They may think they are taking anything from a painkiller or other sorts of prescription drugs, and then they unknowingly ingest a lethal dose of fentanyl. Of course, the cartels continue to get rich, and the destruction caused by these overdoses and drug abuse continues.

We know that these cartels, again, are commodity-agnostic. They don't just traffic in drugs; they also prey on vulnerable people who want to come to the United States. They spin a web of lies and false promises to convince migrants to make the journey to our border under their care, but, like all the other things the cartel deals in, it comes at a price.

There are a lot of factors that determine how much it costs somebody to make their way to our front doorstep on our southern border. Typically, it is thousands of dollars a head, but really it just depends on where you are coming from.

Recently, in Yuma, AZ, a sleepy agricultural community, the Border Patrol Chief welcomed a bipartisan delegation of Senators there and said: We have encountered people who speak 200 languages from 176 countries in this sleepy little ag community.

Senator MARK KELLY from Arizona said: Well, in all likelihood, people are flying into Mexicali—which is a city in northern Mexico—and then simply calling an Uber and making their way to the border and then claiming asylum, only to be released by the Biden administration into the interior of the country.

Those are the lucky ones. Those who turn themselves over to the coyotes, the human smugglers, frequently end up dead. We all remember last June when a tractor trailer rig smuggled migrants in San Antonio. It was found abandoned in sweltering conditions. Fifty-three people died, trapped in the back of that truck.

Those who survive often arrive malnourished or abused. Many women and men are injured or otherwise abused. Many women and girls are raped along the way. Some arrive pregnant.

As we know, the customers of these criminal organizations aren't limited to Mexican or Central American citizens; these are international criminal networks. Consistent with what the Yuma Border Patrol Chief told us, last year, Customs and Border Protection encountered migrants from 174 countries. People from every corner of the globe are traveling to Mexico and crossing the U.S. southern border, all in the tender care of these transnational criminal organizations.

Of course, given the nature of this business, it is tough to estimate just how much the cartels are making from their human smuggling operations, but last year, Homeland Security investigations estimated that the cartels were making roughly \$13 billion a year just from migrant smuggling alone.

There is no question that their success is built on a breakdown of enforcement by the Biden administration. If our border was truly secure, if people knew they would not be able to just enter our country willy-nilly but had to follow legal pathways, the cartels wouldn't be able to flood the zone with migrants to clear the way for their smuggling operations.

Unfortunately, instead of making the cartels' jobs harder, the Biden administration's policy of open borders just keeps making it easier. Rather than secure the border and enforce our laws, the Biden administration continues to send a message loud and clear that our border is open for anyone to come across.

For more than 2 years, the administration has refused to enforce the law, ensuring that the cartels' illicit gateways remain wide open. They have released hundreds of thousands of migrants into the United States, some of whom will wait as long as 10 years before they can even begin the immigration court process—talk about a major pull factor. If someone is on the fence about making the dangerous journey to the United States but sees that virtually anybody who shows up is able to stay in the United States for a decade at least even before facing an immigration judge, their decision to come is far easier.

As though the cartels don't have enough business already, they are about to be given the gift of a lifetime when title 42 ends in 6 weeks on May 11. Title 42, of course, is a public health law which has given the Border Patrol one tool to deter and to return migrants out of the country. It has given the Department of Homeland Security the ability to quickly expel migrants and prevent our border facilities and local communities from becoming even more overwhelmed than they already are. But once it disappears in May, the floodgates will be wide open.

Law enforcement and border communities have been bracing for the migration surge that is sure to come once title 42 goes away. They are worried that they don't have the people, the facilities, or the resources to manage this flood of humanity, and the administration has done zero to inspire confidence.

Just last week, Secretary Mayorkas visited El Paso, which has been at the epicenter of this crisis since late last year. The streets and the shelters have been filled with vulnerable migrants with nowhere else to go, and its leaders are very anxious about what will happen on May 11.

During his visit, Secretary Mayorkas met with Border Patrol agents and

Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations officers to thank them for their hard work. These men and women have been on the frontlines of this crisis for more than 2 years, and they deserve our unending gratitude for the sacrifices they made. But they deserve more than our thanks; they deserve our help so that they can do the law enforcement and do the job they have pledged to do. But we have designed the system to fail because we have made it impossible for them to do their job the way they are trained to do.

While Secretary Mayorkas couldn't be bothered to meet with other stakeholders in El Paso, he might have actually learned something. When I visited the city in January with a bipartisan group, we took the time to meet with law enforcement, local elected officials, business owners, nongovernmental organizations, and many others. They told us about the strain this crisis has placed on the entire community, and they shared their fears about what might happen once title 42 is lifted if there is no alternative plan put in place.

Unfortunately, during his most recent trip, Secretary Mayorkas didn't take the time to hear from a full range of stakeholders who were on the frontlines. He didn't sit down with those elected officials to discuss the caravans of migrants that are forming just across the border in Juarez, across from El Paso. He didn't offer advice about how the communities should prepare for what happens when title 42 is eliminated or what the Federal Government was prepared to do to help.

So, once again, our border communities in Texas are doing the back-breaking work of managing this crisis with little or no support from the Biden administration. With the end of title 42 in sight, the administration needs to prepare for what is to come, and they need to help get ready to deter this huge flood of humanity. They simply can't ignore the problem and hope it goes away. That hasn't worked for the last 2 years, and it certainly won't work now.

March is quickly coming to a close, and the challenges are only going to grow from there, as the spring months are typically some of the busiest for migration. That is because mild temperatures make the journey a little less dangerous and folks want to come to the United States, many to work during the summertime.

Our border communities are bracing for this perfect storm of policies and circumstances that will hurt everybody except the cartels. Their drug trafficking and human smuggling operations have never been more profitable, and they are gearing up for an even bigger windfall thanks to the Biden administration and the end of title 42.

These criminal organizations will continue to extort and profit off the backs of vulnerable migrants. They will coordinate migration surges to distract and overwhelm law enforcement,

and they will smuggle fentanyl and other dangerous drugs into every corner of this country. And they will get richer while migrants and communities throughout America suffer.

The administration has 6 weeks to come up with a plan. They know the clock is ticking, and they had better get to work. And, even more significantly, they ought to work with us on a bipartisan basis to come up with a solution.

Senator SINEMA from Arizona and I; HENRY CUELLAR, a Democrat from Laredo; and TONY GONZALES, a Republican from the largest border district in the country—the four of us—introduced a bill called the Bipartisan Border Solutions Act. We did that almost 2 years ago. Yet our Democratic colleagues, even though they have had the majority for 2 years preceding this last election, did nothing to have hearings on that proposed legislation or to offer a markup or a vote on the bill. And, certainly, we were happy, if somebody had a better idea, for them to come forward. But all we heard were crickets.

Well, the clock is ticking, and we know what is going to happen in May unless something changes, and I hope it will.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I take the floor because of a letter that I received in my office a few days ago. This was a letter that was mailed to our office via email on March 23, and I just want to read it.

Hello Senator. My name is—

I am going to omit the name.

My name is . . . and I am terrified to go to school. I have lived in your district for almost six years, and never have I been more scared than I am when I go to school every day. My father was in the army, my mother works with wear blue run to remember (a military non-profit for gold star families). I am no stranger to death, and yet I am scared that one day that may be waiting for me at school. I lived in Lakewood Washington, I went to Saint Francis Cabrini, and we once had a lockdown because a car ran down our fence while children were at recess. I was present during the shooting at Fort Hood in 2013, my sister can't remember, but she was so close to the perpetrator. I still have nightmares from both of these incidents. I am supposed to be safe at school, but today when it was rumored that someone was planning to target our school out of revenge on an ex-partner, I was reminded of that day I spent huddled under a desk in art class, [feverishly] reciting the Hail Mary. Something needs to change, I'm not the only kid who feels this way. Why should I be scared to go to school?

This letter came to my office on March 23. A few days later, this student and all of America woke up to the story of the shooting in Nashville.

Why should I be scared to go to school?

In January of this year, just a few months ago, there was an incident that also attracted significant attention in Virginia and around the country where a first grade teacher, Abby Zwerner, at

the Richneck Elementary School in Newport News, VA, saw a 6-year-old pointing a gun at her, and she acted heroically to come toward the student to try to take the gun. And she was shot and badly, badly wounded, but she was able to protect the lives of her students and others in the school building. She is recovering slowly from that and just starting to talk about that experience.

Mr. President, I went to Newport News about a month after that incident, in early February, to meet with a number of the parents and teachers. And they wanted it off the record, no press—just let's sit down and talk. And I am going to respect their privacy by not talking about their names, the names of their kids, or particulars of their story. But I can summarize it.

These parents are afraid when they drop their kids off at school, and they are afraid that, when they come at the end of the day, something might have happened to their children. They are afraid that they may get a call in the middle of the day that something has happened to their kids.

And the teachers who were with me that day, they have that same fear. They go into these classrooms every day because they love children, but they are afraid now to do that job. Lord knows, we have got teacher shortages all over this country, and we are working our best to try to attract people to the profession. But these teachers, many of whom have been in the profession for decades, they are now afraid, for the first time in their lives, to go to school every day.

Emergency room visits for gun-related injuries in Virginia increased by 72 percent from 2018 through 2021. In an average year, about 1,020 people die in Virginia and another 2,050 or so are wounded by guns. And among young people, guns are the leading cause of death among children and teens in Virginia. An average of 85 children and teens die by guns every year. Fifty-five percent of these deaths are homicides. Others are accidental shootings or deaths by suicide.

I don't know what to do with this. I don't know what to do with this. I react negatively when, in the aftermath of shootings, it sometimes seems like all Members of Congress can say is that they are heartbroken and they send thoughts and prayers to the family. That starts to sound very hollow. Of course, thoughts and prayers are meaningful, but it starts to sound very hollow to those who are victimized by gun violence when that is the response and nothing more.

But let me be self-critical. I am not into offering hollow thoughts and prayers. I tend to say I am heartbroken for the families and I think we need to do things in the Senate, like do an assault weapons ban or other meaningful legislation that would keep kids safe.

Some of the things we ought to do in Congress are things we have done in Virginia in recent years, and that has made our State safer, but there is

nothing you can do that is going to completely eliminate this problem.

But I was challenging my staff the other day. If we think thoughts and prayers and nothing else is hollow, then saying we should do an assault weapons ban when we know that is not going to get 60 votes on the floor of the Senate—I do think we should do an assault weapons ban. When we had one in the nineties, it worked. But I also know with certainty that, in the near future, there is zero chance that this body is going to get the 60 votes for an assault weapons ban or other kinds of gun safety regulations that would take a student and make her less afraid to go to school or a parent and teacher and reduce their fear.

So what I am challenging people around me, including my own staff and challenging myself on is: Have we allowed this tough issue—the debate about this tough issue—to get a little stale?

Thoughts and prayers, assault weapons ban—thoughts and prayers don't do anything to help people. An assault weapons ban might, but we are not going to pass it.

Have we allowed it to get stale, and are there solutions and strategies that we are not talking about that we might be able to find common ground on?

Because, if anything should cry out to us and demand that we find common ground, it is that we not do nothing; that we not listen to the fears of students and parents and teachers and just say: Well, that is just the way life is in America, right? That is just American life.

We can't be complacent about it. And, Mr. President, I am just thinking about our differences in age. My children are out of high school now. My youngest is 10 years out of high school. You still have school-aged kids. So you are still grappling with the reality of safety in schools at the pickup and the dropoff.

This has gotten so much worse just in the last 10 years. My children all went to the Richmond public schools, which are an urban public school setting in a community that had some significant problems with violent crime. But my wife and I were never nervous when we took them to school, and we never worried about getting a text or something in the middle of the day; and we never were afraid that, when we got there at the end of the day, something would happen. And that was just a little bit over 10 years ago.

My children finished high school right before—my youngest—right before the Sandy Hook shooting. So they were not in the K-12 system in Virginia when there has just been this steady drumbeat of one school shooting after the next. They weren't terrorized or afraid. Their teachers weren't. My wife and I weren't. And that was just 10 years ago.

How much more devastating the problem of school shootings has become in the last 10 years.

So I just take the floor to say: I need to write something back to this youngster. Her question:

Why should I be scared to go to school?

I have got to write her and respond in some way, and I don't really know now what to say. But I have challenged my team and I challenge my colleagues. We are in a recess period where we are back in our States. We are talking to people. We are, hopefully, getting ideas from them and listening to them. Let's ask some young people who go to school, let's ask some teachers, let's ask some parents of schoolkids if they have ideas for us that are new or different. Let's ask them whether our political debate about solutions has grown stale and whether there are solutions that we haven't yet contemplated that could respond to the question that this student has raised.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I am standing next to a woman from New Jersey who is our communications director and who handles Delaware and somehow manages to handle New Jersey and raise a family at the same time. She is amazing. We are delighted that we could have the two of you on the floor at the same time. It is a wonderful coincidence.

FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. President, I rise today to highlight something that I believe unites all of us; that is, support for our local firefighters across the country. I don't care if you are in New Jersey or Delaware or Oregon or New Mexico. There is a great affection and appreciation for our firefighters.

Our firefighters throughout America are everyday people who every day do extraordinary things with their lives. They put their lives on the line to protect us. They have to lay down their lives to save ours and the lives of our families.

For that, we owe it to them to make sure that they are fully equipped with the lifesaving protection, with the equipment, the education and training they need to get their job done.

That is why I am very proud to colead the Fire Grants and Safety Act with my colleagues on the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. And one of them would be our chairman—that would be GARY PETERS of Michigan; SUSAN COLLINS of Maine, a longtime supporter of firefighters and a leader in the Congressional Fire Services Cau-

cus, from Alaska. And I was pleased that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, on which I am privileged to serve and used to be chair, passed this important bill out of committee just earlier this month.

The Fire Grants and Safety Act reauthorizes critical Federal programs that support local fire departments; namely, among those, FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, also known as the SAFER Grant Program, and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.

These programs are not just incidental. They are vital. They are critical. They are essential to local firefighting departments to help recruit staff, to purchase lifesaving equipment like firetrucks and protective gear, provide fire training and education to current firefighters and also to new firefighters and improve medical services to our communities.

In Delaware, our fire departments rely on these programs to protect our community. In fact, in 2021, and, I think, in 2022, the SAFER Program and the so-called AFG Program provided almost \$3 million in funding to Delaware fire departments. That may not sound like a lot of money in New Jersey or California or some other places; \$3 million is real money in a State the size of Delaware, and it is put to very good use every year.

We know these threats from fire are in our homes, but those threats are in our businesses, and there are wildfires. We know they are not going away. We know they are not going away.

In Alaska last year, 3 million acres burned in a wildfire—a wildfire. Three million acres burned in one wildfire. That is nearly half of the acreage burned in the entire United States of America. Just think about that—one wildfire in Alaska. Just 3 weeks ago, I am told high winds spread a fire in my home State of Delaware that engulfed about a half dozen homes and left some 16 people homeless and caused over \$1 million in damage.

We have to make sure that our firefighters have what they need when they wake up each morning to bravely respond to the calls that come their way. Without action, authorization of both the SAFER and AFG Programs would expire later this year.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, support for our local firefighters is an issue that brings us together. There are a lot of issues that divide us, as the Presiding Officer knows. There are some issues that unite us, and this is one of those issues.

The Senate voted yesterday to begin consideration of the Fire Grants and Safety Act. That vote passed by 96 to 0. That doesn't happen every day, as the Presiding Officer knows. Let me repeat that: 96 to 0.

And we were happy to see that kind of unanimity, and I think it bodes well for when we return after the recess in the next week or two to take up this legislation.

I look forward to the Senate coming back in 2 weeks. I look forward to finishing the job that we have begun. And we look forward to passing, again, this important legislation.

I strongly encourage our friends over in the House of Representatives to do their part and to send the Fire Grants and Safety Act to the President's desk. We owe that to our first responders.

Mr. President, with that, I thank you for a chance to speak on the floor today. And I wish you and your family a safe recess and see you in 2 weeks.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 19.

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 Radha Iyengar Plumb, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

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. 19, Radha Iyengar Plumb, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Jeanne Shaheen, Brian Schatz, Benjamin L. Cardin, Edward J. Markey, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, 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. 57.

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 Amy Lefkowitz Solomon, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

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. 57, Amy Lefkowitz Solomon, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan, Raphael G. Warnock, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Tina Smith, Ben Ray Lujan, Elizabeth Warren, Martin Heinrich, Christopher Murphy, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla.

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.

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 Calendar No. 28, S. 870, a bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Martin Heinrich, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Jeff Merkley, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Richard Blumenthal.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the manda-

tory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, March 30, be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN312 AIR FORCE nomination of Shane K. Doty, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN313 AIR FORCE nominations (9) beginning SPEIGHT H. CAROON, and ending TEINA D. STALLINGS LILLY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN314 AIR FORCE nomination of Brandi Barnard King, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN315 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning DANIEL S. MCPHERSON, and ending KHURRAM M. SHAHZAD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN316 AIR FORCE nominations (10) beginning MATTHEW J. ANDRADE, and ending JILL M. THOMAS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN317 AIR FORCE nominations (10) beginning ADAM JAMES COLE, and ending MARY ZACHARIAH KURIAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN318 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning ERIC K. WILKE, and ending NED L. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN319 AIR FORCE nominations (13) beginning KELLI M. BERMUDEZ, and ending JENNY L. WYLIE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN320 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning LISA CAROL GIUGLIANO, and ending RYAN LEE RAND, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN321 AIR FORCE nominations (7) beginning JOSEPH CATALINO, JR., and ending MEILING C. TAYLOR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in

the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN322 AIR FORCE nominations (9) beginning JAMES M. BERSHINSKY, and ending LISA ANN SELTMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN323 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning GARY MONROE BOUTZ, JR., and ending JOLANA ANN KUBICEK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN324 AIR FORCE nomination of John Charles Easley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN325 AIR FORCE nominations (37) beginning ROBERT M. ACOSTA, and ending DONNA M. WHITTAKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN326 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning NICOLE DYAN DAVID, and ending CARRIE L. WALTZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN327 AIR FORCE nominations (7) beginning KARRIE MEGAN BEM, and ending JEFFREY W. SCOHY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN328 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning DOUGLAS A. COLLINS, and ending JOSE Y. MUNOZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN329 AIR FORCE nomination of Marquis A. T. Smith, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN330 AIR FORCE nominations (61) beginning JAMES D. AKERS, II, and ending JONATHAN R. ZITO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN331 AIR FORCE nominations (31) beginning DAVID I. AMAR, and ending SHAUN MICHAEL ZABEL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN380 AIR FORCE nomination of Maximilian S. Lee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 27, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

PN238—1 ARMY nominations (101) beginning TOLULOPE O. AKINSANYA, and ending D016483, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2023.

PN332 ARMY nomination of Sashi A. Zickefoose, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN333 ARMY nomination of Howard F. Stanley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN334 ARMY nomination of Bobby J. Chun, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN335 ARMY nominations (7) beginning JOSHUA G. GLONEK, and ending KELVIN V. SIMMONS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN337 ARMY nominations (7) beginning ALEX J. DUFFY, and ending DEVLIN P. WINKELSTEIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN338 ARMY nominations (4) beginning LIZA B. CRAWFORD, and ending DEREK A.

SANCHEZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN339 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JEREMY S. STIRM, and ending JULIO VERA, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN340 ARMY nomination of Renee R. Kiel, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN341 ARMY nominations (2) beginning MELISSA B. RIESTERHARTSELL, and ending THOMAS F. ROBINSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN342 ARMY nomination of Kimberly A. Dilger, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN343 ARMY nomination of Abigail R. Osman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN344 ARMY nomination of Andrew J. Archuleta, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN345 ARMY nominations (8) beginning CHRISTOPHER C. CROSS, and ending JONATHAN D. ZAGDANSKI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN346 ARMY nominations (37) beginning MICHAEL J. BAIERLEIN, and ending ERIC D. ZIDERS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN347 ARMY nominations (575) beginning AUSTIN P. ABARR, and ending D016809, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN348 ARMY nominations (489) beginning JAMES H. ABNEY, and ending D015738, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN349 ARMY nominations (981) beginning MITCHELL A. ABLES, and ending D016368, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN350 ARMY nominations (9) beginning PETER B. EAST, and ending JOEL A. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN397 ARMY nomination of Matthew J. Clementz, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN398 ARMY nomination of Samuel T. Kramer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN399 ARMY nomination of Carla A. Kiernan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN400 ARMY nomination of John W. Brock, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN404 ARMY nomination of John D. Horton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN405 ARMY nomination of Joel N. Buffardi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN406 ARMY nomination of Sarah D. Eccleston, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN407 ARMY nomination of Nicholas P. Fiebk, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN408 ARMY nomination of Andrew J. Doyle, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN409 ARMY nomination of William T. Griggs, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN410 ARMY nomination of Megan L. Maloy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN411 ARMY nomination of Kaitlyn M. Hernandez, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN412 ARMY nominations (15) beginning TIMOTHY I. ARCELAY, and ending EARL E. WEIGELT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN413 ARMY nomination of Sara C. Adams, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN414 ARMY nomination of Christina G. Nalley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN415 ARMY nominations (7) beginning ANDREW ADAMCZYK, and ending HAVARD M. WHILES, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN416 ARMY nomination of Ashley S. Lee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN417 ARMY nomination of Timothy W. Lindeman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN418 ARMY nomination of Ebony Q. Starr, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN419 ARMY nomination of Sarah A. Delarosa, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN420 ARMY nomination of Mark T. Sopkiw, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN421 ARMY nomination of Justin T. Thomas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN422 ARMY nomination of Rei T. Israel, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN423 ARMY nomination of Adam L. Fox, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN424 ARMY nomination of Jason L. Workman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN425 ARMY nomination of Stephen J. Cumby, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN426 ARMY nomination of Stephen M. Anderson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN257 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jason W. Price, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2023.

PN463 MARINE CORPS nomination of Daniel T. Turaj, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 21, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

PN351 NAVY nomination of William M. Schweitzer, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN353 NAVY nomination of Louis V. Scott, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 13, 2023.

PN381 NAVY nomination of Justin J. Reeb, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 27, 2023.

PN427 NAVY nomination of Elisabet Crumpler, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN428 NAVY nominations (27) beginning KYLE A. ADUSKEVICH, and ending JOHN M. THORPE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN429 NAVY nominations (9) beginning BRAMWELL B. ARNOLD, III, and ending DANNIE T. STIMSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN430 NAVY nominations (34) beginning JEFFERY R. BIERMANN, and ending DAVID A. WAKEMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN431 NAVY nomination of James H. Knight, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

SPACE FORCE

PN432 SPACE FORCE nominations (9) beginning ROSS M. BOSTON, and ending ROBERT F. WOJCICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN433 SPACE FORCE nominations (38) beginning JASON M. ADAMS, and ending JONATHAN L. WHITAKER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN434 SPACE FORCE nominations (68) beginning CHRISTOPHER JOHN ALBAN, and ending COSTANTINOS ZAGARIS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN435 SPACE FORCE nominations (58) beginning BRIDGET L. AJINGA, and ending BRIAN K. YOAKAM, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN436 SPACE FORCE nominations (76) beginning JOHN W. ANDERSON, and ending ABBY ELIZABETH ZVEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN437 SPACE FORCE nominations (100) beginning CHRISTINA M. AKERS, and ending KATHY E. YORKE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN438 SPACE FORCE nominations (2) beginning CASSANDRA R. HIDALGO, and ending ERIC J. PEREZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

PN439 SPACE FORCE nomination of Edward E. Jones, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

NATIONAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. Res 120 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 120) designating March 23, 2023, as "National Women in Agriculture Day".

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 120) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 23, 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 148, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 148) recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 148) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 149, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 149) designating the first week of April 2023 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week".

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 149) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

HONORING THE MEMORIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SENSELESS ATTACK AT THE COVENANT SCHOOL ON MARCH 27, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 150, which is at the desk.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 150) honoring the memories of the victims of the senseless attack at the Covenant School on March 27, 2023.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 150) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE FALSE CLAIMS ACT OF 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 659 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 659) to amend chapter 38 of title 31, United States Code, relating to civil remedies, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

The bill (S. 659) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 659

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 "Administrative False Claims Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATIVE FALSE CLAIMS.

(a) CHANGE IN SHORT TITLE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title VI of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-509; 100 Stat. 1934) is amended—

(A) in the subtitle heading, by striking "Program Fraud Civil Remedies" and inserting "Administrative False Claims"; and

(B) in section 6101 (31 U.S.C. 3801 note), by striking "Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986" and inserting "Administrative False Claims Act".

(2) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 in any provision of law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed a reference to the Administrative False Claims Act.

(b) REVERSE FALSE CLAIMS.—Chapter 38 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 3801(a)(3), by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

"(C) made to an authority which has the effect of concealing or improperly avoiding or decreasing an obligation to pay or transmit property, services, or money to the authority."; and

(2) in section 3802(a)(3)—

(A) by striking "An assessment" and inserting "(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an assessment"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) In the case of a claim described in section 3801(a)(3)(C), an assessment shall not be made under the second sentence of paragraph (1) in an amount that is more than double the value of the property, services, or money that was wrongfully withheld from the authority.".

(c) INCREASING DOLLAR AMOUNT OF CLAIMS.—Section 3803(c) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "\$150,000" each place that term appears and inserting "\$1,000,000"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—The maximum amount in paragraph (1) shall be adjusted for inflation in the same manner and to the same extent as civil monetary penalties under the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act (28 U.S.C. 2461 note)."

(d) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—Section 3806(g)(1) of title 31, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(1)(A) Except as provided in paragraph (2)—

"(i) any amount collected under this chapter shall be credited first to reimburse the

authority or other Federal entity that expended costs in support of the investigation or prosecution of the action, including any court or hearing costs; and

“(ii) amounts reimbursed under clause (i) shall—

“(I) be deposited in—

“(aa) the appropriations account of the authority or other Federal entity from which the costs described in subparagraph (A) were obligated; and

“(bb) a similar appropriations account of the authority or other Federal entity; or

“(cc) if the authority or other Federal entity expended nonappropriated funds, another appropriate account; and

“(II) remain available until expended.

“(B) Any amount remaining after reimbursements described in subparagraph (A) shall be deposited as miscellaneous receipts in the Treasury of the United States.”.

(e) SEMIANNUAL REPORTING.—Section 405(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) information relating to cases under chapter 38 of title 31, including—

“(A) the number of reports submitted by investigating officials to reviewing officials under section 3803(a)(1) of such title; and

“(B) actions taken in response to reports described in subparagraph (A), which shall include statistical tables showing—

“(i) pending cases; and

“(ii) resolved cases; and

“(iii) the average length of time to resolve each case; and

“(iv) the number of final agency decisions that were appealed to a district court of the United States or a higher court; and

“(v) if the total number of cases in a report is greater than 2—

“(I) the number of cases that were settled; and

“(II) the total penalty or assessment amount recovered in each case, including through a settlement or compromise; and

“(C) instances in which the reviewing official declined to proceed on a case reported by an investigating official; and”.

(f) INCREASING EFFICIENCY OF DOJ PROCESSING.—Section 3803(j) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “The reviewing”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) A reviewing official shall notify the Attorney General in writing not later than 30 days before entering into any agreement to compromise or settle allegations of liability under section 3802 and before the date on which the reviewing official is permitted to refer allegations of liability to a presiding officer under subsection (b).”.

(g) REVISION OF DEFINITION OF HEARING OFFICIALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 38 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in section 3801(a)(7)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(vii), by adding “or” at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) a member of the board of contract appeals pursuant to section 7105 of title 41, if the authority does not employ an available presiding officer under subparagraph (A);”;

and

(B) in section 3803(d)(2)—

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

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “the presiding” and inserting “(i) in the case of a referral to a presiding officer described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 3801(a)(7), the presiding”; and

(II) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) in the case of a referral to a presiding officer described in subparagraph (C) of section 3801(a)(7)—

“(I) the reviewing official shall submit a copy of the notice required by under paragraph (1) and of the response of the person receiving such notice requesting a hearing—

“(aa) to the board of contract appeals that has jurisdiction over matters arising from the agency of the reviewing official pursuant to section 7105(e)(1) of title 41; or

“(bb) if the Chair of the board of contract appeals declines to accept the referral, to any other board of contract appeals; and

“(II) the reviewing official shall simultaneously mail, by registered or certified mail, or shall deliver, notice to the person alleged to be liable under section 3802 that the referral has been made to an agency board of contract appeals with an explanation as to where the person may obtain the relevant rules of procedure promulgated by the board; and”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) in the case of a hearing conducted by a presiding officer described in subparagraph (C) of section 3801(a)(7)—

“(i) the presiding officer shall conduct the hearing according to the rules and procedures promulgated by the board of contract appeals; and

“(ii) the hearing shall not be subject to the provisions in subsection (g)(2), (h), or (i).”.

(2) AGENCY BOARDS.—Section 7105(e) of title 41, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

“(B) ADMINISTRATIVE FALSE CLAIMS ACT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The boards described in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) shall have jurisdiction to hear any case referred to a board of contract appeals under section 3803(d) of title 31.

“(ii) DECLINING REFERRAL.—If the Chair of a board described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) determines that accepting a case under clause (i) would prevent adequate consideration of other cases being handled by the board, the Chair may decline to accept the referral.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or, in the event that a case is filed under chapter 38 of title 31, any relief that would be available to a litigant under that chapter” before the period at the end.

(3) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each authority head, as defined in section 3801 of title 31, United States Code, and each board of contract appeals of a board described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of section 7105(e) of title 41, United States Code, shall amend procedures regarding proceedings as necessary to implement the amendments made by this subsection.

(h) REVISION OF LIMITATIONS.—Section 3808 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) A notice to the person alleged to be liable with respect to a claim or statement shall be mailed or delivered in accordance with section 3803(d)(1) not later than the later of—

“(1) 6 years after the date on which the violation of section 3802 is committed; or

“(2) 3 years after the date on which facts material to the action are known or reasonably should have been known by the authority head, but in no event more than 10 years

after the date on which the violation is committed.”.

(i) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3801 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) ‘material’ has the meaning given the term in section 3729(b) of this title; and

“(11) ‘obligation’ has the meaning given the term in section 3729(b) of this title.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) For purposes of subsection (a)(10), materiality shall be determined in the same manner as under section 3729 of this title.”.

(j) PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each authority head, as defined in section 3801 of title 31, United States Code, shall—

(1) promulgate regulations and procedures to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act; and

(2) review and update existing regulations and procedures of the authority to ensure compliance with this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-72, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bahrain for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$350 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-72, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bahrain for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$350 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
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Enclosures.

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Washington, DC.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-72, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bahrain for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$350 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-72

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Bahrain.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.

Other \$350 million.

Total \$350 million

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: The Government of Bahrain has requested to buy equipment and services to refurbish twenty-four (24) Excess Defense Article (EDA) AH-1W multi-role helicopters. Included are services to refurbish a full-motion Aircraft Procedures Trainer (APT), M272A1 missile launchers and spare T-700-GE-401 aircraft engines, spare parts, support, training, publications, and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (BA-P-SAV).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 29, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Bahrain—Refurbishment of AH-1W Attack and Reconnaissance Helicopters

The Government of Bahrain has requested to buy equipment and services to refurbish twenty-four (24) Excess Defense Article

(EDA) AH-1W multi-role helicopters. Included are services to refurbish a full-motion Aircraft Procedures Trainer (APT), M272A1 missile launchers and spare T-700-GE-401 aircraft engines, spare parts, support, training, publications, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$350 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Bahrain's capability to meet current and future threats by improving its ability to fulfill maritime patrol, close air support, and search and rescue missions. Bahrain will have no difficulty absorbing these defense articles and services into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor will be Bell Corporation, Fort Worth, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

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

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
*Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-04, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$59.1 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-04, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$59.1 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MICHAEL MCCAUL,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-04, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Kuwait for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$59.1 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-04

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Kuwait.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0 million.

Other \$59.1 million.

Total \$59.1 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services Under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case KU-P-PAK, was below congressional notification threshold at \$48.2 million (all non-MDE) and included Cartridge Actuated Device/Propellant Actuated Device (CAD/PAD) items and support for Calendar Years 2025-2026 (CY25-CY26).

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

None.

Non-MDE: The Government of Kuwait has requested the case be amended to include additional CAD/PAD items and support for the Hornet, Super Hornet and KC-130 aircraft fleet. This amendment will push the current case above the non-MDE notification threshold and thus requires notification of the entire case. CAD/PAD items and support; engineering, technical, and program support; and other related elements of logistics.

(iii) Military Department: Navy (KU-P-PAK).

(iv) Prior Related Cases, if any: KU-P-PAG, KU-P-PAH.

(v) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 29, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Kuwait—Cartridge Actuated Device/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD) and Support

The Government of Kuwait has requested to buy additional Cartridge Actuated Device/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD) and support that will be added to a previously implemented case that was under Congressional notification threshold. The original FMS case, valued at \$48.2 million, included CAD/PAD items and support for Calendar Years 2025–2026 (CY25–CY26). This notification is for CAD/PAD items and support of Kuwait's F/A-18 and KC-130/J aircraft fleet. Also included is engineering, technical, and program support and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$59.1 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO ally that has been an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will provide Kuwait with the equipment and sustainment support necessary to maintain its air defense capacity to defend its territorial integrity and to meet its national defense requirements. Kuwait will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractors are currently unknown, as there will be competitive contract solicitations after FMS case implementation. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

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

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-04

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. Cartridge Actuated Device/Propellant Actuated Device (CAD/PADs) are the explosive devices installed within the aircraft escape and safety systems to save lives during emergencies. CAD/PAD are also used to power the aircraft systems that deploy weapons and jettison equipment.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems which might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Government of Kuwait can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Kuwait.

ISRAEL

Ms. KLOBUCHER. Mr. President, I rise to talk about recent developments in Israel. Israel is America's ally and partner in intelligence and defense. Our Nation's relationship with Israel is built upon shared democratic values that have united our countries throughout the last 75 years.

The decision this week of the Netanyahu government in Israel to suspend the proposed judicial legislation opens the door for Israelis to find a path forward. For Israel to remain a bedrock for democracies globally, it must have an independent judiciary, support for the rule of law, and a system of proper checks and balances.

 TRIBUTE TO DARNELL DEMASTERS

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the career of Darnell DeMasters, who will retire from her position as vice president of Federal Government Affairs at WEC Energy Group on April 4.

Over the past 25 years, Darnell has worked on behalf of customers in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota, advocating for their energy needs before Congress and ensuring lawmakers understand the impact of legislation on their constituents. Prior to her time with WEC Energy Group, Darnell spent many years on Capitol Hill and later transitioned to positions in government affairs for the Duquesne Light Company and General Public Utilities.

Darnell was also instrumental in re-establishing and leading the Wisconsin Group, a nonpartisan, nonadvocacy organization to discuss public policy matters and government actions affecting Wisconsin's business, educational, public sector, and political communities.

Outside of her working hours, Darnell is an active member of the executive board of The Woman's Club of Fairfax, GFWC, a unified group of women dedicated to enhancing the lives of families and strengthening their community through charitable work, donations, and volunteer service.

I am fortunate to have worked with Darnell in her capacity at WEC Energy Group for many years. Her efforts to re-establish the Wisconsin Group as a forum to connect Wisconsinites and Wisconsin organizations in Washington, DC, have proven to be valuable, and my staff and I have regularly enjoyed the connection and community they have fostered.

I know Darnell's colleagues will miss her thoughtful and expert guidance, good humor, and deep knowledge. I am grateful for all of the work Darnell has done for the people of Wisconsin, and I wish her all the best as she begins a new chapter in her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOSEPH ELLWANGER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the exceptional career and life of Rev. Joseph Ellwanger. Reverend Ellwanger is a pillar of the Milwaukee community and has left an indelible mark on the lives of so many. From his early career as a pastor in Alabama standing with civil rights leaders, to his ongoing work to reintegrate formerly incarcerated people into their home communities, Rev. Joseph Ellwanger has put into action his faith to affirm all people.

Reverend Ellwanger was born in St. Louis, MO, but grew up in Selma, AL. He left his childhood home when St. Paul Lutheran Church, an African-American congregation in Birmingham, requested a pastoral candidate. During his time with St. Paul's he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's fight for civil rights. Reverend Ellwanger attended civil rights meetings and eventually received an invitation to meet with the SCLC's steering committee, where he met Dr. Martin Luther King. Reverend Ellwanger was the lone White pastor to join the movement, and he stood undeterred by challenges from his conservative denomination. He recruited both students and clergy to join with him in the civil rights movement. On March 6, 1965, the day before Bloody Sunday, Ellwanger led a group of 72 White Alabamians to Selma to participate in the Concerned White Citizens march supporting voting rights for African-Americans.

Reverend Ellwanger joined the National Council of Christian Churches and met with President Lyndon Johnson after Bloody Sunday. This meeting brought together a group of clergymen from a broad spectrum of denominations to communicate to President Johnson that the religious community supported the Voting Rights Act.

Reverend Ellwanger's work for equal justice has been ongoing. From Alabama, he moved to Milwaukee, WI, where he was a Lutheran pastor for decades. He continues to work for voting rights and is a founding member of Project RETURN to help individuals who have experienced incarceration make a positive, permanent return to community, family, and friends.

As Reverend Ellwanger celebrates his 90th birthday, I am pleased to join others in recognizing the contributions he has made to the people of Milwaukee, our State, and our Nation.

 TRIBUTE TO SCOTT LEONARD

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the long career of Scott Leonard, of Milwaukee, as he retires from Amtrak after 19 years of dedicated service. Born in Milwaukee on April 2, 1961, he graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1984. His first job was with the blood services division of the American Red Cross, first in Wisconsin, then in Washington, DC.

Scott always loved trains, especially passenger trains. As a child, he would ride some of the storied trains that travelled through the Badger State. His interest and passion for the railroad led him to a position with the National Association of Railroad Passengers—NARP—an advocacy group supporting the growth of rail passenger services in the United States. There, he worked with the membership of the association to advance ideas to Amtrak for improved service and to communicate back to NARP what they could do to support Amtrak. Scott was an ever-present figure on Capitol Hill providing information and support to the Members and their staffs as they worked on the important rail bills of the late 1980s and 90s.

In 2004, Scott joined Amtrak's government affairs office and was responsible for handling congressional correspondence, managing special projects, and assisting with VIP travel. He is well regarded for his thorough and prompt replies to queries and ability to provide personal and professional service to inquiries or complaints. Members of Congress, foreign dignitaries and other important passengers came to know Scott on a first-name basis as he met or escorted them to the station or their train. Leaving the office and headed to the station, suit and tie, clipboard in hand, his friends in government affairs would say: "Somebody is about to get the Scott Leonard Treatment." For many, he was Amtrak, a recognized face in the crowd, a measure of consistency in a harried world.

Scott also holds the unique distinction of travelling every mile of Amtrak's 21,400-route system, one of only two people known to have that achievement. As in every large endeavor such as this, one needs a playbook or guide so others may follow on a clear and consistent path of requirements. In a system as large as Amtrak's, there are many anomalies. Scott organized the "playbook" right to down the last switch, siding, and alternative route options. There are others chasing this goal, and maybe someday there will be created the "Leonard Prize" for those who do indeed cover that last mile. In addition to his knowledge of Amtrak's system, he can recite the beginning and end of the U.S. highway system and possesses excellent mapmaking skills and a deep knowledge of American geography.

Some might say that Scott was lucky to get a job that allowed him to pursue his passions and interest. However, the truth is that Amtrak was lucky to have Scott. He lives the values of the company every day, and he is a beloved colleague to those around him. His former boss in government affairs once said that "if there were ever a human cloning opportunity, Scott would be No. 1 on the list."

Soon, Scott will retire from service at Amtrak and return to Wisconsin with his husband, Kevin. They will set-

tle in a historic property in Racine, not far from the Hiawatha line where friends and family alike can keep an ear out for the whistles and sounds of trains racing by.

Scott, thank you for your dedication and long service to Amtrak—America's Railroad. May you and Kevin have a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FRANK THOMAS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Frank Thomas who is retiring as vice president and assistant to the chairman at Stephens, Inc., after a long and dedicated career advocating on behalf of Arkansas. In his 27 years at Stephens, Inc., he was responsible for a number of duties, including outreach to elected officials as leader of the government affairs office, but his service and impact on Arkansas started long before.

Frank first pursued a career in journalism while attending the University of Arkansas. He served as the student station manager of KUAF before assuming the role of news director. He went on to work as a reporter at television and radio stations in Michigan and New York. He was called to continue serving Arkansas as an adviser to U.S. Senator David where he served in a number of capacities, including as the Senator's chief of staff.

In 2019, Frank was inducted into the University of Arkansas's Lemke Alumni Society's Hall of Honor in recognition of graduates who have enjoyed distinguished careers in journalism, brought honor and integrity to their respective communities and contributed to the growth of the school. Frank's expansive career has given him valuable experience and a wealth of knowledge that he was kind enough to share with Arkansas interns interested in serving The Natural State through my office's summer internship speaker series. Throughout his life, he has represented the very best of a public servant.

I am grateful for the friendship we have built and for his advice. I wish Frank and wife Sylvia much happiness as he begins a well-deserved retirement. I am confident their family, son John, daughter Lauren, and granddaughter Finley are excited for this next chapter.●

TRIBUTE TO SHEILA R. TILLERSON ADAMS

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to offer my congratulations the Honorable Sheila R. Tillerson Adams on her recent retirement as chief and administrative judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland and to thank her for her long career of distinguished public service. Judge Adams served as the administrative judge for 12 years.

Judge Adams has been a trailblazer, the first Black woman to serve as a judge in Prince George's County. She graduated from Morgan State University in May 1979 with a bachelor of science degree in psychology, cum laude. She received her juris doctor degree from Howard University School of Law in May 1982 and a master of laws in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center in May 1987. She gained admission to the Maryland Bar in June 1983, the Federal Bar in July 1983, and the Supreme Court in May 1992.

Judge Adams began her legal career in 1982 and, in 1984, became only the second Black female State's attorney in Prince George's County, after being hired by the State's attorney at the time, Arthur M. "Bud" Marshall. She was appointed by then-Governor William Donald Schaefer to the District Court of Maryland in Prince George's County in June 1993. She served with distinction in that capacity for 3 years before she was elevated to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County by Governor Schaefer's successor, Parris Glendening, in 1996. On September 4, 2010, following the Retirement of Judge William D. Missouri, then-Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Robert M. Bell appointed her as administrative judge of the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Maryland.

Judge Adams led the court through floods and fire that damaged court facilities and the COVID-19 pandemic. She persevered. While she served as chief and administrative judge, Judge Adams articulated a vision statement to exemplify the court's goals when providing judicial services: "The Circuit Court Welcomes All—A Forum for Justice." This statement has served as the foundation for every initiative, program, and goal at the court. Judge Adams expanded the Problem-Solving Courts to provide greater assistance to youth and adults facing a myriad of challenges. She established the Veterans, Re-Entry, Truancy Reduction, Juvenile Diversion, and Back on Track Courts to help people who have served in the military, people who struggle with substance issues, students with truancy problems, and the formerly incarcerated succeed in life. Through counseling, rehabilitation services, and intense monitoring, these programs are changing lives for the better every day. Judge Adams also focused on providing resources and assistance to survivors of elder abuse, sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking with the creation of the Prince George's County Family Justice Center—PGCFJC—an initiative of the circuit court. With more than 21 on-site partners, the PGCFJC provides a full array of co-located services through a coordinated, collaborative, and hope-centered advocacy model. Local government and private community-based organizations work together and efficiently meet survivors' needs.

As the COVID-19 pandemic rampaged for nearly 3 years, Judge Adams enhanced the court's technological advancements and accessibility to the public, holding hearings and trials virtually, and providing litigants Zoom links via a website that provided all the information they needed to attend judicial proceedings. She maintained health and safety protocols in the courthouse to keep everyone safe. She also focused on security and led the way for the design and construction of a security checkpoint near the courthouse. Delivery vehicles now must go through a checkpoint where the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office K-9 Team looks for any hazardous or explosive materials inside them. Another security measure that Judge Adams established was a security command center complete with IT workers who monitor hundreds of security cameras throughout the courthouse complex. Designated officials at the center can monitor the courthouse complex 24/7. This state-of-the-art center was one of Judge Adams' primary security-related goals.

Once the pandemic restrictions were lifted, Judge Adams implemented a new case management system called Maryland Electronic Courts, MDEC. Her goal was to transition court operations to an electronic system that is nearly paperless. With MDEC, attorneys are required to utilize electronic filing when representing clients in civil and criminal cases. Electronic filing is optional for litigants representing themselves. Employees also can access files virtually via the online system instead of having to hunt down paper files. Judge Adams modernized the court to make it a dignified space to resolve disputes and collaborated with many justice partners throughout the county to provide enhanced judicial services. A fearless and bold leader, Judge Adams' tenure and leadership will continue to impact Prince George's County and the legal system for years to come.

Judge Adams cochairs the Law Links Committee of the Prince George's County Bar Association and has done so since 1993. Law Links is a paid summer internship program with local law firms and legal departments in the county that is committed to broadening the aspirations and possibilities of young people. It combines work experience with a law and leadership institute. All participants in the program are Prince George's County high school students.

Throughout Judge Adams' exemplary career, she has received many awards and honors. Most recently, the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association presented Judge Adams with the Wayne K. Curry Spirit of Excellence Award for her trailblazing leadership. In May 2022, she was awarded the 2022 Gladys Noon Spellman Public Service Award at the 37th Annual Prince George's County Women's History Month Celebration. Last April, the Prince

George's County Commission for Women presented Judge Adams with the 2022 Trailblazing Woman Award for her extraordinary legal career and achievements.

Judge Adams is not the only public servant in her family. She is married to Timothy "Tim" J. Adams, the first Black mayor of Bowie in the 138-year history of the city. I thank both of them for their public service and wish Judge Adams a happy, well-earned retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO TRINA JO BRADLEY

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Trina Jo Bradley of Pondera County for her lifelong commitment to preserving and promoting Montana agriculture and her tireless advocacy for common sense grizzly bear management.

Trina Jo grew up on a ranch on the East Front of Montana's Rocky Mountains, where she received a unique, hands-on introduction to the rich fulfillment that can be earned through a life in ag. She went on to earn an associate of science degree in agri-business, was then married to her husband Peter, and finally returned to the land she's always known to raise their daughter Kadence, on the edge of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. The Bradley family run Angus cattle and Quarter Horses amongst some of the most beautiful foothills featured throughout the Treasure State.

In addition to her tireless work on the ranch, Trina Jo maintains an esteemed record of service to Montana's agricultural community through various leadership roles in organizations such as the Marias River Livestock Association, Montana Cattlewomen, North Country Cattlewomen, and the Rocky Mountain Front Ranchlands Group. In 2019, Trina Jo was appointed to the State of Montana's Grizzly Bear Advisory Council to apply her firsthand accounts with these apex predators in pursuit of sensible grizzly bear conservation practices.

Much of Trina Jo's time is spent educating people on the dynamics of working and living with a grizzly bear on personal property, including the threat this species inflicts upon livestock and how families can best protect children. She has been an outspoken advocate for grizzly bear management to be returned to the State of Montana, with hopes that the species will finally be delisted in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem—NCDE—in northwest Montana.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Trina Jo Bradley for her commitment to preserving our Montana way of life through her extensive work in the agricultural sector and her leadership in the ongoing discussion surrounding grizzly bear management. Keep up the great work, Trina Jo. You make Montana proud.●

RECOGNIZING PRIMROSE RESTAURANT

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize the Primrose Restaurant of Corning, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week for the week of April 3, 2023.

As a proud Iowan, I believe that we are home to one of the best and most innovative culinary scenes in the world. A small business that truly exemplifies this is Primrose in Adams County. Located in the charming Great American Main Street district of Corning, IA, Primrose serves the nearly 1,500-person town and the surrounding area by providing quality food and excellent service to the region. Husband and wife duo, Joel Mahr and Jill Fulton, started Primrose in 2018 with the vision of offering world-class dining, with quality, farm-to-table ingredients, to the hard-working folks of southwest Iowa. Joel, who is an Omaha, NE, native, brought 18-years' worth of cooking experience as a chef, including 7 years as head chef, in his hometown. While in Omaha, Chef Mahr received the "Cooking Light" Neighborhood Chef Award in 2013 for his work in their restaurant scene. While Chef Mahr heads the kitchen, his wife handles the front of the restaurant and is the resident mixologist. The couple chose Corning as the home base for their restaurant due to her family connections in the area. Jill's family owns Fulton Family Farms, which is the supplier of fresh produce to Primrose. Fulton Family Farms is only a 20-minute drive from the restaurant and provides them with some of the best produce on the planet. Primrose also works with the Iowa Beef Council to ensure that they have the highest quality cuts of meat for their restaurant.

A unique aspect about the restaurant's menu is that it rotates on a weekly basis, offering a variety of cocktails, wine, and beer that pair well with their gourmet dishes. They operate an active Facebook account that contains pictures of their mouthwatering dishes and updates folks looking for a bite to eat on their ever-changing menu. Primrose also offers in-store pickup services for a fine-dining experience at home, in addition to their indoor and outdoor seating.

Since their 2018 opening, Primrose has accumulated quite the array of awards and magazine features. They are the winner of the Adams County Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year for 2018 and the Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2020. Due to the vast popularity of Primrose, it has become a hotspot for travelers throughout the region, and the publication Midwest Living included it on their list of "9 Restaurants Worth the Drive" due to their sustained success in Adams County. Their contributions to the Iowa

dining scene and their revitalization of the rustic storefront they occupy have been recognized at the State level as well, with the Iowa Economic Authority awarding the restaurant as the 2019 "Superior Interior Rehabilitation" winners as part of their "Main Street Iowa Awards." In addition to major publications, various food and dining blogs list Primrose as a "must-see" restaurant due to their commitment to their ever-changing menu and farm-to-table experience.

One of the many beautiful things about Iowa is our commitment to helping each other when times get tough. In 2020, when the world was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Primrose went above and beyond by providing their quality meals to local students who could no longer rely on school to provide their lunches.

Owning a small business truly is the American dream, and the great State of Iowa is fortunate to have Primrose Restaurant call the Hawkeye State home. By taking the time to provide locally sourced ingredients, amazing service, and world-class dining in a small town, Primrose is a prime example of what makes small businesses great. I want to congratulate the entire team at Primrose Restaurant for their continued commitment to culinary excellence in their work. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the Sacramento Regional Transit District on 50 years of service, helping Californians commute to work, visit loved ones, and explore the beautiful county of Sacramento.

Since first providing service in 1973, Sacramento Regional Transit, or SacRT, has grown to include over 97 electric light rail vehicles and over 230 buses, traversing 440 square miles to include the cities of Sacramento, Elk Grove, Folsom, Citrus Heights, and Rancho Cordova.

Throughout that time, SacRT has been committed to finding new ways to serve Californians, by spearheading an on-demand microtransit service accessible via mobile app, and by converting 10 buses into WiFi hotspots during the height of the pandemic when internet access was a necessity for school, work, and public health.

By providing free fares for K-12 students, SacRT has helped countless students pursue their education without having to worry about affording a ride to school. During a time of unprecedented weather events in California, SacRT also partnered with the city of Sacramento to provide free bus rides to warming centers for individuals experiencing homelessness.

SacRT has fought to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases. Their leadership in renewable energy, accessibility, and service have been rightly

recognized by both State and Federal agencies.

In the capital of the fourth largest economy in the world, SacRT is an integral part of the community, constantly finding ways to better serve the people of Sacramento who rely on it for affordable transit. After 50 years of service, Californians know SacRT can get you "where you want to go, when you want to go." And we are excited to see where the next 50 years will take us.●

REMEMBERING RABBI MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON

● Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, on April 2, we recognize the life and leadership of Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, a global spiritual leader known universally as the Rebbe and head of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement.

The Rebbe was born in 1902 and lived through the darkest periods of history, the evils of Russian communism and the horrors of Nazi Germany. In 1941, the Rebbe and his wife Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka arrived safely on the shores of the United States. He volunteered at the Brooklyn Navy Yard using his engineering skills to assist our Nation during World War II and worked tirelessly to rebuild and guide after the Holocaust.

During those difficult years, the Rebbe established a program that arranged for rabbinical students to travel across the country to visit Jewish farmers, U.S. servicemembers, and others isolated from their families or communities. This included locations such as the 335th Army Air Force Base Unit in Sioux Falls, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and communities across South Dakota. This program still exists today, and these rabbinical students sent by the Rebbe are often the only connection many local Jews have with their faith.

Under the Rebbe's leadership, the Chabad-Lubavitch movement has become the world's largest Jewish educational organization with more than 3,500 permanent centers in all 50 States, including in my home State of South Dakota, and in 109 countries around the world. It is thanks to the Rebbe's vision that our State has its first rabbi in almost 40 years with the establishment of the Chabad Jewish Center of South Dakota.

The Rebbe extolled America's unique role as a superpower and had meaningful relationships with several of our Nation's leaders who saw him as the moral guide of so many. For the Rebbe, America was a beacon of light of historic proportions to be utilized in influencing the moral betterment of all humanity. He urged us all to become ambassadors for goodness and kindness and explained that education must not be limited to the tools needed for making a good living, but rather focus on the ethics, morals, and values that have always been the basis of any decent society.

For more than four decades, every U.S. President has declared the annual observance of Education and Sharing Day in honor of the anniversary of the Rebbe's birth, in recognition of his contributions to the betterment of education for all people. In 1995, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his contributions toward education, morality, and acts of charity.

Education and Sharing Day represents an excellent opportunity for us to reflect on the Rebbe's vision and leadership and to embrace his teachings that starting with moral education, we each do our part to increase in goodness and kindness.●

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA BLUE KEY

● Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, today I recognize Florida Blue Key and the celebration of their centennial anniversary. One hundred years ago in 1923, Florida Blue Key was founded at the University of Florida to foster leadership and service. Since that time, Florida Blue Key members have served their State and our country at every level of government, including here in the U.S. Senate. I had the honor of being inducted into Florida Blue Key in 2014 and was preceded in this body by fellow Members, including Lawton Chiles, Bob Graham, Connie Mack, Bill Nelson, MARCO RUBIO, and George Smathers. Today, Florida Blue Key serves as the oldest leadership honorary in the Sunshine State and continues to graduate its membership into law, medicine, business, and government. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Florida Blue Key and wish them continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

At 1:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolutions:

H.J. Res. 7. Joint Resolution relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020.

H.J. Res. 27. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'".

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-900. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Economic Report of the President together with the annual report of the Council of Economic Advisors; to the Joint Economic Committee.

EC-901. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "User Fees for Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Services" (Docket No. APHIS-2013-0021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 29, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-902. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Azoxytobin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10603-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 28, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-903. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mandestrobin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10739-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-904. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Diglycerol in Pesticide Formulations; Tolerance Exemption" (FRL No. 10688-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 1068. A bill to ensure that State and local law enforcement officers are permitted to cooperate with Federal officials to protect our communities from violent criminals and suspected terrorists who are illegally present

in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 1069. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to prohibit the manufacture, processing, use, and distribution in commerce of commercial asbestos and mixtures and articles containing commercial asbestos, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1070. A bill to address the needs of individuals with disabilities within the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CASIDY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1071. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1072. A bill to create a Council on Emergency Response Protocols to ensure the establishment of accessible, developmentally appropriate, culturally aware, and trauma-informed emergency response protocols in public schools, early child care and education settings, and institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. VANCE):

S. 1073. A bill to amend the Clayton Act to prevent conflicts of interest and promote competition in the sale and purchase of digital advertising; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1074. A bill to require a strategy for countering the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KING:

S. 1075. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to establish a grant program to be known as the Mental Health Licensure Portability Program to award grants to eligible entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1076. A bill to amend section 13 of the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide for equitable relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1077. A bill to establish a home-based telemental health care demonstration program for purposes of increasing mental health and substance use services in rural medically underserved populations and for individuals in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 1078. A bill to require reforms to programs of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1079. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide additional assistance to rural water, wastewater, and waste disposal systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1080. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require electronic communication service providers and remote computing services to report to the Attorney General certain controlled substances violations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 1081. A bill to keep schools physically secure using unobligated Federal funds available to the Secretary of Education to respond to the coronavirus; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. BARASSO):

S. 1082. A bill to provide for safe schools and safe communities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 1083. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen school security; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1084. A bill to eliminate racial, religious, and other discriminatory profiling by law enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1085. A bill to provide authorization for nonpecuniary damages in an action resulting from a cruise ship voyage occurring on the high seas; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1086. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to prohibit the exclusion of individuals from service on a Federal jury on account of a disability; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 1087. A bill to require certain nonprofit and not-for-profit social welfare organizations to submit disclosure reports on foreign funding to the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1088. A bill to authorize the relinquishment and in lieu selection of land and minerals in the State of North Dakota, to restore land and minerals to Indian Tribes within the State of North Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LANKFORD, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1089. A bill to maintain the Natural Coal Council in the Department of Energy to provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Energy on matters relating to coal and the coal industry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 1090. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the payment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to allow for electronic fund transfer of educational assistance, administered by the Secretary, to a foreign institution of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. REED, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1091. A bill to provide for automatic renewal protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1092. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make college affordable and accessible by expanding access to dual or concurrent enrollment programs and early college high school programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1093. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish an air tour management plan for certain areas of Hawaii, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1094. A bill to provide a temporary safe harbor for publishers of online content to collectively negotiate with dominant online platforms regarding the terms on which content may be distributed; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1095. A bill to authorize members of reserve components of the Armed Forces to take parental leave for the adoption or placement for long-term foster care of a child; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1096. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1097. A bill to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr.

KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. REED, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1098. A bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1099. A bill to support research, development, and other activities to develop innovative vehicle technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 1100. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the inclusion of certain emblems on headstones and markers furnished for veterans by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 1101. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to remove the restriction on the use of Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery funds, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify the Trump administration rule on reporting requirements of exempt organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 1102. A bill to protect the dignity of fetal remains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1103. A bill to provide for parental notification and intervention in the case of an unemancipated minor seeking an abortion; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 1104. A bill to ensure that an employment relationship is not established between a franchisor and a franchisee if the franchisor engages in certain activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 1105. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to codify the Trump administration rule on reporting requirements of exempt organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 1106. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide taxpayers with information regarding the Federal budget; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 1107. A bill to establish a grant program to improve school security, including by training and hiring veterans and former law enforcement officers as school safety officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1108. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1109. A bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WICKER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 1110. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KELLY, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1111. A bill to enhance United States civil nuclear leadership, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, strengthen the domestic nuclear energy fuel cycle and supply chain, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1112. A bill to amend the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to clarify whistleblower rights and protections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1113. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1114. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the 180-day exclusivity period; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1115. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to revise the Standard Occupational Classification System to accurately count the number of emergency medical services practitioners in the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1116. A bill to prohibit firearms dealers from selling a firearm prior to the completion of a background check; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 1117. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow a tax deduction at the time an investment in qualified property is made; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 1118. A bill to establish the Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Data Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. REED, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1119. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1120. A bill to improve the actions available to eligible product developers in the event of delays in receiving covered product for purposes of generic drug or biosimilar biological product development; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1121. A bill to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 1122. A bill to improve the program to provide for priority review of human drug applications to encourage treatment for agents that present national security threats; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 1123. A bill to ensure computer programming, coding, and artificial intelligence capabilities in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1124. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to provide for whistleblower incentives and protection; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1125. A bill to authorize an electronic health record modernization program of the Department of Veterans Affairs and increase oversight and accountability of the program to better serve veterans, medical professionals of the Department, and taxpayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 1126. A bill to amend title XX of the Social Security Act to expand the activities authorized under adult protective services demonstration grants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1127. A bill to amend the CALM Act to include video streaming services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1128. A bill to establish special rules relating to information provided with respect to drug applications concerning method of use patents; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 1129. A bill to revoke the visas of, and impose visa restrictions on, certain individuals located in the United States and abroad who are associated with regimes in Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Bolivia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1130. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for hospital and insurer price transparency; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 1131. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to establish requirements with respect to prescription drug benefits; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1132. A bill to allow sponsors of certain new drug applications to rely upon investigations conducted in certain foreign countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 1133. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to clarify rules relating to drug discounts for covered entities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 1134. A bill to strengthen the authority of the Food and Drug Administration with respect to foreign drug facility inspections; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 1135. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require coverage of hearing devices and systems in certain private health insurance plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 1136. A bill to direct the President to take such actions as may be necessary to prohibit the purchase of public or private real estate located in the United States by

citizens and entities of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 1137. A bill to establish the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1138. A bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require a reduction of financed emissions to protect financial stability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1139. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to apply prescription drug inflation rebates to drugs furnished in the commercial market and to change the base year for rebate calculations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MARSHALL, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1140. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the designation of general surgery shortage areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1141. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 1142. A bill to prohibit the Small Business Administration from suspending collections on Paycheck Protection Program loans and economic injury disaster loans related to COVID-19; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 1143. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a grant program to increase cooperation on post-traumatic stress disorder research between the United States and Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1144. A bill to establish a grant program to provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1145. A bill to establish a competitive grant program to support the conservation and recovery of native plant and animal species in the State of Hawaii, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1146. A bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the

Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify obstacles to identifying and responding to reports of children missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster youth, to provide technical assistance relating to the removal of such obstacles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1147. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for grants in support of training and education to teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse among primary and secondary school students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1148. A bill to establish rights for people being considered for and in protective arrangements, including guardianships and conservatorships, or other arrangements, to provide decision supports; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1149. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1150. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to support and stabilize the existing nursing workforce, establish programs to increase the number of nurses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1151. A bill to terminate authorizations for the use of military force and declarations of war no later than 10 years after the enactment of such authorizations or declarations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1152. A bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1153. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1154. A bill to establish the Women in Aviation Advisory Committee; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1155. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to provide greater accountability to the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 1156. A bill to establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

ness Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1157. A bill to establish a MicroCap small business investment company designation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 1158. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access to health care through expanded health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1159. A bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to modify the requirements associated with small business loan data collection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. VANCE):

S. 1160. A bill to provide greater transparency with respect to the financial regulatory agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1161. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the voluntary public access and habitat incentive program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1162. A bill to ensure that broadband maps are accurate before funds are allocated under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program based on those maps; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 1163. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to increase racial and gender minority access and representation in the aviation workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1164. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, to enter into contracts, grants, and agreements to carry out certain ecosystem restoration activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. ERNST):

S.J. Res. 23. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BUDD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S.J. Res. 24. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 139. A resolution recognizing the critical role that PEPFAR has played in the global fight against HIV/AIDS; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 140. A resolution commemorating 200 years of official relations between the United States of America and the Republic of Chile; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 141. A resolution supporting ASEAN Centrality in the Indo-Pacific Region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 142. A resolution expressing concern about environmental crimes and attacks on the human rights of environmental and land defenders in Latin America and the Caribbean; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. Res. 143. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of April 3 through April 7, 2023, as National Assistant Principals Week; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. SMITH):

S. Res. 144. A resolution recognizing that it is the duty of the Federal Government to develop and implement a Transgender Bill of Rights to protect and codify the rights of transgender and nonbinary people under the law and ensure their access to medical care, shelter, safety, and economic safety; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 145. A resolution calling for the immediate release of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza, who was unjustly detained on April 11, 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 146. A resolution honoring the memory of Jereima "Jeri" Bustamante on the fifth anniversary of her passing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 147. A resolution designating April 2023 as “Preserving and Protecting Local News Month” and recognizing the importance and significance of local news; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. HIRONO)):

S. Res. 148. A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 149. A resolution designating the first week of April 2023 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 150. A resolution honoring the memories of the victims of the senseless attack at the Covenant School on March 27, 2023; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. Res. 151. A resolution recognizing March 31, 2023, as “Cesar Chavez Day” in honor of the accomplishments and legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 152. A resolution designating April 2023 as “National Native Plant Month”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 153. A resolution recognizing the roles and the contributions of care workers in the United States and expressing support for the designation of April 2023 as “Care Worker Recognition Month”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 154. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of International Transgender Day of Visibility; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 155. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should negotiate strong, inclusive, and forward-looking rules on digital trade and the digital economy with like-minded countries as part of its broader trade and economic strategy in order to ensure that the United States values of democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech, human and worker rights, privacy, and a free and open internet are at the very core of digital governance; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. Res. 156. A resolution calling on the Government of the Russian Federation to release United States citizen Paul Whelan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 157. A resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 127

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to prevent unfair and deceptive acts or practices and the dissemination of false information related to pharmacy benefit management services for prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 174

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 174, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes.

S. 215

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 215, a bill to establish a National Council on African American History and Culture within the National Endowment for the Humanities, and for other purposes.

S. 453

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 453, a bill to prohibit the implementation of new requirements to report bank account deposits and withdrawals.

S. 497

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Wash-

ington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to exclude a basic allowance for housing from income for purposes of eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

S. 547

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 547, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 576

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 576, a bill to enhance safety requirements for trains transporting hazardous materials, and for other purposes.

S. 626

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 626, a bill to recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 691

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, a bill to deter foreign financial institutions from providing banking services for the benefit of foreign terrorist organizations and from facilitating or promoting payments for acts of terrorism.

S. 778

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 778, a bill to require the disclosure of information relating to the cost of programs, projects, or activities carried out using Federal funds.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 789, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the United States Foreign Service and its contribution to United States diplomacy.

S. 804

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 804, a bill to provide for security in the Black Sea region, and for other purposes.

S. 838

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program.

S. 866

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 866, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities.

S. 932

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 932, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 973

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 973, a bill to prohibit Federal contractors from imposing racial hiring quotas, benchmarks, or goals.

S. 1031

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1031, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every person, and for other purposes.

S. 1042

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1042, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Entrepreneurship Education of the Small Business Administration to establish and maintain a website regarding small business permitting and licensing requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 1046

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1046, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to apportionments for small airports under the Airport Improvement Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1064

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1064, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 22

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 22, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5,

United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans".

S. RES. 72

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 72, a resolution recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1097. A bill to establish the Cesar E. Chavez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in the States of California and Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to reintroduce the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park Act.

This Friday, March 31, we celebrate César Chávez Day to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of the civil rights and labor leader whose impact reverberated throughout California and across the world. For César Chávez, it did not matter where you came from or what your job was, he believed in your fundamental right to dignity and respect.

Ahead of César Chávez Day, I introduce this legislation, which would establish the César E. Chávez and the Farmworker Movement National Historical Park in California and Arizona to preserve the nationally significant sites associated with César Chávez and the farmworker movement.

In 2008, with strong bipartisan support, Congress enacted legislation directing the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of sites that are significant to the life of César Chávez and the farm labor movement in the Western United States. The National Park Service evaluated over 100 sites and found that five sites were "nationally significant." Importantly, the Park Service wrote that these nationally significant sites depict a distinct and important aspect of American history associated with civil rights and labor movements that are not adequately represented or protected elsewhere. While the Park Service provided five management alternatives to protect these special places, they ultimately recommended that Congress establish a national historic park that would include several nationally significant sites.

In 2012, President Obama established the César E. Chávez National Monument. The property is in Keene, CA, and is known as Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz. In his Presidential Proclamation, President Obama said: "This site marks the extraordinary achievements and contributions to the history of the United States made by César Chávez and the farm worker movement

that he led with great vision and fortitude. La Paz reflects his conviction that ordinary people can do extraordinary things."

While this was a critical step forward, the National Monument leaves out many nationally significant sites and leaves many important stories untold. The creation of a national historical park, as originally recommended by the Park Service, would allow the National Park Service to tell the full story of César Chávez and the farm labor movement for the benefit of all Americans.

In addition to the inclusion of the existing César E. Chávez National Monument, which includes La Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz, in Keene, CA, the National Park Service would be able to add additional sites to the park upon written agreement from site owners. These sites include the Forty Acres in Delano, CA, the Santa Rita Center in Phoenix, AZ; and McDonnell Hall, in San Jose, CA. These sites contain nationally significant resources associated with César Chávez and the farmworker movement and would be preserved and protected as part of the National Park System.

This legislation would also require the National Park Service to complete a national historic trail study to determine the feasibility of creating the Farmworker Peregrinación National Historic Trail. This trail would commemorate the 1966 Delano to Sacramento March, a major milestone event in the farm labor movement. According to the Special Resource Study, "More than one hundred men and women set out from Delano on March 17, 1966, and thousands of farm workers and their families joined in for short stretches along the way. By the time the marchers entered Sacramento on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1966, the farm worker movement had secured a contract and attracted new waves of support from across the country."

We must honor and celebrate the life and legacy of César Chávez, the inspirational civil rights advocate and leader of the farm labor movement whose impact reverberated in California and across the world. His list of accomplishments is long, from creating the Nation's first permanent agricultural labor union to helping secure passage of the first American law that recognized farmworkers' rights to organize.

While widely respected as the most important Latino leader in the United States in the 20th century, César Chávez was not just a leader for the Latino community. Following the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., César Chávez led a nonviolent movement of protests and boycotts to secure a union, better pay, and better working conditions for farmworkers of all ethnicities. He also played a leading role in the broader labor movement, the Chicano movement, and the environmental movement.

But this park will not just focus on Chávez's legacy; it will also preserve

the thousands of stories of people who played a role in the broader farm labor movement. According to the special resource study, "During the 1960s, the farm labor movement attracted support from a wide array of individuals, including members of other unions, religious leaders, civil rights activists, high school students and college students (including young Chicanos and Filipinos), environmentalists, and justice-minded consumers across the country and abroad."

As the son of immigrants from Mexico and the first Latino to represent California in the U.S. Senate, I believe the movement César Chávez created is just as important today as it ever has been. The National Park System—which preserves our natural, historical, and cultural heritage while offering vital spaces for teaching, learning, and outdoor recreation—must paint the full mosaic of America. Through the sites preserved by this bill, we can ensure that the National Park System preserves the diverse history of our Nation that is too often overlooked. As a farmworker himself, César Chávez maintained a strong connection to the natural environment. This bill uplifts his story and those of others whose contributions helped build the farmworker and civil rights movements that are pillars of American history.

I thank the bill's cosponsors in the Senate and House of Representatives, and I especially want to thank Congressman RUIZ for spearheading this effort with me to ensure that our national monuments and historical parks better reflect the diversity of America's heritage.

Today and every day, let's recommit to the work César Chávez began. As he would say: *La Lucha Sigue*. We must not waver as we keep up the fight for justice and equality for all.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the César E. Chávez National Historical Park Act as quickly as possible.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1108. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes, and for other purposes; 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. 1108

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 "Death Tax Repeal Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF ESTATE AND GENERATION-SKIPPING TRANSFER TAXES.

(a) ESTATE TAX REPEAL.—Subchapter C of chapter 11 of subtitle B of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 2210. TERMINATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this chapter shall not apply to the estates of decedents dying on or after the date of the enactment of the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2023.

"(b) CERTAIN DISTRIBUTIONS FROM QUALIFIED DOMESTIC TRUSTS.—In applying section 2056A with respect to the surviving spouse of a decedent dying before the date of the enactment of the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2023—

"(1) section 2056A(b)(1)(A) shall not apply to distributions made after the 10-year period beginning on such date, and

"(2) section 2056A(b)(1)(B) shall not apply on or after such date."

(b) GENERATION-SKIPPING TRANSFER TAX REPEAL.—Subchapter G of chapter 13 of subtitle B of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 2664. TERMINATION.

"This chapter shall not apply to generation-skipping transfers on or after the date of the enactment of the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2023."

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The table of sections for subchapter C of chapter 11 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Sec. 2210. Termination."

(2) The table of sections for subchapter G of chapter 13 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Sec. 2664. Termination."

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to the estates of decedents dying, and generation-skipping transfers, after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. MODIFICATIONS OF GIFT TAX.

(a) COMPUTATION OF GIFT TAX.—Subsection (a) of section 2502 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(a) COMPUTATION OF TAX.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The tax imposed by section 2501 for each calendar year shall be an amount equal to the excess of—

"(A) a tentative tax, computed under paragraph (2), on the aggregate sum of the taxable gifts for such calendar year and for each of the preceding calendar periods, over

"(B) a tentative tax, computed under paragraph (2), on the aggregate sum of the taxable gifts for each of the preceding calendar periods.

"(2) RATE SCHEDULE.—

"If the amount with respect to which the tentative tax to be computed is:	The tentative tax is:
Not over \$10,000	18% of such amount.
Over \$10,000 but not over \$20,000.	\$1,800, plus 20% of the excess over \$10,000.
Over \$20,000 but not over \$40,000.	\$3,800, plus 22% of the excess over \$20,000.

Over \$40,000 but not over \$60,000.	\$8,200, plus 24% of the excess over \$40,000.
Over \$60,000 but not over \$80,000.	\$13,000, plus 26% of the excess over \$60,000.
Over \$80,000 but not over \$100,000.	\$18,200, plus 28% of the excess over \$80,000.
Over \$100,000 but not over \$150,000.	\$23,800, plus 30% of the excess over \$100,000.
Over \$150,000 but not over \$250,000.	\$38,800, plus 32% of the excess over \$150,000.
Over \$250,000 but not over \$500,000.	\$70,800, plus 34% of the excess over \$250,000.
Over \$500,000	\$155,800, plus 35% of the excess over \$500,000."

(b) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS IN TRUST.—Section 2511 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TRANSFERS IN TRUST.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section and except as provided in regulations, a transfer in trust shall be treated as a taxable gift under section 2503, unless the trust is treated as wholly owned by the donor or the donor's spouse under subpart E of part I of subchapter J of chapter 1."

(c) LIFETIME GIFT EXEMPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 2505(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

"(1) the amount of the tentative tax which would be determined under the rate schedule set forth in section 2502(a)(2) if the amount with respect to which such tentative tax is to be computed were \$10,000,000, reduced by".

(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Section 2505 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any calendar year after 2011, the dollar amount in subsection (a)(1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

"(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

"(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for such calendar year by substituting 'calendar year 2010' for 'calendar year 2016' in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

"(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount as adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of \$10,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$10,000."

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2505(a) of such Code is amended by striking the last sentence.

(2) The heading for section 2505 of such Code is amended by striking "UNIFIED".

(3) The item in the table of sections for subchapter A of chapter 12 of such Code relating to section 2505 is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2505. Credit against gift tax."

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to gifts made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) TRANSITION RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of applying sections 1015(d), 2502, and 2505 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the calendar year in which this Act is enacted shall be treated as 2 separate calendar years one of which ends on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act and the other of which begins on such date of enactment.

(2) APPLICATION OF SECTION 2504(b).—For purposes of applying section 2504(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the calendar year in which this Act is enacted shall be treated as one preceding calendar period.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1151. A bill to terminate authorizations for the use of military force and declarations of war no later than 10

years after the enactment of such authorizations or declarations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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. 1151

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 “Accountability for Endless Wars Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND DECLARATIONS OF WAR.

(a) FUTURE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND DECLARATIONS OF WAR.—Any authorization for the use of military force or declaration of war enacted into law after the date of the enactment of this Act shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of such authorization or declaration.

(b) EXISTING AUTHORIZATIONS FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AND DECLARATIONS OF WAR.—Any authorization for the use of military force or declaration of war enacted before the date of the enactment of this Act shall terminate on the date that is 6 months after the date of such enactment.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1152. A bill to focus limited Federal resources on the most serious offenders; 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. 1152

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 “Smarter Sentencing Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. SENTENCING MODIFICATIONS FOR CERTAIN DRUG OFFENSES.

(a) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—The Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102 (21 U.S.C. 802)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (58) as paragraph (59);

(B) by redesignating the second paragraph (57) (relating to “serious drug felony”) as paragraph (58); and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(60) The term ‘courier’ means a defendant whose role in the offense was limited to transporting or storing drugs or money.”; and

(2) in section 401(b)(1) (21 U.S.C. 841(b)(1))—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the flush text following clause (viii)—

(i) by striking “10 years or more” and inserting “5 years or more”; and

(ii) by striking “15 years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), in the flush text following clause (viii)—

(i) by striking “5 years” and inserting “2 years”; and

(ii) by striking “not be less than 10 years” and inserting “not be less than 5 years”.

(b) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IMPORT AND EXPORT ACT.—Section 1010(b) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the flush text following subparagraph (H)—

(A) by inserting “, other than a person who is a courier,” after “such violation”;

(B) by striking “person commits” and inserting “person, other than a courier, commits”; and

(C) by inserting “If a person who is a courier commits such a violation, the person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years and not more than life. If a person who is a courier commits such a violation after a prior conviction for a serious drug felony or serious violent felony has become final, the person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 10 years and not more than life.” before “Notwithstanding section 3583”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), in the flush text following subparagraph (H)—

(A) by inserting “, other than a person who is a courier,” after “such violation”;

(B) by striking “person commits” and inserting “person, other than a courier, commits”; and

(C) by inserting “If a person who is a courier commits such a violation, the person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 2 years and not more than life. If a person who is a courier commits such a violation after a prior conviction for a serious drug felony or serious violent felony has become final, the person shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years and not more than life.” before “Notwithstanding section 3583”.

(c) APPLICABILITY TO PENDING AND PAST CASES.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “covered offense” means a violation of a Federal criminal statute, the statutory penalties for which were modified by this section.

(2) PENDING CASES.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall apply to any sentence imposed after the date of enactment of this Act, regardless of when the offense was committed.

(3) PAST CASES.—In the case of a defendant who, before the date of enactment of this Act, was convicted or sentenced for a covered offense, the sentencing court may, on motion of the defendant, the Bureau of Prisons, the attorney for the Government, or on its own motion, impose a reduced sentence after considering the factors set forth in section 3553(a) of title 18, United States Code.

SEC. 3. DIRECTIVE TO THE SENTENCING COMMISSION.

(a) DIRECTIVE TO SENTENCING COMMISSION.—Pursuant to its authority under section 994(p) of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, the United States Sentencing Commission shall review and amend, if appropriate, its guidelines and its policy statements applicable to persons convicted of an offense under section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841) or section 1010 of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960) to ensure that the guidelines and policy statements are consistent with the amendments made by section 2 of this Act.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the United States Sentencing Commission shall consider—

(1) the mandate of the United States Sentencing Commission, under section 994(g) of title 28, United States Code, to formulate the sentencing guidelines in such a way as to

“minimize the likelihood that the Federal prison population will exceed the capacity of the Federal prisons”;

(2) the findings and conclusions of the United States Sentencing Commission in its October 2011 report to Congress entitled, Mandatory Minimum Penalties in the Federal Criminal Justice System;

(3) the fiscal implications of any amendments or revisions to the sentencing guidelines or policy statements made by the United States Sentencing Commission;

(4) the relevant public safety concerns involved in the considerations before the United States Sentencing Commission;

(5) the intent of Congress that penalties for violent, repeat, and serious drug traffickers who present public safety risks remain appropriately severe; and

(6) the need to reduce and prevent racial disparities in Federal sentencing.

(c) EMERGENCY AUTHORITY.—The United States Sentencing Commission shall—

(1) promulgate the guidelines, policy statements, or amendments provided for in this Act as soon as practicable, and in any event not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, in accordance with the procedure set forth in section 21(a) of the Sentencing Act of 1987 (28 U.S.C. 994 note), as though the authority under that Act had not expired; and

(2) pursuant to the emergency authority provided under paragraph (1), make such conforming amendments to the Federal sentencing guidelines as the Commission determines necessary to achieve consistency with other guideline provisions and applicable law.

SEC. 4. REPORT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report outlining how the reduced expenditures on Federal corrections and the cost savings resulting from this Act will be used to help reduce overcrowding in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, help increase proper investment in law enforcement and crime prevention, and help reduce criminal recidivism, thereby increasing the effectiveness of Federal criminal justice spending.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON FEDERAL CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “criminal regulatory offense” means a Federal regulation that is enforceable by a criminal penalty; and

(2) the term “criminal statutory offense” means a criminal offense under a Federal statute.

(b) REPORT ON CRIMINAL STATUTORY OFFENSES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report, which shall include—

(1) a list of all criminal statutory offenses, including a list of the elements for each criminal statutory offense; and

(2) for each criminal statutory offense listed under paragraph (1)—

(A) the potential criminal penalty for the criminal statutory offense;

(B) the number of prosecutions for the criminal statutory offense brought by the Department of Justice each year for the 15-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) the mens rea requirement for the criminal statutory offense.

(c) REPORT ON CRIMINAL REGULATORY OFFENSES.—

(1) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the head

of each Federal agency described in paragraph (2) shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report, which shall include—

(A) a list of all criminal regulatory offenses enforceable by the agency; and

(B) for each criminal regulatory offense listed under subparagraph (A)—

(i) the potential criminal penalty for a violation of the criminal regulatory offense;

(ii) the number of violations of the criminal regulatory offense referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution in each of the years during the 15-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act; and

(iii) the mens rea requirement for the criminal regulatory offense.

(2) AGENCIES DESCRIBED.—The Federal agencies described in this paragraph are the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Education, the Department of Energy, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Labor, the Department of Transportation, the Department of the Treasury, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Election Commission, the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the Federal Maritime Commission, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, the Postal Regulatory Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Small Business Administration, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the Office of Government Ethics.

(d) INDEX.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act—

(1) the Attorney General shall establish a publicly accessible index of each criminal statutory offense listed in the report required under subsection (b) and make the index available and freely accessible on the website of the Department of Justice; and

(2) the head of each agency described in subsection (c)(2) shall establish a publicly accessible index of each criminal regulatory offense listed in the report required under subsection (c)(1) and make the index available and freely accessible on the website of the agency.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require or authorize appropriations.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 139—RECOGNIZING THE CRITICAL ROLE THAT PEPFAR HAS PLAYED IN THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 139

Whereas the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (referred to in this preamble as "PEPFAR"), launched 20 years ago by President George W. Bush and supported by every President and Congress since, has proven to be one of the most successful health programs in modern history;

Whereas private organizations, including the ONE Campaign and the Elton John AIDS Foundation, like many others, have been indispensable partners in supporting PEPFAR and advancing its causes;

Whereas PEPFAR has been a critical tool in the global fight against HIV/AIDS, providing vital resources and support to countries most affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic and saving more than 25,000,000 lives;

Whereas PEPFAR has supported HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care programs in more than 50 countries and currently provides life-saving antiretroviral treatment to 20,100,000 individuals;

Whereas, since 2010, PEPFAR has achieved a 50 percent reduction in new HIV cases in young women between 15 and 24 years of age and a 65 percent reduction in new HIV cases in young men between 15 and 24 years of age;

Whereas PEPFAR has contributed to progress in reducing mother-to-child transmission of HIV, with more than 5,500,000 babies born HIV-free to mothers who have HIV and who received antiretroviral medication through PEPFAR-supported programs;

Whereas, as of September 30, 2022, 1,500,000 individuals are receiving antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis (referred to in this clause as "PrEP") to prevent HIV infection, and access to PrEP programs must be expanded;

Whereas PEPFAR has supported the expansion of HIV/AIDS services for children, adolescents, and young people, including for the more than 1,500,000 children receiving HIV treatment through PEPFAR-supported programs;

Whereas PEPFAR has dramatically reduced the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS;

Whereas PEPFAR prioritizes reaching adolescent girls and young women, who are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, through the Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe program (commonly known as "DREAMS"), which has assisted more than 1,600,000 adolescent girls and young women with HIV prevention services;

Whereas PEPFAR has been a key partner in the global COVID-19 response, supporting the delivery of essential HIV/AIDS services and strengthening health systems to ensure continuity of care, including by delivering more than 60,000,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in sub-Saharan Africa; and

Whereas challenges in combating HIV/AIDS, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, remain and will not be overcome without continued PEPFAR support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the critical role that the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (referred to in this resolution as "PEPFAR") has played in the global fight against HIV/AIDS;

(2) applauds the successes and accomplishments of PEPFAR to date; and

(3) urges continued funding and support for PEPFAR to help achieve the goal of ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

SENATE RESOLUTION 140—COMMEMORATING 200 YEARS OF OFFICIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE

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

S. RES. 140

Whereas January 2023 marked two centuries of bilateral relations between the United States of America and the Republic of Chile;

Whereas the United States established official relations with Chile on January 27, 1823, when the Senate confirmed the appointment of Heman Allen as the first United States Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to Chile;

Whereas the United States legation in Santiago, Chile, was elevated to embassy status on October 1, 1914;

Whereas Chile is one of the strongest partners of the United States in Latin America, with a partnership grounded in mutual respect, shared democratic values, the defense of human rights, and the pursuit of economic prosperity and shared security interests;

Whereas the United States and Chile have historically enjoyed strong commercial and investment ties, and, on January 1, 2004, the United States-Chile Free Trade Agreement entered into force and further contributed to economic growth for the people of the United States and Chile;

Whereas, in 1955, Chile was the first country in Latin America to establish a bilateral Fulbright Commission for academic exchange of knowledge and expertise;

Whereas Chile was the first South American country to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in 2010;

Whereas the bilateral relationship between the United States and Chile has contributed to tourism in both countries, including through the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187), of which Chile is the only Latin American participant;

Whereas the United States and Chile collaborate regularly on efforts to promote democracy, human rights, security, and development, including through the High-Level Bilateral Political Consultative Mechanism, and the U.S.-Chile Defense Consultative Committee;

Whereas Chile and the United States have a long history of strong cooperation on science and technology, including the more than \$800,000,000 in funding contributed by the National Science Foundation to the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array;

Whereas the National Science Foundation has collaborated with the Government of Chile toward the advancement of research in the Antarctic region through the United States Antarctica Program and the Chilean Antarctic Institute;

Whereas the United States and Chile have strong cooperation on the development of critical minerals and renewable energy, and Chile stands out as a global leader in renewable energy, with renewable energy accounting for approximately 59 percent of the installed electricity capacity in Chile;

Whereas the United States and Chile collaborate on environmental stewardship and conservation matters, and the Government of Chile led the establishment of the Americas for the Protection of the Ocean coalition

at the Ninth Summit of the Americas in June 2022, which has strengthened efforts to advance marine conservation in South America; and

Whereas Chileans in the United States have enriched and added to the way of life of the United States and become an integral part of the cultural history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the official relationship between the United States of America and the Republic of Chile;

(2) recognizes the historical partnership between the United States and Chile, and reaffirms long-lasting collaboration with Chile to address mutual challenges and enhance the prosperity and security of the people of the United States and Chile;

(3) reaffirms bilateral cooperation between the United States and Chile to promote the advancement of science and technology and environmental sustainability;

(4) expresses support for the shared principles of democratic governance, human rights, and rule of law underpinning the relationship between the United States and Chile; and

(5) celebrates the contributions that Chileans and Chilean Americans have made in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 141—SUPPORTING ASEAN CENTRALITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

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

S. RES. 141

Whereas, with more than 686,000,000 people, the ten members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) collectively boast the third largest population in the world and a gross domestic product of \$3,300,000,000,000, and serves to promote economic growth and regional stability among its members, as well as a rules-based international order;

Whereas ASEAN is situated in a critical geographic position, straddling the sea lanes between the Indian Ocean to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east;

Whereas, at the 10th annual U.S.-ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and the ASEAN leaders elevated United States-ASEAN relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership;

Whereas, under this framework, there has been an unprecedented expansion in United States-ASEAN relations, including the launch of five new high-level dialogues on health, transportation, gender equality and women's empowerment, environment and climate, and energy, as well as elevated engagement on foreign affairs, economics, and defense;

Whereas, in October 2022, the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate joined a senior officials' dialogue on the environment and climate with ASEAN, during which the two sides decided to establish a cooperation work plan and to hold a special U.S.-ASEAN Ministerial Dialogue on the Environment and Climate in 2023;

Whereas President Biden has reaffirmed the strong support of the United States for ASEAN centrality and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, building on the historic success of the first-ever U.S.-ASEAN Special Summit in Washington, D.C. in May 2022;

Whereas the United States is committed to supporting the implementation of the

ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific's Maritime Pillar, and the United States Government has announced \$60,000,000 in new regional maritime initiatives;

Whereas, in 2022, the United States provided over \$860,000,000 in assistance through the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to ASEAN partners to support the environment, access to education, strengthened health systems, security modernization efforts, rule of law, and human rights;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture and the United States International Development Finance Corporation plan to invest \$57,000,000 in new programs across Southeast Asia to promote food security and ensure access to safe water, including a new "Food for School Feeding" program;

Whereas the United States supports the ASEAN Center for Pandemic Health Emergencies and Emerging Diseases (ACPHEED), including through USAID assistance and through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas the United States International Development Finance Corporation will invest \$215,000,000 in loans to Southeast Asian financial institutions, in order to help low-income women access capital and contribute to economic growth;

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

Whereas the strength of U.S.-ASEAN relations is anchored in the friendship shared by our combined 1,000,000,000 people, and each year the United States provides more than \$70,000,000 to support educational and cultural exchanges that foster greater understanding;

Whereas more than 650 students, teachers, and scholars participate in Fulbright exchanges between the United States and ASEAN, and participants from all 10 ASEAN member states take part in the program;

Whereas 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), which offers exchanges, regional workshops, small grant funding, and other programs to develop ties between the United States and ASEAN;

Whereas, at the September 2020 ASEAN-U.S. Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the United States announced the new YSEALI Academy at Fulbright University in Vietnam to expand YSEALI's people-to-people engagement between the United States and ASEAN;

Whereas seven ASEAN member states link to 23 States and the District of Columbia through 81 sister city, nine sister state, and 20 sister county connections; and

Whereas the Peace Corps has programs in five ASEAN member states (Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam), including the inaugural program in Vietnam launched in 2022 with 10 Peace Corps Trainees to promote English language learning and literacy in Vietnam's secondary schools: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) promotes deepening cooperation with ASEAN member states and the ASEAN Secretariat under our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to promote peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) reaffirms the importance of ASEAN centrality, the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the institutional architecture of the Indo-Pacific region;

(3) commemorates the 10th anniversary of YSEALI on December 3, 2023, and supports its expanding programs;

(4) commends the work and mission of the Peace Corps in the region, including the historic arrival of the first Peace Corps Volunteers to Vietnam, at the invitation of the Government of Vietnam;

(5) celebrates the 10th anniversary of our comprehensive partnership with Vietnam and supports elevating our relationship to a strategic partnership;

(6) congratulates Indonesia for its successful leadership as Chair of the G20 and United States-ASEAN country coordinator in 2022, and extends United States support and best wishes as it assumes the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2023, under the theme "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth";

(7) applauds the steadfast U.S.-Indonesia Strategic Partnership, Indonesia's leadership on the issue of women and girls' education in Afghanistan, and Indonesia's dedication to renewable energy and a transition away from fossil fuels, as committed to in the Just Energy Transition Partnership agreement;

(8) reaffirms the importance of the Mekong-U.S. Partnership and the value of transboundary cooperation across the Mekong sub-region, and supports a whole-of-government approach in providing coordinated assistance, including programmatic support from USAID and the Department of State;

(9) encourages ASEAN, including through the ASEAN Chair and Office of the Special Envoy, to play an active role beyond the Five Point Consensus to bring about an end to all forms of violence in Burma, the release of all those arbitrarily detained, and unhindered humanitarian access throughout the country; and

(10) supports the people of Burma in their quest for democracy, sustainable peace, and genuine ethnic and religious reconciliation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 142—EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES AND ATTACKS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND DEFENDERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 142

Whereas rising instances of environmental crimes, land grabbing, unregulated and illegal natural resource destruction and extraction, and irresponsible infrastructure development threaten biodiversity and rural and Indigenous community livelihoods in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is home to 40 percent of the world's species and more than 24 percent of the Earth's forests;

Whereas harassment, threats, assaults, and killings against environmental and land defenders protesting such crimes and development have increased throughout the region since 2018;

Whereas, according to Global Witness, Latin America is the deadliest region in the world for environmental and land defenders, with nearly 75 percent of the 200 known attacks against such defenders during 2021 taking place in the region, including—

(1) in Mexico, where 54 environmental and land defenders were murdered in 2021, representing the highest number of such murders in any country that year;

(2) in Colombia, where 33 environmental and land defenders were murdered during 2021, representing the second highest number of such murders in any country that year;

(3) in Brazil, where 342 environmental and land defenders have been murdered since 2012, representing the highest number of such murders of any country since the reporting of such murders began; and

(4) in Peru, Venezuela, and Brazil, where 78 percent of the attacks against environmental and land defenders in the Amazon region occurred;

Whereas more than 25 percent of the attacks on environmental and land defenders during 2021 were reportedly linked to resource exploitation, including logging, mining, large scale agribusiness, hydroelectric dams, and other infrastructure;

Whereas, approximately 40 to 60 percent of logging activities in the Peruvian Amazon are illegal, according to INTERPOL, and approximately 95 percent of deforestation in Brazil in 2021 was irregular, according to the Brazilian Annual Land Use and Land Cover Mapping Project;

Whereas, in 2021, Indigenous peoples made up more than 40 percent of victims in fatal attacks against environmental and land defenders worldwide, despite Indigenous peoples only comprising approximately 5 percent of the world's population;

Whereas Indigenous peoples, who steward more than 80 percent of the world's biodiversity, are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of environmental loss and more frequently targeted in attacks on environmental and land defenders;

Whereas women acting in defense of their lands and natural environments in Latin America face additional threats to their human rights, as Latin America has the highest rates of gender-based violence in the world;

Whereas many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean lack sufficient oversight capacity, transparency, and accountability for regulations of environmental permits and investigations of environmental crimes, especially in Indigenous lands, nationally protected forests, and other remote geographical areas with limited government presence, forcing affected populations to advocate for their land and natural resources at great personal risk;

Whereas corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean enables the subversion of laws designed to prevent environmental crime and protect natural resources, undermining efforts to prevent ecological destruction;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has strained the resources and institutional capacity of Latin American and Caribbean governments to address environmental crimes and prevent the expansion of nonstate actors into remote areas and border regions where these groups target environmental and land defenders and engage in illicit mining and drug trafficking activities;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development has developed programs to reduce environmental crimes and other threats to the Amazon's forests, waters, and peoples throughout Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname;

Whereas all Latin American and Caribbean countries have ratified the decision by the 21st Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted at Paris December 12, 2015 (commonly known as the "Paris Climate Agreement"), which states, "Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote, and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children,

persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations";

Whereas 15 countries in Latin America ratified the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labor Organization, establishing the rights of Indigenous people to land, natural resources, and prior consultation on projects affecting their communities, although many such countries have consistently failed to respect these legally binding standards;

Whereas 25 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have signed, and 14 of these 25 countries have ratified, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at Escazú, Costa Rica March 4, 2018 (commonly known as the "Escazú Agreement"), to ensure the protection of environmental defenders across the region; and

Whereas, on June 9, 2022, at the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, heads of state and government of the Western Hemisphere adopted "Our Sustainable Green Future", a commitment to draft and approve national plans, before the commencement of the Tenth Summit of the Americas in the Dominican Republic in 2025—

(1) to respond to threats and attacks on environmental defenders and collect data on such threats and attacks, in accordance with domestic law;

(2) to enact, as appropriate, and enforce domestic laws to protect environmental defenders and the resources they defend; and

(3) to carry out and implement environmental assessments in accordance with existing domestic law: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) underscores the urgency of protecting biodiversity in Latin America and the Caribbean, ending impunity for environmental crimes, protecting environmental and land defenders, and confronting risks and addressing threats to such actors;

(2) urges governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and other environmental and land defenders, including—

(A) strengthening efforts and initiatives aimed at combating environmental crimes and protecting the territory of environmental and land defenders;

(B) complying with commitments made under the Paris Climate Agreement, Convention 169 of the International Labor Organization, and the Escazú Agreement to pursue environmental justice and protect the rights of Indigenous peoples and other environmental and land defenders, particularly in relation to rights to land titling and prior consultation; and

(C) implementing "Our Sustainable Green Future" commitments made at the Ninth Summit of the Americas to advance the protection of environmental and land defenders;

(3) calls on the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to support and assist governments in Latin America and the Caribbean in meeting regional and international standards and commitments for the protection of Indigenous peoples and other environmental and land defenders, including through—

(A) capacity building initiatives aimed at strengthening networks of environmental and land defenders, Indigenous peoples, and civil society organizations;

(B) providing technical assistance and other support to combat corruption within agencies dealing with forestry management and environmental crimes;

(C) collaborating with law enforcement authorities, including through the sharing of

intelligence, to help dismantle criminal groups responsible for committing environmental crime and violence against environmental and land defenders;

(D) reinforcing the importance of free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples within such regional and international commitments;

(E) promoting the participation of women, Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, environmental and land defenders, and other affected and vulnerable communities in regional and international forums related to human rights, environmental protection, and climate change; and

(F) hosting summits and other multilateral forums, with the participation of governments in the region and relevant civil society organizations, to share the experiences of environmental and land defenders and advance solutions to protect biodiversity and confront impunity around environmental crime; and

(4) calls on the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to develop comprehensive regional and subregional action plans with input from environmental and land defenders to counter environmental crime and attacks against environmental and land defenders in Latin America and the Caribbean, including by—

(A) strengthening current programs in Brazil and Colombia;

(B) expanding key pillars of ongoing programs to Mexico, Peru, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, where such initiatives are largely absent; and

(C) ensuring that projects supported or funded by the United States Government in Latin America and the Caribbean take into account the protection of Indigenous peoples and environmental and land defenders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 3 THROUGH APRIL 7, 2023, AS NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS WEEK

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 143

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals (referred to in this preamble as "NASSP"), the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have designated the week of April 3 through April 7, 2023, as "National Assistant Principals Week";

Whereas an assistant principal, as a member of the school administration, interacts with many sectors of the school community, including support staff, instructional staff, students, and parents;

Whereas assistant principals are responsible for establishing a positive learning environment and building strong relationships between school and community;

Whereas assistant principals play a pivotal role in the instructional leadership of their schools by supervising student instruction, mentoring teachers, recognizing the achievements of staff, encouraging collaboration among staff, ensuring the implementation of best practices, monitoring student achievement and progress, facilitating and modeling data-driven decision making to inform instruction, and guiding the direction of targeted intervention and school improvement;

Whereas the day-to-day logistical operations of schools require assistant principals to monitor and address facility needs, attendance, transportation issues, and scheduling challenges, as well as to supervise extra- and co-curricular events;

Whereas assistant principals are entrusted with maintaining an inviting, safe, and orderly school environment that supports the growth and achievement of each and every student by nurturing positive peer relationships, recognizing student achievement, mediating conflicts, analyzing behavior patterns, providing interventions, and, when necessary, taking disciplinary actions;

Whereas, since its establishment in 2004, the NASSP National Assistant Principal of the Year Program has recognized outstanding middle and high school assistant principals who demonstrate success in leadership, curriculum, and personalization; and

Whereas the week of April 3 through April 7, 2023, is an appropriate week to designate as National Assistant Principals Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of National Assistant Principals Week;

(2) honors the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Assistant Principals Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the role played by assistant principals in school leadership and ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 144—RECOGNIZING THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A TRANSGENDER BILL OF RIGHTS TO PROTECT AND CODIFY THE RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDER AND NONBINARY PEOPLE UNDER THE LAW AND ENSURE THEIR ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE, SHELTER, SAFETY, AND ECONOMIC SAFETY

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 144

Whereas an estimated 1,600,000 transgender adults live in the United States;

Whereas title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) requires equal treatment under the law regardless of sex;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States affirmed in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020), that Federal protection against discrimination on the basis of sex includes protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity;

Whereas despite these protections, transgender people still experience discrimination in—

- (1) medical care;
- (2) employment;
- (3) housing;
- (4) education;
- (5) lending; and
- (6) other basic necessities;

Whereas State lawmakers introduced more than 300 bills attacking the rights of LGBTQI+ people, and transgender people in particular, in the first 6 weeks of 2023;

Whereas the right of transgender and nonbinary people to seek lifesaving gender-affirming care is under threat across the United States;

Whereas the provision of best-practice, age-appropriate, gender-affirming health care is endorsed by the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Nursing, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Physicians, the American Counseling Association, the American Heart Association, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Public Health Association, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, the Endocrine Society, the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, the Pediatric Endocrine Society, the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine, the World Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health;

Whereas transgender and nonbinary people—

(1) face significant barriers to legal recognition of their true selves on government documentation and identification;

(2) experience disproportionately high rates of poverty, homelessness, violence, and suicide; and

(3) detained in jails, prisons, and immigration detention centers are especially vulnerable to violence and abuse and are often deprived of gender-affirming resources and health care;

Whereas transgender and nonbinary people—

(1) make unique, valuable contributions to American society and culture worth honoring and celebrating;

(2) have existed throughout history across the globe, demonstrating resilience, bravery, and authenticity; and

(3) are parents, siblings, children, chosen family, and friends deserving of human dignity and support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Federal Government has a duty to protect the rights of transgender and nonbinary people by implementing a “Transgender Bill of Rights” that includes—

(A) ensuring transgender and nonbinary people have equal access to services and public accommodations that align with their gender identity by—

(i) amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, including gender identity and sex characteristics, in public accommodations and federally funded programs and activities;

(ii) expanding the definition of public accommodation to address the full range of places and services that members of the general public utilize;

(iii) explicitly clarifying that it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of sex, including gender identity or sex characteristics, in public accommodations and services on religious grounds; and

(iv) amending Federal education laws to ensure that those laws protect students from discrimination based on sex, including gender identity and sex characteristics, and guarantee the rights of students to—

(I) participate in sports on teams and in programs that best align with their gender identity;

(II) use school facilities that best align with their gender identity;

(III) have their authentic identity respected in the classroom; and

(IV) have access to curriculum and books that accurately portray the substantive history and identity of LGBTQI+ people and Black, Indigenous, and people of color;

(B) recognizing the right to bodily autonomy and ethical health care for transgender and nonbinary people by—

(i) strengthening, implementing, and enforcing prohibitions on discrimination in the provision of health care on the basis of sex, including on the basis of actual or perceived gender identity or sex characteristics;

(ii) eliminating unnecessary governmental restrictions on the provision of, and access to, gender-affirming medical care and counseling for transgender and nonbinary adults and youth;

(iii) ensuring that health care providers following standards of care for transgender and nonbinary people are not targeted for criminal or civil penalties, or for professional discipline;

(iv) protecting children from forceful removal from supportive homes;

(v) protecting providers of gender-affirming care, reproductive health care, and abortion health care from threats and acts of violence related to their work;

(vi) expanding access to competent health care providers serving transgender and nonbinary patients, including by recruiting and training more health care providers to provide appropriate care;

(vii) expanding telehealth access to provide patients in rural and other underserved locations better access to health care services;

(viii) codifying *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), guaranteeing the right to abortion, and codifying the right to reproductive health care such as contraceptives and assistive reproductive technology for everyone, including transgender and nonbinary people; and

(ix) banning the use of forced surgery that violates medical ethics and human rights on intersex children and infants;

(C) ensuring transgender and nonbinary people can care for themselves and their families by fully codifying the judgment of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia*, 140 S. Ct. 1731 (2020) by—

(i) eliminating hiring and employment discrimination and workforce exclusion by amending title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) to explicitly clarify that employers may not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived gender identity or sex characteristics;

(ii) amending the Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) to explicitly clarify that it prohibits all forms of sex discrimination, including on the basis of gender identity or sex characteristics; and

(iii) amending the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) to explicitly clarify that it prohibits all forms of sex discrimination, including on the basis of gender identity or sex characteristics;

(D) providing accessible avenues for legal recognition of transgender and nonbinary identities and guaranteeing full participation in civil life by—

(i) eliminating Federal gender identification requirements on government documents that are unnecessary to determine the identity of the holder or are otherwise irrelevant to the purpose of the document;

(ii) eliminating burdensome barriers to updating sex and names on passports, Social Security cards, and other forms of Federal Government identification and records, permitting, where possible, changes on self-attestation alone;

(iii) requiring that an “X” marker be available on Federal Government identification and records that still require gender;

(iv) requiring States to permit voters to update their name and gender on their voter registration and vote on the same day of Federal elections; and

(v) making explicit that existing Federal statutes prohibiting sex discrimination in jury service also prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and sex characteristics;

(E) strengthening the safety of transgender and nonbinary people by—

(i) investing in community services to prevent intimate partner, family, and community violence against transgender and nonbinary people and expand services for transgender and nonbinary survivors;

(ii) investing in mental health services and suicide prevention programs designed for transgender and nonbinary people;

(iii) banning fraudulent and harmful so-called “conversion therapy” practices;

(iv) ensuring robust regulations and procedures that affirm that claims for immigration relief or asylum based on persecution related to gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics are protected grounds in the context of asylum adjudications; and

(v) exploring policies and practices that would improve the safety of transgender and nonbinary individuals incarcerated in jails, prisons, and immigration detention facilities, and ensure that those populations of transgender and nonbinary individuals have access to gender-affirming care, appropriate services, and commissary items; and

(F) actively enforcing the civil rights of transgender and nonbinary people by all government agencies including by—

(i) requiring the Attorney General to designate a liaison within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice whose job is dedicated to advising on and overseeing enforcement of the civil rights of transgender and nonbinary people; and

(ii) appropriating the funds necessary to fully staff and support the enforcement of these rights across agencies;

(2) the actions listed in this resolution are only the first steps toward transgender equality;

(3) to carry out the goals in this resolution, Federal agencies must collect gender identity and sex characteristics information on a voluntary, confidential basis solely for equity and public health purposes in key Federal surveys;

(4) the Federal Government must make an ongoing commitment to the rights of transgender and nonbinary people; and

(5) policies concerning transgender rights must be led and informed by transgender communities, in particular Black and Indigenous women who face heightened risk of violence, poverty, discrimination, and other harm due to their intersecting identities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 145—CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF RUSSIAN OPPOSITION LEADER VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA, WHO WAS UNJUSTLY DETAINED ON APRIL 11, 2022

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COONS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. RISCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 145

Whereas Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza (referred to in this preamble as “Mr. Kara-Murza”) has tirelessly worked for decades to advance the cause of freedom, democ-

racy, and human rights for the people of the Russian Federation;

Whereas, in retaliation for his advocacy, two attempts have been made on Mr. Kara-Murza's life, as—

(1) on May 26, 2015, Mr. Kara-Murza fell ill with symptoms indicative of poisoning and was hospitalized; and

(2) on February 2, 2017, he fell ill with similar symptoms and was placed in a medically induced coma;

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 responsible for poisoning Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and activists Timur Kuashev, Ruslan Magomedragimov, and Nikita Isayev;

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, 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, 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 April 11, 2022, five police officers arrested Mr. Kara-Murza in front of his home and denied his right to an attorney, and the next day Mr. Kara-Murza was sentenced to 15 days in prison for disobeying a police order;

Whereas, on April 22, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza with violations under the law signed on March 5, 2022, for his fact-based statements condemning the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation;

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza was then placed into pretrial detention and ordered to be held until at least June 12, 2022;

Whereas, if convicted of those charges, Mr. Kara-Murza faces detention in a penitentiary system that human rights nongovernmental organizations have criticized for widespread torture, ill-treatment, and suspicious deaths of prisoners;

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 alleged 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, on October 6, 2022, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation charged Mr. Kara-Murza with high treason on the grounds that he cooperated with a North Atlantic Treaty Organization member nation, which was corroborated by the public speeches he delivered in the United States, Portugal, and Finland;

Whereas, on March 3, 2023, in response to bipartisan requests from Congress, the

United States Government imposed sanctions under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.) on three Russian individuals, Elena Anatolievna Lenskaya, Andrei Andreevich Zadachin, and Danila Yurievich Mikheev, for their involvement in the unjust detention of Mr. Kara-Murza; and

Whereas Mr. Kara-Murza's attorney reported that his client's health deteriorated to the point that he was unfit to attend his hearing on March 16, 2023, as Mr. Kara-Murza was being treated for polyneuropathy, a condition that he sustained from poison attacks on May 26, 2015, and February 2, 2017: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the unjust detention and indicting of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza, who has courageously stood up to oppression in the Russian Federation;

(2) expresses solidarity with Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza, his family, and all individuals in the Russian Federation imprisoned for exercising their fundamental freedoms of speech, assembly, and belief;

(3) urges the United States Government and other allied governments to work to secure the immediate release of Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza, Alexei Navalny, and other citizens of the Russian Federation imprisoned for opposing the regime of Vladimir Putin and the war against Ukraine; and

(4) calls on the President to increase support provided by the United States Government for those advocating for democracy and independent media in the Russian Federation, which Vladimir Vladimirovich Kara-Murza has worked to advance.

SENATE RESOLUTION 146—HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEREIMA “JERI” BUSTAMANTE ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 146

Whereas Jereima “Jeri” Bustamante (referred to in this preamble as “Jeri Bustamante”) lived the American Dream;

Whereas, after moving from Panama to the United States with her family, Jeri Bustamante—

(1) attended Miami Beach Senior High School; and

(2) earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and Media Sciences and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Florida International University;

Whereas Jeri Bustamante had a tireless work ethic and a passion for communication and paid for her education by working while enrolled in school;

Whereas that tireless work ethic propelled Jeri Bustamante to professional success, beginning with an internship at a Miami television station and culminating in a period of service as press secretary to Governor Rick Scott;

Whereas the enthusiasm, compassion, tenacity, and vibrant energy of Jeri Bustamante are greatly missed by her family, friends, and coworkers;

Whereas the spirit of Jeri Bustamante lives on through the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship, which aims to help graduates of Miami Beach Senior High School achieve their goals and pursue the American Dream through a college education; and

Whereas April 8, 2023, marks 5 years since the life of Jeri Bustamante was tragically

cut short in a fatal boating accident: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and memory of Jereima “Jeri” Bustamante (referred to in this resolution as “Jeri Bustamante”);

(2) offers heartfelt condolences to the family, loved ones, and friends of Jeri Bustamante;

(3) recognizes that living the American Dream remains possible for any individual who, following the example of Jeri Bustamante, works hard to pursue and achieve a goal; and

(4) encourages the recipients of the Jereima Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to carry on the legacy of Jeri Bustamante.

SENATE RESOLUTION 147—DESIGNATING APRIL 2023 AS “PRESERVING AND PROTECTING LOCAL NEWS MONTH” AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 147

Whereas the United States was founded on the principle of freedom of the press enshrined in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which declares that “Congress shall make no law . . . abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press . . .”;

Whereas an informed citizenry depends on accurate and unbiased news reporting to inform the judgment of the people;

Whereas a robust, diverse, and sustainable local news presence leads to civic engagement and the buttressing of democratic norms and practices;

Whereas the absence of local news outlets and investigative reporting allows local government corruption and corporate malfeasance to go unchecked;

Whereas local journalists help combat disinformation by using their community knowledge and connections to debunk fraudulent or misleading content;

Whereas local cable franchises routinely provide for public educational and government access channels on their systems, and those channels—

(1) offer vital local civic programming that informs communities;

(2) provide news and information not often available on other local broadcast channels or cable;

(3) supplement local journalism; and

(4) at times, are the only source for local news;

Whereas the people of the United States trust local news sources by a 2-to-1 margin; Whereas, according to recent research—

(1) the United States has lost more than 2,500 local print outlets since 2005, which accounts for ¼ of all local print outlets, and is on track to lose ⅓ by 2025;

(2) an average of more than 2 local print outlets are being shuttered every week in the United States;

(3) more than 200 of the 3,143 counties and county equivalents in the United States have no local newspaper at all, creating a news shortage for the 4,000,000 residents of those areas;

(4) of the remaining counties in the United States, more than ½ have only 1 newspaper

to cover populations ranging from fewer than 1,000 to more than 1,000,000 residents and ⅔ have no daily newspaper, with fewer than 100 of these counties having a digital substitute;

(5) more than ½ of all newspapers in the United States have changed owners during the past decade, and, in 2020, the 25 largest newspaper ownership companies owned ⅓ of all daily newspapers, including 70 percent of newspapers that still circulate daily;

(6) of the surviving 6,700 newspapers in the United States, not fewer than 1,000 qualify as “ghost newspapers”, or newspapers with reporting and photography staffs that are so significantly reduced that they can no longer provide much of the breaking news or public service journalism that once informed readers about vital issues in their communities; and

(7) rural counties are among the counties most deeply impacted by the loss of local reporting, as more than 500 of the 2,500 newspapers that have closed or merged since 2005 are in rural counties;

Whereas, while overall employment in newspaper, television, radio, and digital newsrooms dropped by roughly 26 percent, or 30,000 jobs, between 2008 and 2020, the plunge in newspaper newsrooms alone was much worse at 57 percent, or 40,000 jobs, during that same time period;

Whereas the number of news employees in the radio broadcasting industry dropped by 26 percent between 2008 and 2020;

Whereas digital native publications have laid off hundreds of journalists, and many of those publications have shuttered during the last year;

Whereas beat reporting, meaning the day-to-day coverage of a particular field that allows a journalist to develop expertise and cultivate sources, has ceased to be a viable career for would-be journalists due to the decimation of newsroom budgets;

Whereas requests submitted under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as “Freedom of Information Act requests”), by local newspapers to local, State, and Federal agencies fell by nearly 50 percent between 2005 and 2010, demonstrating a significant drop in the extent to which local reporters request government records;

Whereas newspapers alone lost more than \$39,800,000,000 in advertising revenue between 2005 and 2020;

Whereas the sponsorship revenue of all-news radio stations dropped by 25 percent between 2019 and 2021;

Whereas there remains a significant gender disparity in newsroom employment, with women comprising approximately ⅓ of staff who are 30 years of age or older;

Whereas women who are local television news anchors and reporters, especially women of color, are often subject to harassment and stalking;

Whereas, across the United States, there are 195 newspapers published by and for Black readers, and, in recent years, many of those newspapers have seen—

(1) significant losses in advertising revenue as small businesses in their communities were forced to close; and

(2) declines in circulation due to the closures of businesses in their communities;

Whereas the number of Black journalists working at daily newspapers dropped by 40 percent between 1997 and 2014, more than for any other demographic group;

Whereas the number of print media sources published by and for American Indian readers has shrunk dramatically in recent years, from 700 media outlets in 1998 to only 200 in 2018;

Whereas Tribally-owned news outlets are often dependent on Tribal governments for funding, but most of those outlets lack the

policy structure necessary to fully protect journalistic independence;

Whereas a 2018 survey by the Native American Journalists Association found that 83 percent of respondents believed that Native press coverage of Tribal government affairs was sometimes, frequently, or always censored;

Whereas there are more than 550 Latino news media outlets in the United States, and those news media outlets rely primarily on a declining advertising revenue base;

Whereas the lack of local news impacts communities that speak languages other than English, which are often excluded from national media coverage;

Whereas more than 100 local newsrooms have closed during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic took a substantial economic toll on the local news industry, contributing to budget cuts, staff layoffs, and scores of newsroom closures, from which the industry has yet to fully recover;

Whereas PEN America proposed “a major reimagining of the local news space” in its 2019 call-to-action report, “Losing the News: The Decimation of Local Journalism and the Search for Solutions”, and called on society and the Federal Government to urgently address the alarming demise of local journalism; and

Whereas, half a century ago, Congress perceived that the commercial television industry would not independently provide the educational and public interest broadcasting that was appropriate and necessary for the country, and, informed by an independent report prepared by the Carnegie Commission on Educational Television, created the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which has since ensured that radio and television include public interest educational and reporting programs using annually appropriated funds: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2023 as “Preserving and Protecting Local News Month”;

(2) affirms that local news serves an essential function in the democracy of the United States;

(3) recognizes local news as a public good; and

(4) acknowledges the valuable contributions of local journalism towards the maintenance of healthy and vibrant communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 148—RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. THUNE (for Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. HIRONO)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 148

Whereas the United States celebrates National Women’s History Month every March to recognize and honor the achievements of women throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas an estimated 4,718,255 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women live in the United States;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women—

(1) have helped shape the history of their communities, Tribes, and the United States;

(2) have fought to defend and protect the sovereign rights of Native Nations; and

(3) have demonstrated resilience and courage in the face of a history of threatened existence, constant removals, and relocations;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to their communities, Tribes, and the United States through military service, public service, and work in many industries, including business, education, science, medicine, literature, and fine arts, including Pablita “Tse Tsan” Velarde, a Santa Clara Pueblo artist and painter whose art work depicted traditional Pueblo life and preserved Pueblo stories and knowledge, and whose paintings were commissioned for display at Bandelier National Monument;

Whereas, as of 2023, more than 4,400 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women bravely serve as members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas, as of 2023, more than 20,800 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are veterans who have made lasting contributions to the United States military;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women broke down historical gender barriers to enlistment in the military, including—

(1) Laura Beltz Wright, an Inupiat Eskimo sharpshooter of the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II;

(2) Minnie Spotted Wolf of the Blackfeet Tribe, the first Native American woman to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in 1943; and

(3) Marcella LeBeau of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, a decorated veteran who served as an Army combat nurse during World War II and received the French Legion of Honour for her bravery and service;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States, including Lori Ann Piestewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe who was the first Native American woman to be killed in action while serving on foreign soil and the first woman in the United States military to be killed in the Iraq War in 2003;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to the economic development of Native Nations and the United States as a whole, including Elouise Cobell of the Blackfeet Tribe, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, who—

(1) served as the treasurer of the Blackfeet Tribe;

(2) founded the first Tribal-owned national bank; and

(3) led the fight against Federal mismanagement of funds held in trust for more than 500,000 Native Americans;

Whereas, as of 2020, American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women own an estimated 161,500 businesses;

Whereas, as of 2020, Native women-owned businesses employ more than 61,000 workers and generate over \$11,000,000,000 in revenues;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native women have opened an average of more than 17 new businesses each day since 2007;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made significant contributions to the fields of medicine and health, including—

(1) Susan La Flesche Picotte of the Omaha Tribe, who is widely acknowledged as the first Native American to earn a medical degree; and

(2) Annie Dodge Wauneka of the Navajo Nation, who—

(A) advocated for better public health, education, and living conditions on the Navajo Nation leading to her becoming 1 of the first female council members for the Navajo Nation in 1951; and

(B) was the first Native American to receive a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to important scientific advancements, including—

(1) Floy Agnes Lee of the Santa Clara Pueblo, who—

(A) worked on the Manhattan Project during World War II; and

(B) pioneered research on radiation biology and cancer;

(2) Native Hawaiian Isabella Kauakea Yau Yung Aiona Abbott, who—

(A) was the first woman on the biological sciences faculty at Stanford University; and

(B) in 1997, was awarded the Gilbert Morgan Smith medal, the highest award in marine botany from the National Academy of Sciences; and

(3) Mary Golda Ross of the Cherokee Nation, who—

(A) is considered the first Native American engineer of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(B) helped develop spacecrafts for the Gemini and Apollo space programs; and

(C) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2019 1 dollar coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have achieved distinctive honors in the art of dance, including Maria Tallchief or Wa-Xthe-Thon-ba of the Osage Nation, who—

(1) was the first major prima ballerina of the United States and was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kennedy Center; and

(2) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2023 1 dollar coin with her sister Marjorie Tallchief of the Osage Nation, Yvonne Chouteau of the Shawnee Tribe, Rosella Hightower of the Choctaw Nation, and Moscelyne Larkin of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, collectively known as the “Five Moons”, for the legacy they left on ballet;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have accomplished notable literary achievements, including Northern Paiute author Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, who wrote and published 1 of the first Native American autobiographies in United States history in 1883;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have regularly led efforts to protect their traditional ways of life and to revitalize and maintain Native cultures and languages, including—

(1) Esther Martinez, a Tewa linguist and teacher who developed a Tewa dictionary and was credited with revitalizing the Tewa language;

(2) Mary Kawena Pukui, a Native Hawaiian scholar who published more than 50 academic works and was considered the most noted Hawaiian translator of the 20th century;

(3) Katie John, an Ahtna Athabascan of Mentasta Lake, who was the lead plaintiff in lawsuits that strengthened Native subsistence fishing rights in Alaska and who helped create the alphabet for the Ahtna language; and

(4) Edith Kenao Kanaka’ole, a Native Hawaiian language and cultural practitioner who—

(A) founded her own hula school, Hālau o Kekuhi;

(B) helped develop some of the first courses in Hawaiian language and culture for public schools and colleges; and

(C) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2023 quarter honoring her significant contributions and accomplishments perpetuating Native Hawaiian culture and arts;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have excelled in athletic competition and created opportunities for other female athletes within their sport, including Rell Kapoliokaehukai Sunn, who—

(1) was ranked as longboard surfing champion of the world; and

(2) co-founded the Women’s Professional Surfing Association in 1975, the first professional surfing tour for women;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have played a vital role in advancing civil rights, protecting human rights, advocating for land rights, and safeguarding the environment, including—

(1) Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, Tlingit, a member of the Lukaax.ádi clan in the Raven moiety with the Tlingit name of Kaaxgal.aat, who—

(A) helped secure the passage of House Bill 14, commonly known as the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 (H.B. 14, Laws of Alaska, 17th Regular Session, Territorial Legislature, Feb. 16, 1945), in the Alaska Territorial Legislature, the first anti-discrimination law in the United States; and

(B) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2020 1 dollar coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions;

(2) Zitkala-Sa, a Yankton Dakota writer and advocate, whose work during the early 20th century helped advance the citizenship, voting, and land rights of Native Americans; and

(3) Mary Jane Fate, of the Koyukon Athabascan village of Rampart, who—

(A) was the first woman to chair the Alaska Federation of Natives;

(B) was a founding member of the North American Indian Women’s Association; and

(C) was an advocate for settlement of Indigenous land claims in Alaska;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have succeeded as judges, attorneys, and legal advocates, including—

(1) Eliza “Lyda” Conley, a Wyandot-American lawyer and the first Native woman admitted to argue a case before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1909; and

(2) Emma Kaikapiolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina, a Native Hawaiian who served as the first female judge in Hawaii;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are dedicated public servants, holding important positions in the Federal judicial branch, the Federal executive branch, State governments, and local governments;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native women have served as remarkable Tribal councilwomen, Tribal court judges, and Tribal leaders, including Wilma Mankiller, who—

(1) was the first woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation;

(2) fought for Tribal self-determination and the improvement of the community infrastructure of her Tribe; and

(3) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2022 quarter honoring her legacy of leadership for Native people and women;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have also led

Native peoples through notable acts of public service, including—

(1) Kaahumanu, who was the first Native Hawaiian woman to serve as regent of the Kingdom of Hawaii; and

(2) Polly Cooper, of the Oneida Indian Nation, who—

(A) walked from central New York to Valley Forge as part of a relief mission to provide food for the Army led by General George Washington during the American Revolutionary War; and

(B) was recognized for her courage and generosity by Martha Washington;

Whereas the United States should continue to invest in the future of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women to address the barriers those women face, including—

(1) access to justice;

(2) access to health care; and

(3) opportunities for educational and economic advancement; and

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are the life givers, the culture bearers, and the caretakers of Native peoples who have made precious contributions, enriching the lives of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates and honors the successes of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women and the contributions those women have made and continue to make to the United States; and

(2) recognizes the importance of providing for the safety, and upholding the interests of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women.

SENATE RESOLUTION 149—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2023 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 149

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer, such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases might give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas, although the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States have died from asbestos-related diseases, and thousands more die every year from those diseases;

Whereas, although individuals continue to be exposed to asbestos, safety measures re-

lating to, and the prevention of, asbestos exposure have significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas a significant percentage of all victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2023 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”;;

(2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 150—HONORING THE MEMORIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SENSELESS ATTACK AT THE COVENANT SCHOOL ON MARCH 27, 2023

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 150

Whereas, on March 27, 2023, a mass shooting that claimed the lives of 6 teachers and students took place at the Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee;

Whereas these victims included 9-year-old students, Evelyn Dieckhaus, William Kinney, and Hallie Scruggs, head of the school Dr. Katherine Koonce, custodian Mike Hill, and substitute teacher Cynthia Peak;

Whereas the people of Tennessee and the United States continue to pray for the individuals who were affected by this unspeakable evil;

Whereas the Nashville community has shown strength, compassion, and unity;

Whereas officers of the Nashville Police Department and other first responders demonstrated incredible bravery preventing the loss of additional life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memories of the victims of the senseless and cowardly attack at the Covenant School on March 27, 2023, and offers heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the families, loved ones, friends, and church family of the victims;

(2) recognizes the strength and resilience of the Covenant School community, the City of Nashville, and the State of Tennessee;

(3) expresses deep gratitude to the first responders, including police officers, emergency medical personnel, fire department officials, and local, State, and Federal agents and officers, including Nashville Police Chief John Drake, whose incredible bravery prevented the loss of additional life; and

(4) applauds the heroism displayed by the officers, including officers Rex Engelbert and

Michael Collazo, who willingly ran toward danger, putting their lives on the line to save others.

SENATE RESOLUTION 151—RECOGNIZING MARCH 31, 2023, AS “CESAR CHAVEZ DAY” IN HONOR OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LEGACY OF CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 151

Whereas César Estrada Chávez spent his early years on a family farm;

Whereas, at the age of 10, César Estrada Chávez joined the thousands of migrant farmworkers laboring in fields and vineyards throughout the Southwest after a bank foreclosure resulted in the loss of the family farm;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez, after attending more than 30 elementary and middle schools and achieving an eighth grade education, left school to work full time as a farmworker to help support his family;

Whereas, at the age of 17, César Estrada Chávez entered the United States Navy and served the United States with distinction for 2 years;

Whereas, in 1948, César Estrada Chávez returned from military service to marry Helen Fabela, whom he had met while working in the vineyards of central California;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez and Helen Fabela had 8 children;

Whereas, as early as 1949, César Estrada Chávez was committed to organizing farmworkers to campaign for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, livable housing, and the outlawing of child labor;

Whereas, in 1952, César Estrada Chávez joined the Community Service Organization, a prominent Latino civil rights group, and worked with the organization to coordinate voter registration drives and conduct campaigns against discrimination in East Los Angeles;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez served as the national director of the Community Service Organization;

Whereas, in 1962, César Estrada Chávez left the Community Service Organization to establish the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was a strong believer in the principles of non-violence practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez effectively used peaceful tactics that included fasting for 25 days in 1968, 25 days in 1972, and 36 days in 1988 to call attention to the terrible working and living conditions of farmworkers in the United States;

Whereas, under the leadership of César Estrada Chávez, the United Farm Workers of America organized thousands of migrant farmworkers to fight for fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, livable housing, and respect;

Whereas the efforts of the United Farm Workers of America brought about the enactment of the landmark California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975, which sought justice and guaranteed certain protections for farmworkers;

Whereas, through his commitment to non-violence, César Estrada Chávez brought dignity and respect to the organized farmworkers and became an inspiration to, and a resource for, individuals engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world;

Whereas the influence of César Estrada Chávez extends far beyond agriculture and provides inspiration for individuals working to better human rights, empower workers, and advance the American Dream, which includes all inhabitants of the United States;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez died on April 23, 1993, at the age of 66 in San Luis, Arizona, only miles from his birthplace;

Whereas more than 50,000 individuals attended the funeral services of César Estrada Chávez in Delano, California;

Whereas César Estrada Chávez was laid to rest at the headquarters of the United Farm Workers of America, known as Nuestra Señora de La Paz, located in the Tehachapi Mountains in Keene, California;

Whereas, since the death of César Estrada Chávez, schools, parks, streets, libraries, and other public facilities, as well as awards and scholarships, have been named in his honor;

Whereas more than 10 States and dozens of communities across the United States honor the life and legacy of César Estrada Chávez on March 31st of each year;

Whereas March 31 is recognized as an official State holiday in California, Colorado, and Texas, and there is growing support to designate the birthday of César Estrada Chávez as a national day of service to memorialize his heroism;

Whereas, during his lifetime, César Estrada Chávez was a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize;

Whereas, on August 8, 1994, César Estrada Chávez was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom;

Whereas President Barack Obama first proclaimed March 31, 2010, to be “César Chávez Day” and asked all people of the United States to observe March 31 with service, community, and education programs to honor the enduring legacy of César Estrada Chávez;

Whereas, on May 5, 2012, the Navy christened and launched the dry cargo ship the USNS Cesar Chavez, in honor of César Estrada Chávez, who served in the Navy during World War II, and his role as a prominent civil rights activist;

Whereas, on October 8, 2012, President Barack Obama authorized the Secretary of the Interior to establish a César Estrada Chávez National Monument in Keene, California;

Whereas President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. most recently honored the life and service of César Estrada Chávez by proclaiming March 31, 2022, to be “César Chávez Day” and by asking all people of the United States to observe March 31 with service, community, and education programs to honor the enduring legacy of César Estrada Chávez; and

Whereas the United States should continue the efforts of César Estrada Chávez to ensure equality, justice, and dignity for all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the accomplishments and example of César Estrada Chávez, a great hero of the United States;

(2) pledges to promote the legacy of César Estrada Chávez; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to commemorate the legacy of César Estrada Chávez and to always remember his

great rallying cry: “¡Sí, se puede!”, which is Spanish for “Yes, we can!”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 152—DESIGNATING APRIL 2023 AS “NATIONAL NATIVE PLANT MONTH”

Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 152

Whereas native plants are indigenous species that have evolved and occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat; Whereas there are more than 17,000 native plant species in the United States, which include trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and wildflowers;

Whereas native plants help prevent flooding, drought, and erosion and can help restore damaged ecosystems;

Whereas native plants provide shelter as well as nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for native butterflies, insects, birds, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot;

Whereas more than 200 of the native plant species in the United States are estimated to have been lost since the early 19th century;

Whereas habitat loss and degradation, extreme weather events, and invasive species have contributed to the decline of native plants in the United States; and

Whereas native plants are essential components of resilient ecosystems and the natural heritage of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2023 as “National Native Plant Month”; and

(2) recognizes the benefits of native plants to the environment and economy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 153—RECOGNIZING THE ROLES AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CARE WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2023 AS “CARE WORKER RECOGNITION MONTH”

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 153

Whereas there is a growing need on the part of families for care, from childcare to support for older adults and individuals with chronic illnesses or disabilities;

Whereas childcare workers provide the essential service of taking care of a child’s basic needs while fostering a child’s early emotional, social, and intellectual development;

Whereas direct care workers allow older adults, individuals with disabilities, and children with complex medical needs to remain in their homes and communities and live healthy, independent, and dignified lives by providing support with critical daily tasks, such as eating, dressing, and personal hygiene;

Whereas investment in care workers is vital to labor force participation and a strong economy;

Whereas care workers give family caregivers the assurance that their homes are being looked after and that their children, parents, and loved ones are in the hands of professionals;

Whereas care work is an industry that particularly benefits women, who account for the majority of the care workforce, and that allows other women to participate in the labor force;

Whereas access to childcare and home and community-based care helps families boost their economic stability by working increased hours, taking fewer days off, and pursuing opportunities to advance their education and careers;

Whereas, when families are forced out of the labor market due to caregiving responsibilities, they will experience diminished income, access to benefits, and retirement savings over their lifetimes;

Whereas children who receive high-quality childcare are healthier, more likely to graduate from college, and more likely to have higher incomes;

Whereas substandard wages and poor working conditions continue to fuel shortages and turnover in the care industry;

Whereas the median annual earnings for full-time childcare workers and home care workers is less than \$30,000, and, as a result, nearly 1 in 6 home care workers lives in poverty, and 1 in 3 childcare workers is experiencing food insecurity;

Whereas COVID-19 both heightened the existing challenges for, and placed new stress on, care workers, leading to burnout and exhaustion;

Whereas the demand for home and community-based care services is growing, because the population of adults who are 65 and older will nearly double by 2050, and 10,000 individuals are aging into retirement per day;

Whereas 88 percent of aging adults prefer to receive long-term supports and services in home and community-based settings;

Whereas, across the United States, approximately 656,000 aging individuals and individuals with disabilities are on waiting lists to access home and community-based services through Medicaid;

Whereas home care jobs are the jobs of the future, because the home care workforce is projected to add more new jobs than any other single occupation in the United States and will add more than 1,000,000 new jobs from 2020 to 2030;

Whereas care jobs are the jobs of the future, because these jobs cannot be automated or outsourced;

Whereas turnover and shortages in the care workforce are costly to the economy, because they lead to higher costs for taxpayer-supported programs and industry employers that need to keep hiring and training new workers;

Whereas large-scale labor force exits and work disruptions due to childcare needs annually cost the economy an estimated \$122,000,000,000 in lost income, productivity, and tax revenue;

Whereas investing in care infrastructure will lead to fewer staffing shortages and higher productivity, while ensuring a more robust and stable pipeline of workers from which businesses can recruit; and

Whereas investing in direct care infrastructure specifically will result in savings, because it costs \$26,000 per individual per year to receive care in a home in contrast to \$90,000 per individual per year in a congregate setting: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of April 2023 as “Care Worker Recognition Month”;

(2) recognizes the roles and the contributions of home care workers in the United States in providing the care necessary for older adults and disabled individuals to live independently and in dignity;

(3) recognizes the role and contributions of early educators and childcare workers in the United States in providing a nurturing, enriching environment for children to grow and learn;

(4) recognizes the roles and the contributions of care workers in the United States in enabling caregivers the opportunity to pursue educational attainment and to remain in or reenter the workforce;

(5) recognizes that the care industry is crucial to economic growth; and

(6) thanks and promotes the care worker profession.

SENATE RESOLUTION 154—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 154

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility was founded in 2009 to honor the achievements and contributions of the transgender community;

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is designed to be encompassing of a large community of diverse individuals;

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is a time to celebrate the lives and achievements of transgender individuals around the world and to recognize the bravery it takes to live openly and authentically;

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is also a time to raise awareness of the discrimination and violence that the transgender community still faces, which make it difficult and even unsafe or fatal for many transgender individuals to be visible;

Whereas the transgender community has suffered oppression disproportionately in many ways, including through—

(1) discrimination in employment and in the workplace;

(2) discrimination in educational institutions; and

(3) violence;

Whereas forms of transgender oppression are exacerbated for transgender individuals of color, individuals with limited resources, immigrants, individuals living with disabilities, justice-involved individuals, and transgender youth;

Whereas a record number of anti-transgender State bills have been introduced in recent years, including more than 700 anti-transgender bills during the years 2021, 2022, and 2023, targeting areas including—

(1) education, including bans on books and curricula relating to gender identity;

(2) health care; and

(3) identification documents, including restrictions on realignment or correction of

birth certificates and other forms of identification documents;

Whereas the transgender community has made it clear that transgender individuals will not be erased and deserve to be accorded all of the rights and opportunities made available to all;

Whereas, before the creation of the United States, Indigenous two-spirit, transgender individuals existed across North America in many Native American communities, with specific terms in their own languages for these individuals and the social and spiritual roles they fulfilled in their communities, and, while many traditions were lost or actively suppressed by the efforts of missionaries, government agents, boarding schools, and settlers, these traditions have experienced a revival in recent decades;

Whereas transgender individuals continue to tell their stories and push for full equity under the law;

Whereas the civil rights struggle has been strengthened and inspired by the leadership of the transgender community;

Whereas transgender individuals in the United States have made significant strides in elected office and political representation;

Whereas not fewer than 29 States have at least 1 transgender elected official at the State or municipal level;

Whereas there are 17 transgender, gender-nonconforming, or nonbinary elected officials in State legislatures, specifically—

- (1) Gerri Cannon;
- (2) Emily Dievendorf;
- (3) Leigh Finke;
- (4) S.J. Howell;
- (5) Dominique Johnson;
- (6) Alicia Kozlowski;
- (7) Sarah McBride;
- (8) Samantha Montano;
- (9) Alissandra Murray;
- (10) DeShanna Neal;
- (11) Danica Roem;
- (12) James Roesener;
- (13) Taylor Small;
- (14) Izzy Smith-Wade-El;
- (15) Brianna Titone;
- (16) Mauree Turner; and
- (17) Zooney Zephyr;

Whereas voters in the State of Virginia elected Danica Roem to be the first openly transgender female State legislator in the United States;

Whereas voters in the State of Delaware elected Sarah McBride as the first openly transgender State senator in the United States;

Whereas voters in the State of Oklahoma elected Mauree Turner as the first openly nonbinary State legislator in the United States;

Whereas, in the State of Illinois, Mike Simmons became the first openly gender-nonconforming State senator in the United States;

Whereas voters in the State of New Hampshire elected James Roesener as the first openly transgender male State legislator in the United States;

Whereas 8 States have at least 1 transgender jurist on the bench;

Whereas Admiral Rachel L. Levine, M.D., was the first openly transgender Federal official confirmed by the Senate and is the highest ranking openly transgender Federal Government official in the history of the United States;

Whereas more transgender individuals are appearing in movies, on television, and in all forms of media, raising awareness of their experiences and the importance of living authentically;

Whereas transgender individuals have created culture and history as artists, musicians, organizers, and leaders; and

Whereas International Transgender Day of Visibility is a time to celebrate the

transgender community around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of International Transgender Day of Visibility;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe International Transgender Day of Visibility with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities;

(3) celebrates the accomplishments and leadership of transgender individuals; and

(4) recognizes the bravery of the transgender community as it fights for equal dignity and respect.

SENATE RESOLUTION 155—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NEGOTIATE STRONG, INCLUSIVE, AND FORWARD-LOOKING RULES ON DIGITAL TRADE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY WITH LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES AS PART OF ITS BROADER TRADE AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES VALUES OF DEMOCRACY, RULE OF LAW, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, HUMAN AND WORKER RIGHTS, PRIVACY, AND A FREE AND OPEN INTERNET ARE AT THE VERY CORE OF DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 155

Whereas over half of the world's population, totaling more than 5,000,000,000 people, use the internet;

Whereas the digital economy encompasses the economic and social activity from billions of online connections among people, businesses, devices, and data as a result of the internet, mobile technology, and the internet of things;

Whereas the Bureau of Economic Analysis found that the digital economy contributed nearly 10.2 percent of United States gross domestic product and supported 7,800,000 United States jobs in 2020;

Whereas the technology-commerce ecosystem added 1,400,000 jobs between 2017 and 2021, and served as the main job-creating sector in 40 States;

Whereas United States jobs supported by the digital economy have sustained annual wage growth at a rate of 5.9 percent since 2010, as compared to a 4.2 percent for all jobs;

Whereas, in 2020, United States exports of digital services surpassed \$520,000,000,000, accounting for more than half of all United States services exports and generating a digital services trade surplus for the United States of \$214,000,000,000;

Whereas digital trade bolsters the digital economy by enabling the sale of goods on the internet and the supply of online services across borders and depends on the free flow of data across borders to promote commerce, manufacturing, and innovation;

Whereas digital trade has become increasingly vital to United States workers and businesses of all sizes, including the countless small and medium-sized enterprises that use digital technology, data flows, and e-commerce to export goods and services across the world;

Whereas digital trade has advanced entrepreneurship opportunities for women, people

of color, and individuals from otherwise underrepresented backgrounds and enabled the formation of innovative start-ups;

Whereas international supply chains are becoming increasingly digitized and data driven and businesses in a variety of industries, such as construction, healthcare, transportation, and aerospace, invested heavily in digital supply chain technologies in 2020;

Whereas United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai said, “[T]here is no bright line separating digital trade from the digital economy—or the ‘traditional’ economy for that matter. Nearly every aspect of our economy has been digitized to some degree.”;

Whereas industries outside of the technology sector, such as manufacturing and agriculture, are integrating digital technology into their businesses in order to increase efficiency, improve safety, reach new customers, and remain globally competitive;

Whereas the increasing reliance on digital technologies has modernized legacy processes, accelerated workflows, increased access to information and services, and strengthened security in a variety of industries, leading to better health, environmental, and safety outcomes;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased uptake and reliance on digital technologies, data flows, and e-commerce;

Whereas 90 percent of adults in the United States say that the internet has been essential or important for them personally during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas United States families, workers, and business owners have seen how vital access to the internet has been to daily life, as work, education, medicine, and communication with family and friends have shifted increasingly online;

Whereas many individuals and families, especially in rural and Tribal communities, struggle to participate in the digital economy because of a lack of access to a reliable and affordable internet connection;

Whereas new developments in technology must be deployed with consideration to the unique access challenges of rural, urban underserved, and vulnerable communities;

Whereas digital trade has the power to help level the playing field and uplift those in traditionally unrepresented or underrepresented communities;

Whereas countries have negotiated international rules governing digital trade in various bilateral and plurilateral agreements, but those rules remain fragmented, and no multilateral agreement on digital trade exists within the World Trade Organization;

Whereas the United States, through free trade agreements or other digital agreements, has been a leader in developing a set of rules and standards on digital governance and e-commerce that has helped allies and partners of the United States unlock the full economic and social potential of digital trade;

Whereas Congress recognizes the need for agreements on digital trade, as indicated by its support for a robust digital trade chapter in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement;

Whereas other countries are operating under their own digital rules, some of which are contrary to democratic values shared by the United States and many allies and partners of the United States;

Whereas those countries are attempting to advance their own digital rules on a global scale;

Whereas examples of the plethora of non-tariff barriers to digital trade that have emerged around the globe include—

(1) overly restrictive data localization requirements and limitations on cross border

data flows that do not achieve legitimate public policy objectives;

(2) intellectual property rights infringement;

(3) policies that make market access contingent on forced technology transfers or voluntary transfers subject to coercive terms;

(4) web filtering;

(5) economic espionage;

(6) cybercrime exposure; and

(7) government-directed theft of trade secrets;

Whereas certain countries are pursuing or have implemented digital policies that unfairly discriminate against innovative United States technology companies and United States workers that create and deliver digital products and services;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China is currently advancing a model for digital governance and the digital economy domestically and abroad through its Digital Silk Road Initiative that permits censorship, surveillance, human and worker rights abuses, forced technology transfers, and data flow restrictions at the expense of human and worker rights, privacy, the free flow of data, and an open internet;

Whereas the 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of the Department of State highlighted significant human rights issues committed by the People's Republic of China in the digital realm, including “arbitrary interference with privacy; pervasive and intrusive technical surveillance and monitoring; serious restrictions on free expression, the press, and the internet, including physical attacks on and criminal prosecution of journalists, lawyers, writers, bloggers, dissidents, petitioners, and others as well as their family members, and censorship and site blocking”;

Whereas the United States discourages digital authoritarianism, including practices that undermine human and worker rights and result in other social and economic coercion;

Whereas allies and trading partners of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region have urged the United States to deepen economic engagement in the region by negotiating rules on digital trade and technology standards;

Whereas the digital economy has provided new opportunities for economic development, entrepreneurship, and growth in developing countries around the world;

Whereas negotiating strong digital trade principles and commitments with allies and partners across the globe enables the United States to unite like-minded economies around common standards and ensure that principles of democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech, human and worker rights, privacy, and a free and open internet are at the very core of digital governance;

Whereas United States leadership and substantive engagement is necessary to ensure that global digital rules reflect United States values so that workers are treated fairly, small businesses can compete and win in the global economy, and consumers are guaranteed the right to privacy and security;

Whereas the United States supports rules that reduce digital trade barriers, promote free expression and the free flow of information, enhance privacy protections, protect sensitive information, defend human and worker rights, prohibit forced technology transfer, and promote digitally enabled commerce; and

Whereas the United States supports efforts to cooperate with allies and trading partners to mitigate the risks of cyberattacks, address potentially illegal or deceptive business activities online, promote financial in-

clusion and digital workforce skills, and develop rules to govern the use of artificial intelligence and other emerging and future technologies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should negotiate strong, inclusive, forward-looking, and enforceable rules on digital trade and the digital economy with like-minded countries as part of a broader trade and economic strategy to address digital barriers and ensure that the United States values of democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech, human and worker rights, privacy, and a free and open internet are at the very core of the digital world and advanced technology;

(2) in conducting such negotiations, the United States must—

(A) pursue digital trade rules that—

(i) serve the best interests of workers, consumers, and small and medium-sized enterprises;

(ii) empower United States workers;

(iii) fuel wage growth; and

(iv) lead to materially positive economic outcomes for all people in the United States;

(B) ensure that any future agreement prevents the adoption of non-democratic, coercive, or overly restrictive policies that would be obstacles to a free and open internet and harm the ability of the e-commerce marketplace to continue to grow and thrive;

(C) coordinate sufficient trade-related assistance to ensure that developing countries can improve their capacity and benefit from increased digital trade; and

(D) consult closely with all relevant stakeholders, including workers, consumers, small and medium-sized enterprises, civil society groups, and human rights advocates; and

(3) with respect to any negotiations for an agreement facilitating digital trade, the United States Trade Representative and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies must—

(A) consult closely and on a timely basis with the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives about the substance of those negotiations and the requisite legal authority to bind the United States to any such agreement;

(B) keep both committees fully apprised of those negotiations; and

(C) provide to those committees, including staff with appropriate security clearances, adequate access to the text of the negotiating proposal of the United States before presenting the proposal in the negotiations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 156—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO RELEASE UNITED STATES CITIZEN PAUL WHELAN

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

S. RES. 156

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is a resident of Novi, Michigan, and a veteran of the Marine Corps;

Whereas, on December 22, 2018, Paul Whelan traveled to Moscow, Russia, for the wedding of a personal friend;

Whereas, on December 28, 2018, the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation arrested Paul Whelan at the Metropol Hotel in Moscow and charged him with espionage;

Whereas the Federal Security Service has never provided any evidence of supposed wrongdoing with respect to Paul Whelan;

Whereas Paul Whelan was imprisoned in Lefortovo Prison and was held in pretrial detention at the prison for more than 19 months after his arrest;

Whereas a Moscow court extended Paul Whelan's pretrial detention multiple times without publicly presenting justification or evidence of wrongdoing;

Whereas even Vladimir Zherebenkov, the lawyer appointed by the Federal Security Service to represent Paul Whelan, said on May 24, 2019, "[The Federal Security Service] always roll[s] out what they have, but in this case, we've seen nothing concrete against Whelan in five months. That means there is nothing.";

Whereas then-United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation, Jon Huntsman, responded on April 12, 2019, to a question about the detention of Paul Whelan, "If the Russians have evidence, they should bring it forward. We have seen nothing. If there was a case, I think the evidence would have been brought forward by now.";

Whereas then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on May 14, 2019, and urged him to ensure United States citizens are not unjustly held abroad;

Whereas the Kremlin has refused to provide Paul Whelan with full access to his lawyer, and the so-called evidence against Paul Whelan and any evidence he has seen is in Russian, a language Whelan does not read or speak;

Whereas the Lefortovo pretrial detention facility and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to provide medical treatment for Paul Whelan's medical condition, despite being aware of its worsening state, resulting in emergency surgery on May 29, 2020;

Whereas Paul Whelan was wrongfully convicted on June 15, 2020, and sentenced to 16 years in a Russian labor camp by a three-judge panel, in a trial witnessed by United States Ambassador John Sullivan, who referred to the trial as "a mockery of justice" due to the denial of a fair trial and the exclusion of defense witnesses;

Whereas, in August 2020, on an unknown day, Paul Whelan was secretly transferred to camp IK-17, a penal labor camp in Mordovia, Russia, where he is forced to work 6 days a week in a garment factory;

Whereas Ambassador John Sullivan, while visiting Paul Whelan at the labor camp in Mordovia, stated that "Russian authorities . . . have never shown the world evidence of his guilt," and reiterated his call for the Russian authorities to correct this injustice and release Paul Whelan;

Whereas Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on February 4, 2021, and urged him to release United States citizens detained in the Russian Federation, including Paul Whelan and Trevor Reed, so that they are able to return home to their families in the United States;

Whereas, on July 23, 2021, the Senate unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution calling for the release of Whelan;

Whereas, in August 2021, Whelan was released from a month-long stay in a solitary confinement at the IK-17 penal colony in the region of Mordovia;

Whereas Secretary Blinken "pressed" the Kremlin to accept an offer by the United States that would bring Paul Whelan and Brittney Griner home in July 2022;

Whereas, in November 2022, Paul Whelan was unable to contact his family for more than a week, during which time Russian authorities claimed Whelan had been sent to the hospital;

Whereas Russian authorities refused to release Paul Whelan as part of the prisoner exchange in December 2022;

Whereas Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated, "His detention remains unacceptable, and we continue to press for his immediate release at every opportunity"; and

Whereas President Biden stated that his administration had "not forgotten about Paul Whelan," and promised to "keep negotiating in good faith for his release": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) implores the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Paul Whelan from imprisonment;

(2) implores the Government of the Russian Federation to comply with international treaty obligations and provide unrestricted consular access to Paul Whelan while he remains imprisoned in the Russian Federation;

(3) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to provide Paul Whelan and all other political prisoners their constitutionally afforded due process rights and universally recognized human rights;

(4) expresses the sincere thanks of the United States to the Governments of Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom for their support in attempting to release Paul Whelan; and

(5) expresses sympathy to the family of Paul Whelan for this travesty to justice and personal hardship and expresses hope that their ordeal can soon be brought to a just end.

SENATE RESOLUTION 157—COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. Kaine, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 157

Whereas, 25 years ago, on April 10, 1998, the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom signed the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the "Belfast Agreement", giving birth to a new era of peace in Northern Ireland;

Whereas former Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell, Jr. of Maine, was appointed by President William J. Clinton to be United States Special Envoy for Northern Ireland and chaired the peace negotiations, which produced the Good Friday Agreement, marking the end of decades of conflict in Northern Ireland;

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement stands as a historic and groundbreaking success that remains critical to peace in the future;

Whereas the goals of the Good Friday Agreement remain to bring a new era of devolved government and democracy to Northern Ireland, end violence, and ensure enduring peace and stability for the people of the island of Ireland;

Whereas a restored, fully functioning, Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive are essential to the facilitation of new opportunities and prosperity for the people of Northern Ireland;

Whereas Congress continues to support the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent implementation agreements and arrangements in order to support peace on the island of Ireland;

Whereas the new Windsor Framework, agreed in principle on February 27, 2023, by the United Kingdom and the European Union, will help ensure trade within the United Kingdom remains smooth, while protecting Northern Ireland's place in the United Kingdom and safeguarding its sovereignty as well as maintaining an open border on the island of Ireland and protecting the integrity of the European Union's single market;

Whereas, despite the historic progress in implementing the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Stormont House Agreement agreed to in December 2014, important issues remain unresolved in Northern Ireland, including the passage of a bill of rights, securing justice for all victims of violence, including violence by state and nonstate actors, and reducing sectarian divisions and promoting reconciliation;

Whereas the Good Friday Agreement ("Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity") recognizes "the importance of respect, understanding and tolerance in relation to linguistic diversity," and, in 2022, the United Kingdom Parliament passed the Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Act providing for the official recognition of the status of the Irish language in Northern Ireland, and for the appointment of an Irish Language Commissioner and a Commissioner for the Ulster Scots and the Ulster British Tradition;

Whereas Congress played a prominent role in support of negotiations of the Good Friday Agreement and has taken a leading role in promoting peace on the island of Ireland more broadly;

Whereas Congress stands steadfastly committed to supporting the peaceful resolution of any and all political challenges in Northern Ireland; and

Whereas the United States has a special relationship with the United Kingdom, including partnership on diplomatic, security, trade, economic, and foreign assistance issues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement on April 10, 1998, and celebrates the historic compromise that marked the beginning of a new era of peaceful political engagement in Northern Ireland;

(2) welcomes the Windsor Framework agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union, and urges all parties to continue to support peace on the island of Ireland and the principles, objectives, and commitments of the Good Friday Agreement;

(3) urges all parties in Northern Ireland to recommit urgently to power-sharing and restoration of a fully functioning Northern Ireland Assembly and Executive;

(4) expresses support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements, including the Windsor Framework;

(5) urges all parties in Northern Ireland to work collectively to ensure the implementation of all commitments of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements so that all of the institutions of the Good Friday Agreement can operate successfully and sustainably and that ongoing political challenges can be overcome;

(6) urges the United Kingdom Parliament and the European Union to support and implement in good faith the new Windsor Framework in order to ensure trade continues to flow smoothly within the United Kingdom and maintain an open border on the island of Ireland, while protecting the European Union's single market;

(7) supports the passage of a bill of rights for Northern Ireland and the principle of consent in relation to the right of self-determination for all the people on the island of Ireland, in line with the provisions of the Good Friday Agreement;

(8) calls for continuing attention and action to resolve the injustices of past violence, including violence by state and nonstate actors;

(9) observes that victims, survivors, and family members of victims of Troubles-era violence must be able to fully pursue justice;

(10) encourages renewed attention to educational and cultural efforts that will ensure the rich language, literature, and arts of Northern Ireland endure and are not diminished, in line with the Good Friday Agreement commitments on “Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity”;

(11) expresses support for the new Windsor Framework, part of the European Union-United Kingdom Withdrawal Agreement, which ensures through international agreement that no “hard border” will be reintroduced on the island of Ireland;

(12) greatly values the close relationships the United States shares with both the United Kingdom and Ireland; and

(13) takes into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met as the United States seeks to negotiate a mutually advantageous and comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 58. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs.

SA 59. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 60. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 61. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 62. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 63. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 64. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 65. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 66. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 67. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 58. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill S. 870, to amend

the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 59. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ GAO AUDIT AND REPORT ON FUNDING TO ENTITIES IN CHINA.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of and issue a publicly available report on Federal funds provided to entities or organizations operating in or incorporated in the People's Republic of China, including which Federal agency or program provided such funds.

SA 60. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 17, strike “funds.” and insert “funds and on barriers that prevent or limit fire departments from effectively fighting fires, including barriers from Federal rules and regulations.”.

SA 61. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 8. GAO AUDIT REGARDING INITIATING AND MANAGING PRESCRIBED FIRES.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an audit of, and issue a publicly available report regarding, barriers fire departments, fire practitioners, and government agencies face in conducting prescribed fires, including from Federal rules and regulations.

SA 62. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE AUDIT.

The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall conduct an audit

of the fraud, waste, and abuse within the United States Fire Administration, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program under section 33(c) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(c)), and the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Program under section 33(d) of that Act (15 U.S.C. 2229(d)) and, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, issue a report on the effectiveness of the United States Fire Administration and those grant programs.

SA 63. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 2, line 12, strike “\$95,000,000” and all that follows through “\$3,420,000” on line 13 and insert “\$76,490,890 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2030, of which \$2,753,672”.

SA 64. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ RESTRICTION ON THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO ENTITIES THAT INVEST IN CERTAIN VEHICLES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered entity” means any entity that invests sums that are set aside for pensions of employees and invests those sums in any mutual fund, exchange-traded fund, or other investment vehicle that invests in bonds or equities.

(3) ESG CRITERIA.—The term “ESG criteria” means—

(A) environmental criteria, including—

(i) emissions, climate change, sustainability, environmental justice, pollution, or conservation; or

(ii) whether a company is engaged in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy;

(B) social criteria, including—

(i) diversity criteria, including—

(I) the sex, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status of the owners, board members, employees, or customers of companies; or

(II) whether the board members, employees, or customers described in clause (i) are members of a labor organization; or

(ii) whether a company is engaged in the manufacture, transportation, or sale of firearms, firearms accessories, or ammunition;

(C) political criteria, including the perceived or actual political affiliations, donations, or associations of companies; and

(D) criteria for corporate governance standards that differ from the applicable standards required under State and Federal law, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) EXCHANGE-TRADED FUND.—The term “exchange-traded fund” has the meaning given the term in section 270.6c-11 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(5) LABOR ORGANIZATION.—The term “labor organization” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152).

(b) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, a covered entity that receives assistance provided under the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) as a recipient or subrecipient shall, not later than 30 days after receiving the assistance, request a statement of intent from the managers of the covered entity that would expressly declare the intent of the managers to comply, or not to comply, with a requirement that the pensions of firefighters not be invested based on ESG criteria.

(c) SUBMISSION TO FEMA.—Not later than 90 days after receiving a request under subsection (b), the managers of the covered entity shall submit to the Administrator the statement of intent described in subsection (b).

(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Upon receipt of a statement of intent under subsection (c), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of a Senate a statement detailing which managers of covered entities do not intend to comply with the requirement described in subsection (b).

SA 65. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND FOREST SERVICE RULE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ANALYSIS.—The term “analysis” means any analysis with respect to a proposed action covered by the rule issued under subsection (b) that the Director of the Bureau of Land Management or the Chief of the Forest Service, as applicable, determines to be necessary for the consideration of the proposed action under Federal law, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—the term “Federal land means”—

(A) land of the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))); and

(B) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)).

(b) ISSUANCE OF RULE.—Subject to subsection (d), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service, acting jointly, shall issue a rule identifying actions described in subsection (c) that, except in extraordinary circumstances, as described in the rule, are categorically excluded from requirements for environmental assessments or environmental impact statements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(c) DESCRIPTION OF ACTION.—An action referred to in subsection (b) is an action that may be routinely undertaken on Federal land without fear of significant environmental impact to protect personal property on or adjacent to the Federal land from wild-fire, including creating fire breaks capable of ensuring the protection of property.

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—A rule issued under subsection (b) shall provide that—

(1) any person possessing applicable property may provide to the head of the applicable Federal agency undertaking the analysis all, or a portion of, the amounts necessary to complete the analysis;

(2) any person possessing applicable property, or an agent of that person—

(A) may prepare an analysis of a proposed action covered by the rule; and

(B) if approved by the Federal agency in accordance with paragraph (3), may carry out the proposed action;

(3) the head of an applicable Federal agency shall review the analysis prepared by a person possessing applicable property under paragraph (2)(A) to determine whether the proposed action is eligible for a categorical exclusion under the rule, and if the head of the Federal agency finds in the affirmative, shall approve the analysis; and

(4) any person carrying out an action covered by the rule on Federal land shall be liable for impacts to resources resulting from—

(A) activities not described in the applicable analysis; or

(B) any negligent activity of the person.

SA 66. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. ____ . BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND FOREST SERVICE RULE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ANALYSIS.—The term “analysis” means any analysis with respect to a proposed action covered by the rule issued under subsection (b) that the Director of the Bureau of Land Management or the Chief of the Forest Service, as applicable, determines to be necessary for the consideration of the proposed action under Federal law, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—the term “Federal land means”—

(A) land of the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))); and

(B) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)).

(3) FIREBREAK.—The term “firebreak” means a permanent or temporary strip of ground cleared of vegetation, thinned of vegetation, or planted with fire-resistant vegetation intended to stop the spread of fire.

(b) ISSUANCE OF RULE.—Subject to subsection (d), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service, acting jointly, shall issue a rule identifying actions described in subsection (c) that, except in extraordinary circumstances, as described in the rule, are categorically excluded from requirements for environmental assessments or environmental impact statements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(c) DESCRIPTION OF ACTION.—An action referred to in subsection (b) is an action that may be routinely undertaken on Federal land without fear of significant environmental impact to protect personal property

on or adjacent to the Federal land from wild-fire, including creating firebreaks capable of ensuring the protection of property.

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—A rule issued under subsection (b) shall provide that—

(1) any person possessing applicable property may provide to the head of the applicable Federal agency undertaking the analysis all, or a portion of, the amounts necessary to complete the analysis;

(2) any person possessing applicable property, or an agent of that person—

(A) may prepare an analysis of a proposed action covered by the rule; and

(B) if approved by the Federal agency in accordance with paragraph (3), may carry out the proposed action;

(3) the head of an applicable Federal agency shall review the analysis prepared by a person possessing applicable property under paragraph (2)(A) to determine whether the proposed action is eligible for a categorical exclusion under the rule, and if the head of the Federal agency finds in the affirmative, shall approve the analysis; and

(4) any person carrying out an action covered by the rule on Federal land shall be liable for impacts to resources resulting from—

(A) activities not described in the applicable analysis; or

(B) any negligent activity of the person.

SA 67. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . TRANSFER OF UNOBLIGATED COVID FUNDS.

(a) COVERED FUNDS.—The term “covered funds” means amounts made available under—

(1) the Coronavirus Relief Fund established under section 601 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801); and

(2) the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund programs established under section 602 or 603 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 802, 803).

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF FUNDS TO TRANSFER.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall identify unobligated covered funds that the Secretary determines appropriate for transfer to the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration under subsection (c).

(c) TRANSFER.—Effective on the date that is 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the unobligated covered funds identified by the Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (b) shall be transferred to and merged with other amounts made available to the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to carry out section 17(g)(1)(N) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)(N)).

(d) AVAILABILITY AND USE.—Amounts transferred under subsection (c) shall remain available until expended.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KAINE. 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 AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 9:30 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, March 30, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY, WASTE MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Tim VanReken, a fellow in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 118th Congress.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023, THROUGH MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned, to convene for pro forma sessions with no business being conducted on the following dates and times: Monday, April 3, at 12 noon, Thursday, April 6, at 10 a.m., Monday, April 10, at 11:30 a.m., and Thursday, April 13, at 8:45 a.m.; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, April 13, it next convene at 3 p.m. on Monday, April 17; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their

use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Plumb nomination; and that cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.; further, that the filing deadline for the first-degree amendments to S. 870 be at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, April 17.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 3, 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 3:26 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 3, 2023.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

DOUGLAS DZIAK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 26, 2024, VICE DANA BAIOTTO, RESIGNED.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

NISHA DESAI BISWAL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

HERRO MUSTAFA GARG, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT.

RICHARD H. RILEY IV, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA.

MARK TONER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DERIN S. DURHAM

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. BRANDI B. PEASLEY
COL. JOHN D. RHODES
COL. EARL C. SPARKS IV

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 7036 AND 7073:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM GREEN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MARK T. SIMERLY

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. RYAN P. HERITAGE

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. CRAIG A. CLAPPERTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) DARIN K. VIA

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

KARA MIRIAM ABRAMSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DANE DIXSON ALLEN-BRYANT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MICHELLE LEE ALMEIDA, OF VIRGINIA
JUAN JOSE APARCIO, OF CALIFORNIA
KEVIN SILAS BARLOW, OF NORTH CAROLINA
WILLIAM A. BASKERVILLE III, OF COLORADO
TYRA ZURI HAYES BEAMAN, OF VIRGINIA
RAMI LOWELL BLAIR, OF RHODE ISLAND
MIGUEL ALEXANDER BOLUDA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SAMANTHA R. BONENCLARK, OF FLORIDA

EMMA O. BROWN, OF VIRGINIA

DANIEL JOHN BUCHMAN, OF NEW YORK

CHRISTIAN JAMES BURSTALL, OF TEXAS

SHAWN C. BUSH, JR., OF NEW YORK

RUNDALL E. BUSSMAN, OF CALIFORNIA

JUNY G. CANENGUEZ, OF VIRGINIA

MICHAEL G. CARMOTCHE, OF VIRGINIA

CAITLIN MARIE CASSOT, OF WASHINGTON

EDUARDO CASTILLO, JR., OF TEXAS

LILLIAN KATHARINE CHREKY, OF VIRGINIA

ANTHONY CYPRIAN CHRISTIAN, OF WASHINGTON

KAREEN A. CLARKE, OF VIRGINIA

AARON K. COATS, OF VIRGINIA

KEMPTON J. COX, OF IDAHO

JARROD CHRISTOPHER CROCKETT, OF MARYLAND

JOHN R. DANILUK, OF FLORIDA

DANIEL ALAN DEGROFF, OF FLORIDA

ALEXANDRA R. DEL SOLAR, OF MASSACHUSETTS

SUMYA V. DEVA, OF CALIFORNIA

ANIK A. DEVOLDER, OF MASSACHUSETTS

KELSY J. JOCELYN VICTORIA DEVRIES, OF VIRGINIA

SURAJA IMANI DIGGS, OF NEW YORK

SHRISTA L. DIVIS, OF FLORIDA

BENNETT K. DOMINGUES, OF VIRGINIA

JUSTIN A. DOOR, OF VIRGINIA

NURMUKHAMEL A. ELDOBOV, OF OHIO

GREGORY R. ELROD, OF SOUTH CAROLINA

VERONIKA B. EMONS, OF VIRGINIA

CHRISTOPHER FRANKLIN, OF MARYLAND

NEAL B. FRAZIER, OF MARYLAND

KATIE VANESSA GARAY, OF VIRGINIA

BEAU PAUL GARRETT, OF WASHINGTON

JONATHAN MCDONOUGH GEARING, OF KANSAS

KUROS GHAFARI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

EMILY RUTH GOODELL, OF NEW JERSEY

LUTHER BROADWATER GOVE, OF FLORIDA

FRANCIS GRESS, OF VIRGINIA

CARL FREDERICK HAESSLER, OF VIRGINIA

ERIC R. HALL, OF VIRGINIA

AMEERA HUMANA HAMID, OF WISCONSIN

ALLISON KELLY HAUGEN, OF WASHINGTON

MICHAEL P. HEISE, OF MASSACHUSETTS

VICTORIA REGINA HILL, OF UTAH

MATTHEW H. HINSON, OF NEW JERSEY

DYLAN R. HOBY, OF WISCONSIN

LAUREN E. HOLT, OF VIRGINIA

JESSE J. HONG, OF NEW YORK

LAUREN KIMBERLY HOVIS, OF NORTH CAROLINA

TONY HUDSON, JR., OF GEORGIA

TERRELL DWAYNE HUNT, OF INDIANA

SAMANTHA MARIE JACKSON, OF VIRGINIA

BENJAMIN ALLEN JACOBS, OF VIRGINIA

MICHAEL PATRICK JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA

NATHAN R. JOHNSON, OF MINNESOTA

STEVEN L. JOHNSON, OF VIRGINIA

BENJAMIN JOHNSON JONES, OF VIRGINIA

GREGORY K. JOY, OF FLORIDA

ALAN WILLIAM KATZ, OF VIRGINIA

HAYLEY C. KING, OF PENNSYLVANIA

JUSTINE A. KING, OF NEW YORK

JOHANNA L. KNOCH, OF COLORADO

PETER ANTHONY KRIVICICH-HARTSFELD, OF VIRGINIA

JAY A. LAEDLEIN, OF VIRGINIA

WILLIAM A. LAGANA, OF VIRGINIA

LAUREN ELIZABETH LAGLER, OF VIRGINIA

SEAN P. LANE, OF VIRGINIA

SEAN M. LAWLOW, OF VIRGINIA

CHAD MICHAEL MADDOX, OF GEORGIA

BRENDAN ELIAS MAGNUSON, OF VIRGINIA

JAMES J. MCALPIN, OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDER PAUL MCKENNEY, OF MAINE

RYAN MCKINNEY, OF VIRGINIA

MARC ANDREW MONROIG, OF NEW YORK

LARISSA M. MOSELEY, OF VIRGINIA

VIENNA MUNRO, OF TENNESSEE

STEVEN PAUL NICHOLSON, OF FLORIDA

MATTHEW NELSON NUZZO, OF VIRGINIA

JOHN L. OMEALLY II, OF VIRGINIA
CHRISTEL OOMEN, OF OREGON
KELSEY ANN ORR, OF NORTH CAROLINA
NOOR BADRELDIN OWEIS, OF TEXAS
JENIFER ANN PARAS, OF VIRGINIA
EVAN H. PHILLIPS, OF VIRGINIA
KAYLA W. PLOFCHAN, OF VIRGINIA
THERESA E. PURCELL, OF VIRGINIA
JAMES E. QUEEN, OF VIRGINIA
ZOHAB RASHEED, OF TEXAS
GREGORY J. REDMANN, OF VIRGINIA
LILLAS ACACIA REEDER, OF SOUTH CAROLINA
TRISTAN MICHAEL REITZ, OF VIRGINIA
NICOLE R. ROBERTS, OF MASSACHUSETTS
KALIF R. ROBINSON, OF GEORGIA
VICTOR RAUL ROBLES, JR., OF VIRGINIA
NATALIE R. ROOKS, OF SOUTH DAKOTA
LUIS M. SANCHEZ SUAREZ, OF VIRGINIA
SEAN R. SCOTT, OF VIRGINIA
MEHEK SETHI, OF TENNESSEE
NATHAN SLATER, OF VIRGINIA
CHADWICK IVAN SMITH, OF OHIO
ANTHONY SRDAR, OF VIRGINIA
LASEANTA E. STAFFORD, OF TEXAS
JOHN T. STEELE, OF OHIO
MARY E. STERN, OF VIRGINIA
MICHAEL A. STOCK, OF FLORIDA
KIERSTEN L. STRACHAN, OF MINNESOTA
AMANDA M. SWENTY, OF VIRGINIA
YODIT TEWELDE, OF VIRGINIA
DAMIR TOKIC, OF GEORGIA
MINH H. TOKUYAMA, OF CALIFORNIA
ANDREW SCOTT TRAGER, OF VIRGINIA
RYAN L. TRUNK, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
VALERIE N. TUCKER, OF FLORIDA
JUAN PAULO VARELA, OF CALIFORNIA
HELEN FRANCES VON GOHREN, OF MARYLAND
CALE F. WAGNER, OF VIRGINIA
DOUGLAS B. WARNER, OF COLORADO
STEVEN DUANE WEBER, OF OHIO
MICHAEL J. WEBER, OF MINNESOTA
KELSEY L. WILLIAMS, OF CALIFORNIA
CHELSEA A. WILSON, OF MARYLAND
JORDAN L. WILSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
KENT YAN, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

PARIS Y. ASAD, OF OHIO

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

ALI ABDI, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

MARK PETRY, OF INDIANA
KIMBERLY SAWATZKI, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

WILLIAM CZAJKOWSKI, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

JOHN CORONADO, OF CALIFORNIA
NICOLE DESILVIS, OF PENNSYLVANIA
ERIC OLSON, OF CALIFORNIA
RICARDO PELAEZ, OF FLORIDA
CATHERINE SPILLMAN, OF NEW MEXICO
EVERETT WAKAI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 30, 2023:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

LAURA TAYLOR-KALE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD R. VERMA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR MANAGEMENT AND RESOURCES.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF SHANE K. DOTY, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SPEIGHT H. CAROON AND ENDING WITH TEINA D. STALLINGS LILLY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BRANDI BARNARD KING, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DANIEL S. MCPHERSON AND ENDING WITH KHURRAM M. SHAHZAD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW J. ANDRADE AND ENDING WITH JILL M. THOMAS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND AP-

PEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ADAM JAMES COLE AND ENDING WITH MARY ZACHARIAH KURIAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERIC K. WILKE AND ENDING WITH NED L. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KELLI M. BERMUDEZ AND ENDING WITH JENNY L. WYLIE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LISA CAROL GIUGLIANO AND ENDING WITH RYAN LEE RAND, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSEPH CATALINO, JR. AND ENDING WITH MEILING C. TAYLOR, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES M. BERSHINSKY AND ENDING WITH LISA ANN SELTMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH GARY MONROE BOUTZ, JR. AND ENDING WITH JOLANA ANN KUBICEK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF JOHN CHARLES EASLEY, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT M. ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH DONNA M. WHITTAKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NICOLE DYAN DAVID AND ENDING WITH CARRIE L. WALTZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KARRIE MEGAN BEM AND ENDING WITH JEFFREY W. SCOHEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DOUGLAS A. COLLINS AND ENDING WITH JOSE Y. MUNOZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MARQUIS A. T. SMITH, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES D. AKERS II AND ENDING WITH JONATHAN R. ZITO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DAVID I. AMAR AND ENDING WITH SHAUN MICHAEL ZABEL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MAXIMILIAN S. LEE, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TOLULOPE O. AKINSANYA AND ENDING WITH D016483, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SASHI A. ZICKFOOSE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF HOWARD F. STANLEY, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BOBBY J. CHUN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOSHUA G. GLONEK AND ENDING WITH KELVIN V. SIMMONS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEX J. DUFFY AND ENDING WITH DEVLIN P. WINKELSTEIN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LIZA B. CHAWFORD AND ENDING WITH DEREK A. SANCHEZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEREMY S. STURM AND ENDING WITH JULIO VERA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF RENEER R. KIEL, TO BE COLONEL.
ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MELISSA B. RIESTERHARTSELL AND ENDING WITH THOMAS F. ROBINSKY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KIMBERLY A. DILGER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ABIGAIL R. OSMAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANDREW J. ARCHULETA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER C. CROSS AND ENDING WITH JONATHAN D. ZAGDANSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL J. BAIERLEIN AND ENDING WITH ERIC D. ZIDERS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AUSTIN P. ABARR AND ENDING WITH D016809, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES H. ABNEY AND ENDING WITH D015738, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MITCHELL A. ABLES AND ENDING WITH D016368, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH PETER B. EAST AND ENDING WITH JOEL A. SMITH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW J. CLEMENTZ, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SAMUEL T. KRAMER, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CARLA A. KIERNAN, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN W. BROCK II, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOHN D. HORTON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JOEL N. BUFFARDI, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SARAH D. ECCLESTON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF NICHOLAS P. FIEBKE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANDREW J. DOYLE, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM T. GRIGGS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MEGAN L. MALOY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF KAITLYN M. HERNANDEZ, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TIMOTHY I. ARCELAY AND ENDING WITH EARL E. WEIGELT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SARA C. ADAMS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHRISTINA G. NALLEY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW ADAMCZYK AND ENDING WITH HAVARD M. WHILES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ASHLEY S. LEE, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY W. LINDEMAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF EBONY Q. STARR, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SARAH A. DELAROSA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MARK T. SOPKIW, JR., TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JUSTIN T. THOMAS, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF REI T. ISRAEL, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ADAM L. FOX, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JASON L. WORKMAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEPHEN J. CUMBY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF STEPHEN M. ANDERSON, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JASON W. PRICE, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF DANIEL T. TURAJ, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM M. SCHWEITZER, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF LOUIS V. SCOTT, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JUSTIN J. REEB, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF ELISABET CRUMPLER, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KYLE A. ADUSKEVICH AND ENDING WITH JOHN M. THORPE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRAMWELL B. ARNOLD III AND ENDING WITH DANNIE T. STIMSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFERY R. BIERMANN AND ENDING WITH DAVID A. WAKEMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JAMES H. KNIGHT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROSS M. BOSTON AND ENDING WITH ROBERT F. WOJCIK, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JASON M. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH JONATHAN L. WHITAKER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTOPHER JOHN ALBAN AND ENDING WITH COSTANTINOS ZAGARIS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIDGET L. AJINGA AND ENDING WITH BRIAN K. YOAKAM, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE

SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN W. ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH ABBY ELIZABETH ZVEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CHRISTINA M. AKERS AND ENDING WITH KATHY E. YORKE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CASSANDRA R. HIDALGO AND ENDING WITH ERIC J. PEREZ, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF EDWARD E. JONES, TO BE COLONEL.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on March 30, 2023 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

GIGI B. SOHN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS FROM JULY 1, 2021, VICE AJIT VARADARAJ PAI, TERM EXPIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 3, 2023.

PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE STEPHEN M. DICKSON, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 3, 2023.