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No. 14

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023

(Legislative day of Tuesday, January 3, 2023)

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who restores the soul and gives life in the midst of decay, empower our Senators to accomplish Your purposes. Lord, be to them a faithful guide on the challenging road they travel. Teach them to find contentment in striving to please You and provide them with Your power, wisdom, and strength.

As tomorrow's difficulties loom large, remind them that You can move mountains and create opportunities. Blaze the trail ahead for our lawmakers with Your might and wisdom, for You are our shelter and hope.

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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 23, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Armed Services Committee is discharged from consideration of and the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Brendan Owens, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Thereupon, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30 is equally divided.

(The Vice President assumed the Chair.)

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate a certificate of appointment to fill the unexpired term created by the resignation of former Senator Benjamin Sasse of Nebraska. The certificate, the Chair is advised, is in the form suggested by the Senate. Hearing no objection, the reading of the certificate will be waived, and it will be printed in full in the RECORD.

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

STATE OF NEBRASKA

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Nebraska, I, Jim Pillen, the Governor of said State, do hereby appoint Pete Ricketts, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of Benjamin Sasse, is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Jim Pillen, and our seal hereto affixed at the State Capitol, Lincoln Nebraska, this 12th day of January, in the year of our Lord 2023.

By the Governor:

JIM PILLEN,
Governor.
ROBERT B. EVNEN,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

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



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ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senator-designate will now present himself at the desk, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The Senator-designate, PETE RICKETTS, escorted by Mrs. FISCHER, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the Vice President; and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations. (Applause, Senators rising.)

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

MONTEREY PARK SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today the thoughts of the Senate are with the people of Monterey Park, CA, as they heal from this weekend's tragic and terrible shooting. What should have been a weekend of joy and celebration within the AAPI community as they celebrate the Lunar New Year, turned into another occasion of grief and mourning.

I spoke yesterday with the sheriff of Los Angeles County and assured him that the Federal Government is ready to provide whatever assistance they need right now. While first responders are still investigating the causes of this incident, it is clear that the prevalence of guns in our country have made tragedies like this one too frequent. While the Senate passed bipartisan gun safety legislation last year—and that was a very welcome move—more should be done.

My thoughts are with all the families and the loved ones of the victims of this insidious attack. I thank all the first responders and even the private citizens who responded quickly to stop the shooter and prevent even more lives from tragically being cut short.

118TH CONGRESS

Madam President, I want to also welcome our new colleague from Nebraska and wish him the best.

Now, this week, for the first time in the 118th Congress, both Chambers gavel into session to begin anew the work of serving the American people. It is a new era here in Congress, an era of divided government where both parties will have to demonstrate they can work together to solve our Nation's problems. Democrats begin the 118th Congress with an open hand of cooperation, and I urge my Republican colleagues to respond in kind so we can hit the ground running.

We have a lot of difficult and important work ahead of us, perhaps none more important than working together to raise the debt ceiling and protecting the full faith and credit of the United States. In America, when it is time to pay the bills, we have followed through

on our obligations without any exception.

In the months to come, I expect we are going to hear a lot from our Republican colleagues about the debt ceiling. So let me begin by making a few things perfectly clear at the onset.

First, few issues require more bipartisanship, cooperation, and seriousness than making sure that America is able to pay its debts on time. At stake is the health of our economy and the very stability of the global financial system. Should the U.S. default on its debt, the consequences could be severe, and it is going to affect just about every average American family. This is not some esoteric issue that is just abstract and way up there in the clouds. It is going to affect all of us.

Listen to what could happen if we default: Interest rates will go up on mortgages, on car loans, on credit cards; pensions, the money people have put aside, will lose billions, so will IRAs and 401Ks, in all likelihood. Home values will decline because when mortgage interest rates go up people are willing to pay less for homes. That is a lot of money for lots of people. For many people, their home is their rock. It is all they have. By playing brinksmanship, some of the MAGA Republicans on the other side of the aisle, on the other side in the House, are risking just that.

So, again, this is not an abstract issue. Real Americans will see real dollars from so much of what they own disappear from their pensions, their IRAs, their home value. Merely approaching a default could raise costs on everything from mortgages and car loans to credit card interest rates.

So it is going to hurt average families. This is not an abstract argument. And as the months go on, and as we get closer and closer to the day that we have to act, the American people will see this, and we are going to make sure of that.

Second, raising the debt ceiling has consistently been a bipartisan responsibility for decades. Neither party has played brinksmanship. Since 1960, the debt ceiling has been raised approximately 80 times under both Republican and Democratic administrations, under both unified and divided government. I will note once again that while President Trump was in office and Republicans had the House and Senate, Democrats voted to raise the debt ceiling. We did it not once, not twice, but three times, including twice under Republican majorities in the House and Senate. Of course, we could have done what some MAGA Republicans want, threatening to block debt ceiling extensions unless we got our way. But we knew how badly it would hurt the American people, and we didn't do it. This time should be no different. Brinksmanship, hostage-taking, default on the debt should be off the table. Both parties should work together to ensure we can continue to

pay our debt on time, and we Democrats are ready to move quickly in order to make that happen. Indeed, we are ready to move well in advance of default, because even brinksmanship over the debt ceiling can cause serious damage to the economy and to individual American families.

Unfortunately, Madam President—unfortunately, House Republicans have kicked off their new majority by saying yes to brinksmanship, yes to hostage-taking, and yes even to risking default, all because of draconian spending cuts pushed by the hard right. House Republicans' approach to the debt ceiling is dangerous, destabilizing, and the only thing it accomplishes is making a bipartisan solution less likely. If Republicans want to show that they can govern effectively, they are off to a pretty poor start.

If House Republicans are serious about taking the debt limit hostage in exchange for spending cuts, the new rules that they adopted require them to bring a proposal to the floor of the House and show the American people precisely what kind of cuts they want to make. It is not enough to hide behind the old GOP talking points about wasteful spending. When you are in the majority, substance counts. If Republicans are talking about draconian cuts, they have an obligation to show Americans what those cuts are and let the public react. And let's let them do it now, not 6 months from now when the danger of default is much closer.

House Republicans: You voted for rules that require regular order for bringing bills to the floor. So put your proposals for debt ceiling on the floor, let the entirety of the House debate it and vote on it, and let the American people see and assess these cuts for themselves. Otherwise, Americans are going to be left with some pretty big questions.

Republicans say they want spending cuts. Well, does that mean cuts to Social Security or Medicare or childcare or Pell grants or our military or pay raises for our troops or funding police and law enforcement?

Many House Republicans are serious about cutting national defense in exchange for raising the debt ceiling. I hope they are not but many seem to be—or maybe they are pushing cuts to public health and nurses and hospitals. Whatever the case may be, Americans deserve to know what kind of cuts Republicans want to make and why they think it is worth forcing an unnecessary crisis that will hurt most American families.

Frankly, I expect the House Republicans themselves will struggle to come up with a serious answer, because deep down, they know that no matter what they propose, their cuts are likely to be deeply unpopular with the American people.

This is the central quandary of the new majority. By yielding so much to the whims of the MAGA hard right,

House Republicans have boxed themselves in and now have to choose between serving the American people or pleasing the extremists within their ranks. We are already seeing this play out when it comes to the debt ceiling. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

WELCOMING JOHN PETER RICKETTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Moments ago, the Senate returned to our full 100-person strength as Nebraska's new junior Senator took the oath of office.

The Cornhusker State expects a lot from its leaders. For the last 8 years, Nebraskans could rest easy knowing they had DEB FISCHER and Ben Sasse on the job here in Washington. And during that same time, of course, they also had an outstanding leader even closer to home. As Governor, PETE RICKETTS applied private-sector savvy to the work of public administration with great effect. He secured for Nebraska families and small businesses the biggest tax relief in that State's history. He championed parents' rights and defended civics education.

In the face of a global pandemic, he built the State's response on common sense—saving lives but also safeguarding livelihoods; preserving liberties and protecting kids' educations, all at the same time. The people of Nebraska chose wisely in electing and reelecting Governor RICKETTS by huge margins. And their new Governor chose wisely in sending his predecessor here to this Chamber.

I know I speak for the entire Senate in extending a warm welcome to Senator RICKETTS and his wife Susanne.

PETE, we are glad to have you here on the team.

118TH CONGRESS

Madam President, on another matter, the American people want and need this 118th Congress to work differently than the past 2 years that were just finished. We just had 2 years of one-party Democratic control, 2 years of spending us into record inflation on party-line votes, 2 years of ignoring top priorities of the American people like violent crime and open borders, two years of Senate Democrats procrastinating on basic government duties in order to push radical proposals like an unprecedented elections takeover and unlimited abortion on demand for all 9 months.

The American people put an end to that one-party government because they wanted change.

This year, the Senate leadership must not put off our most basic jobs, like intelligently funding our Federal Government and providing for our Armed Forces, before the very last minute. Basic duties like the appropriations process and the National Defense Authorization Act need more thoughtfulness, more bipartisanship, and more regular order. And they must

not be shoved into late December after the Senate Democrats waste literally months looking for ways to placate the radical left.

The American people elected a bipartisan, divided government. The country voted to change Washington. So this Chamber's Democratic leadership needs to change accordingly.

TRIBUTE TO DONNA BUTT-MOORE

Madam President, on one final matter, over the recent State work period, my team unexpectedly lost a dear friend and longtime colleague, our Eastern Kentucky field assistant Donna Butt-Moore.

Donna worked in my London, KY, field office for 14 years. She and her co-worker, Donna McClure, ran their team as a dynamic duo. They were born only a month apart. They even shared the same initials. Back in Kentucky, they were known as just "the Donnas."

And while Donna M. would travel around Eastern Kentucky, Donna B. was the rock that held down the fort at our office. She fielded calls. She greeted visitors. She solved Kentuckians' problems. Donna was endlessly patient, endlessly kind, and endlessly focused on helping constituents.

She was sweet and sometimes quiet, more of a listener than a talker, and deeply empathetic. She was the kind of person who would come to the verge of tears almost daily after reading a news article or Facebook post about somebody in need. But woe to anybody who mistook Donna's big heart for any lack of determination. If Donna wanted something—if Eastern Kentucky needed something done—she made it happen. That is why condolence notes have poured into our office and to Donna's family from all over Eastern Kentucky—all from people she helped through her public service.

Donna's work brought her into contact with important leaders, but I understand she was most excited when she had the opportunity once to snap a picture with Lee Greenwood. I understand another longtime dream was fulfilled just this last August, when her duties led Donna to ride on a Black Hawk helicopter with the Kentucky National Guard.

After each year's busy August State work period, Donna would always take a vacation on the first day of September, not to kick up her heels and take a rest but to head out into the woods and hunt with her husband. This past year, she bagged a deer all by herself.

Donna was the definition of Eastern Kentucky resourcefulness. If she heard you had some extra flowers lying around your house, she would swing by to gather them for a beautiful arrangement. If you had leftover meat in your freezer, she would want to cook it up and feed the whole neighborhood. In fact, she spent much of her time outside of the office catering parties for her friends and her neighbors.

Donna and her beloved husband Doug met later in life—fewer than 10 years

ago. It was true love from the start, and Donna quickly became a doting grandma to Doug's grandkids. She loved her brothers, Bruce and Bub. She loved her nieces and nephews. She cherished having such a dynamic family so close to home and treasured any time they could spend together.

Donna was also a woman of deep faith who looked to the Bible in every single aspect of her life. Her home and desk had signs containing just one word, "Blessed." She savored every gift she received from the Lord, and her funeral service in London last week showed how Donna Butt-Moore was herself a blessing to everyone around her.

Elaine and I and my entire staff were stunned and heartbroken to hear about Donna's passing. Friends, colleagues, and neighbors across Kentucky are grieving her loss. I am so grateful for her service to the people of our Commonwealth.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

WELCOMING JOHN PETER RICKETTS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I want to begin by welcoming our newest Senator from the State of Nebraska, PETE RICKETTS.

I don't know him well, but I am sure I will come to know him. I certainly know his family. They have made their impression on the city of Chicago by purchasing the historic franchise the Chicago Cubs. They have made major investments in the city of Chicago and the State of Illinois in that pursuit. Best of all, they have virtually guaranteed that Wrigley Field is going to stay in Wrigley Field—exactly where it should be. It is one of the cathedrals of baseball in America, and the Ricketts family has made a commitment to it, which is certainly satisfying to devout baseball fans like myself.

I hope the time of the new Senator will be productive and gratifying. Work in this body can sometimes be slow and frustrating, but with patience, good things can happen.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Madam President, 4 years ago today, as another new Congress was starting its work, America was nearing the end of the longest Federal Government shutdown in history. It was day 33 of a 35-day shutdown, a shutdown that was precipitated by President Donald Trump when he refused to sign any budget that did not include billions of dollars for what he wanted to build and call his "big, beautiful" wall on the southern border. That dysfunction and that government shutdown cost our economy billions of dollars, and it shook the confidence of many—in this country and its future—in America's ability to do the basics.

Fast-forward to the start of the last Congress 2 years ago when three of the newest Members of the Senate had just been sworn in, giving America only the second 50-50 Senate split in its history. It was a time of crises and division: the deadliest public health emergency in a

century; the greatest financial crisis since the Great Depression; and then—and then—a violent attack on the Capitol by an insurrectionist mob, one of the darkest days in the history of this building and our Nation. The doubters said a 50-50 Senate coming into being with that circumstance was destined to be gridlocked. We proved them wrong.

Today, we begin the legislative work of a new Congress, the 118th Congress. Will these 2 years—the next 2 years—be remembered for dysfunction or democracy? chaos or consensus? That really is the challenge we face. The choice is not entirely in our hands here in the Senate with a 51-to-49 slim majority.

The new MAGA majority in the House of Representatives has promised endless investigations, confrontations, impeachments, and chaos, but it doesn't have to be that way. The Senate can be a steady force. We can pass a budget. We can give a helping hand to families and businesses. We can invest in a better future. We can defend democracy against the rise of autocracy. We can pay our Nation's bills if we are willing to work together for the common good.

If you want to see our choices, look at what we faced on January 4, just a few weeks ago. On that day, the House of Representatives was in chaos. A small band of MAGA hard-liners held the House hostage to their extreme demands. In the end, it took 15 rollcall votes, over 4 days, to elect a new Speaker, who will be, after all of his concessions to the extreme wing of his party, on paper, perhaps, the weakest Speaker in recent memory.

However, on that same day, January 4, President Biden and the Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, were together at a major bridge that connects Covington, KY, with Cincinnati, OH. It is a bridge that has needed repair for years, and now those repairs will happen because of the historic infrastructure bill passed by the last Congress—the largest infrastructure plan since the Eisenhower administration in the 1950s and the creation of the Interstate Highway System.

That bipartisan infrastructure plan will rebuild bridges and roads all across America and our State of Illinois. We have already seen evidence of that. It will expand affordable high-speed broadband services, and it will build the 21st century infrastructure America needs to remain the strongest in the world. It is already creating good jobs in Illinois and around the Nation, and it will continue to do so. That is just one of the achievements of this Congress that had a 50-50 Senate.

We also passed the CHIPS and Science Act to supercharge America's microchip industry and bring high-tech manufacturing back to America. We passed the boldest economic recovery and investment plan since President Franklin Roosevelt, the most sweeping legislation enacted by any government on Earth to confront the climate crisis, and the bipartisan PACT Act to help

millions of veterans who were exposed to burn pits and other toxic chemicals during their military service. We kept the price of insulin for seniors at \$35 a month. Now, for the first time ever, Medicare can negotiate on prescription drug prices, and Medicare recipients' out-of-pocket expenses for drugs will be capped at \$2,000 a year.

In the last Congress, we confirmed 97 outstanding new Article III judges, including the first Black woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. These new judges will bring unprecedented diversity to our Federal courts both in terms of demographics as well as in their backgrounds and professional experience.

In the last Congress, with President Biden's leadership and the support of Congress, the United States rallied the free world to confront Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Yesterday, I was at a meeting in an area known as the Ukrainian Village in the city of Chicago. It was a gathering not only of proud Lithuanians, who were determined to do everything they could to help their friends and relatives back in Ukraine fight off Putin's invasion, but also a lot of others. There were many Polish people there, Lithuanians as well, and many other consulate generals were present to express their support for the common cause.

I am proud that the United States is leading this effort, and we must continue to. When I hear suspicions and rumors and suggestions that maybe the MAGA Republicans in the House have grown weary of this war and impatient for it to end, I have to remind them that freedom is worth fighting for. The Ukrainians are dying for it. We need to stand by them with the NATO alliance and see this through and put an end to Putin's terrible war crimes.

We ensure, as well, that the United States will not be a safe haven for the perpetrators of heinous war crimes in Ukraine. We will continue to stand with the Ukrainians until Putin's illegal war is over and Ukraine is once again free and at peace.

We authorized and strengthened the Violence Against Women Act; passed new laws to strengthen protections for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, and sexual harassment.

Over the last 2 years, the Federal Government delivered 700 million COVID shots for free—in 2 years, 700 million vaccinations—and according to the White House, COVID deaths in America are down by 80 percent.

America's economy created 11 million jobs—the strongest job creation in the history of our Nation. The Nation's unemployment rate is near a 50-year low. Gas prices are headed down, and inflation is finally easing a little bit.

All of that happened with a 50-50 Senate. That is not gridlock. That is government working for the common good.

The priorities for this Congress are pretty obvious. We need to continue

our efforts to protect the basic rights of Americans. As well as voting rights, we need to include on that list reproductive health rights for the women of America.

We are determined to end the crisis on our southern border by securing the border, finally fixing our broken immigration system, and passing the DREAM Act—my ambition for almost two decades. Well, it has been longer than that to be honest with you.

Over the last week, I visited with some of the migrants who were bused to Chicago, and I talked to them about their families and what they face. If there is anyone who thinks that they are trying to game the system in America, they ought to talk to them. They are ready to go to work, and we need to make sure that that is done in a proper fashion.

Last year, we passed the most significant gun safety law in nearly 30 years, but the horrific shooting that killed 11—now the latest number is 11—and wounded 9 more this past weekend at the Lunar New Year celebration in Monterey Park, CA, is another terrible reminder that more work needs to be done for gun safety. The Lunar New Year shooting was the 33rd mass shooting in America so far this month—33 so far this month.

Last year, there were 600 mass shootings. I remember one of them well, and I am sure the Acting President pro tempore does too. The gunman opened fire on the Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, IL. He discharged 83 rounds in less than a minute, and he killed 7 people and injured dozens more. There were 19 little children and 2 of their teachers who were murdered in their classroom in Uvalde, TX, just days before. There were 10 people who were killed in a grocery store in Buffalo, NY, in a racist attack. The list goes on and on and on.

It is madness. It is sickening. It is a uniquely American problem. Try to explain it away. You can't. There are just too darned many guns in the hands of the wrong people, and they continue to produce them and sell them with abandon and without any sense of responsibility for the results.

DEBT CEILING

Madam President, we must pay our Nation's bills. We all agree with that. Using the debt ceiling as a bargaining chip to force deep cuts in Social Security and Medicare is unacceptable. Pushing through other extreme changes that can't pass on their own merits ought to be unthinkable; yet this is what the MAGA extremists in the House appear hell-bent on doing.

I would remind those who want to pose for holy pictures as budget balancers that one-fourth—almost one-fourth—of our entire national debt that has been accumulated in the United States over the last 230 years was racked up during the 4 years that Donald Trump was in the White House—almost one-fourth of our national debt. What we are doing with

the debt ceiling now is paying for Donald Trump's priorities voted for by Congress and the Republicans. It is the responsible thing to do.

Even in their policies, such as tax breaks for the wealthiest people in the country, the fact is it was enacted into law, and we have a responsibility, in preserving the good faith and credit of the United States, to extend the debt limit even for those policies which I personally disagree with. The Republicans moved to raise the debt ceiling three times during the Trump administration, and the Democrats supported them every time.

We don't want to turn America into a deadbeat nation. Defaulting on our national debt for the first time in history, as the MAGA Republicans are threatening in the House, would throw millions of Americans out of work. According to a think tank, the Third Way, a worker with a 401(k) retirement account could lose \$20,000 because of interest rates, and a new 30-year mortgage would cost an additional \$130,000. How many people would be willing to buy a new home or a new car facing those circumstances? Borrowing would become harder and more expensive, and the national debt would increase by \$850 million just from our failure to extend the debt limit.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "We cannot escape history," warning Congress and a nation torn apart by a civil war. Thank God we are not facing anything like that today, but we are facing deep divisions and continued assaults on our democracy.

So as we begin this new Congress, we need to ask ourselves: What do we want history to say about this Senate during the next 2 years? Will we be remembered for chaos or consensus? Will we work to heal the divisions in our Nation or deepen them? Will we solve the problems that really matter to the American people or invent problems and stoke them for political advantage?

My Democratic colleagues and I are hopeful that there will be a positive answer to those questions, that we can negotiate and work together in good faith for a better America.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, it is great to be back with my Senate colleagues this week. It has been a while. But we need to get a lot done in this year's new Congress.

As a new Congress is getting underway, our country faces many problems, many problems that we need to address. However, as we look ahead to what we can accomplish this Congress, we also need to look back and learn from the past. Having the courage to recognize and address problems prevents us from making problems and continuing the same thing in the future.

It is high time we take a look back at the devastating impacts of some of

the Federal and State government policies in response to COVID-19 and the pandemic. Most importantly, we have to focus on education. We have to look at the toll the lockdowns have taken on our country's youngest citizens.

Unfortunately, like many issues in DC, the COVID crisis was weaponized for some political gain. The government misused emergency measures to grow its control over Americans' daily lives. Hopefully, those days are over.

This time 3 years ago, COVID was making its way around our country, through the States and through the communities. Of course, in the early days, we knew very little about the virus and how to respond to it, so leaders in both parties, leaders across our States and our communities, called for a pause in daily activities to get control of the spread of COVID-19. But what we didn't know then was how long that pause would last, not just in some areas but all over our country. And we certainly didn't know that our response could end up being worse—the response that we had being worse than the actual COVID that was running across our country.

We are just now starting to understand the impact of COVID-related lockdowns. They weren't just extreme, they were deadly in some areas.

Research led by a professor at the University of Chicago exposed the deadly impact of lockdowns by analyzing the excess death rate in our country during the use of these lockdowns. The "excess rate" is a term used to describe the number of deaths above historical norms—or how many more Americans died than we would typically expect to pass away during any given year. So those were balanced up and looked at from the years of COVID to the years past.

According to the data from the CDC, the number of non-COVID excess deaths reached almost 100,000 people in 2020 and in 2021. The hundreds of thousands of non-COVID excess deaths during the pandemic can be mainly attributed to shocking increases in accidents, overdoses, and death from alcoholism and homicide. Those causes disproportionately impacted minorities and low-income Americans—the same groups lockdowns were often billed and made to protect.

The number of deaths from hypertension and heart disease and diabetes also skyrocketed during the pandemic. This was especially true for America's young people. In total, excess deaths among young adults throughout the pandemic were 27 percent higher than they should be, according to historical records of years past.

It does not take a scientist to draw the connection between lockdowns and all the excess deaths that we have had the last 3 years. Not only were Americans kept out of gyms, parks, churches, social settings, and family gatherings, they were forced to skip routine doctor visits, surgeries, and in-person medical treatments out of fear. And fear was

the main weapon used against the American people. As a result, mental and physical health plummeted.

While lockdowns across the country slowly ended, the deadly repercussions did not. For example, through the middle of last year, overdose deaths per year outnumbered the total number of military deaths in the past 60 years.

The truth is, the physical and mental health consequences of overreaching lockdowns will be measured for years and years to come.

Locking Americans out of school, work, church, and social contact had disastrous impacts on our economy, our education system, and our society as a whole.

We all saw businesses across the country go under as customers were kept away and the daily hum of our economy was silenced.

As kids were forced into virtual schooling, an entire generation of Americans lost months and even years of valuable educational opportunities. Research conducted by the global consulting firm McKinsey found that COVID-related school disruption left students 5 months behind in math and 4 months behind in reading. Students who were already underserved were hit even harder by school closures. High schoolers were left more likely to drop out and less likely to pursue further education after the lockdowns. And more than 35 percent of American parents were left "very or extremely concerned about their children's mental health."

Today, our schools are facing a shortage of teachers, months of instruction still missing, and a mental health and behavioral crisis among our country's students. It is a pandemic.

As someone who spent decades myself as an educator and a coach, who fostered the potential of young adults, I am committed to ensuring we never inflict the damage on our school-age kids again, no matter what.

I bring up these sobering facts on health and education to call on this body to join me in this commitment in this Congress to do away with what we just did. We have to evaluate it. We cannot keep going forward this way.

This is especially important as some influential people in our government, media, and public health circles continue today to call for measures that disrupt our society in ways we know have terrible consequences.

The Biden administration is hellbent on keeping the COVID-19 public health emergency that is still in place. We still have it today.

Just last week, President Biden extended the emergency declaration because of the extra power it gives to the Federal Government, and he does that for another 90 days.

Attorneys for the Federal Government were in court asking an unelected judge to reinstate the national mask mandate for air travel just in the last few weeks.

Keep in mind, this body, in a bipartisan manner, voted to end the emergency declaration just this last year—

something we should do again in this Congress.

But even though the President himself has deemed the pandemic over, bureaucrats are obsessed with keeping this charade going.

Enough is enough. We must be the barrier between the American people and tyranny because tyrannical orders, like the COVID lockdowns, are dangerous to every citizen in this country.

As we get to work this Congress, I hope all my colleagues will join me in recognizing the tough realities I have just laid out. We cannot continue to do this, and we can't do it again. We have to commit to defending freedom in every circumstance. We have to learn from our past mistakes.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam 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. CORNYN. Madam President, after a busy and productive time at home for several weeks, I am glad to be back in the Senate as we kick off the new year and a new Congress. After 2 years of Democrats controlling both Chambers, the House and Senate, the American people voted for a change in the midterm election. Voters sent a Republican majority to the House and opted for a divided government.

With a Republican House, Democrats, of course, will no longer be able to abuse the budget reconciliation process to circumvent the normal legislative process, which means the end to partisan spending bills. They will have no choice but to work for common ground and to move legislation through what we call regular order around here, which means by the rules.

While there is a lot we need to do in the coming months, one of our top priorities must be the humanitarian and security crisis at the southern border. This crisis has been raging since President Biden took office 2 years ago. Day after day, month after month, migrants have crossed the border in unprecedented numbers.

Over the years, we have seen migration surges at different times, but nothing like this. The scale and the immensity of this crisis are unprecedented.

Last month, U.S. Customs and Border Protection encountered more than 250,000 migrants at the southern border. That is the back door to my State, the State of Texas. A quarter of a million people in a single month—that is a new record and a shocking number.

To put that in perspective, Customs and Border Protection encountered more migrants in November and December last year than it did in all of 2017—more in 2 months, the last 2

months of last year, than it did in the entire year of 2017.

Those figures tell you a lot, but no words can accurately capture just how complex and challenging the situation at the border truly is. To understand what is happening on the ground, you need to show up. You need to see it firsthand, and you need to listen and learn from the experts and the people who are dealing with this day in and day out.

I have traveled to the border many, many times over the last few years, as this crisis has gotten worse. I have spoken with the law enforcement officials who have taken an oath to uphold and enforce our laws, the nonprofits—groups like Catholic Charities, which provide humanitarian services—local officials, mayors, and county judges, who are responsible to their own taxpayers for providing services that are overwhelmed by the sheer numbers of people coming across the border.

Then there are private landowners who find that their fences are knocked down, their properties are trashed, and that people trespass upon it at will.

Then there are the small business owners that depend on the foot traffic that frequently comes back and forth across the border and countless others who are impacted by the current border crisis.

Of course, these are exactly the kinds of people you might want to talk to if you actually had an interest in learning more about what the problem is and fashioning some kind of solution.

I was happy to introduce these experts to a bipartisan group of my Senate colleagues a couple of weeks ago. Both of us representing border States, Senator SINEMA, the Senator from Arizona, and I have had what you might call an exchange program between our two States.

A couple of years ago I visited Tucson, AZ, and Senator SINEMA, in turn, visited the Rio Grande Valley for a series of briefings. The first thing that jumps out at you is that the border is big—2000 miles. It covers a lot of territory, and it varies a lot, depending on whether you visit urban areas like El Paso or rural areas like Yuma, AZ.

That is why, while I am happy that President Biden finally went to the border in El Paso, briefly, I know he could not have gotten a full awareness of the challenges that the current crisis, as a result of his open border policies, presents.

Nevertheless, seeing two very different border crossings was valuable to both Senator SINEMA and myself, and we decided it was time to share that information with our colleagues. So we invited several of them to join us. In total, there were eight of us—eight Senators on the trip. On the Republican side, we had Senators TILLIS, LANKFORD, MORAN, and myself. On the Democratic side, we had Senators KELLY, MURPHY, and COONS.

Actually, now that Senator SINEMA has declared herself as an Independent,

she said that this was not a bipartisan trip but a tripartisan trip.

We spent a day in El Paso, speaking with law enforcement and local stakeholders. In recent months, the city of El Paso has been ground zero and overwhelmed by the influx of migrants. It doesn't have the capacity—no border community does—to care for the tens of thousands of people coming across the border daily or the infrastructure to house them or to transport them safely to other locations.

Fortunately, at least in the near term—and it tends to go in waves, up and down—most recently, the pace in El Paso has slowed down, but some of the sidewalks downtown are still lined with makeshift tents and sleeping bags—migrants camping out in the city, nowhere to go, waiting for their next meal and waiting for some place warm to be able to sleep.

We heard about the tremendous burden this crisis has placed on law enforcement at all levels. You can imagine it. They are already understaffed, and now they are overwhelmed.

We heard about the growing strain on the nongovernmental organizations and the cities, as they try to mitigate this crisis.

Again, this is a crisis of the President's own making, as a result of his open border policies and the failure to enforce our immigration laws.

We heard from business leaders who depend on customers coming to their business, as well as other local stakeholders, about the larger impact this crisis has had on the El Paso community and the southwest border region, especially the effect it has had on legitimate trade and travel, which are vital to the region's economy.

I don't know if most nonborder-State Senators understand it or not, but we have the largest land port in America in Laredo, TX. They have somewhere between 14 to 16,000 trucks a day come across the border for legitimate trade and commerce. Obviously, that legitimate trade and commerce that creates a lot of jobs all across America are impeded by this vast influx of humanity that are coming currently as a result of the nonenforcement policies of the administration.

The day after we visited El Paso, we traveled to Yuma, AZ. And, if you are looking at a map of Arizona, it is in the southwest portion of Arizona, just right next to California, at the very southern-southwest tip of Arizona.

Yuma, AZ, is an agricultural community, by and large—a small town, not a lot of infrastructure, not a lot of hospitals, schools, or other places for migrants to be taken care of when they come to the border. So it is no surprise that the Border Patrol there in Yuma, AZ, a little small town on the southwestern border of Arizona—the Border Patrol agents—are strained, security missions are taking a hit, and it has become even more challenging to process and care for the volume of migrants they see coming across the border.

Now, lest anybody think that illegal immigration is just related to Mexico and Central America, people fleeing poverty and violence, the acting Border Patrol chief in the Yuma sector told us that, in that sector alone, they encountered migrants speaking 200 languages, from 176 countries—this little sleepy town in southwest Arizona, people speaking 200 languages, from 176 countries.

Well, you might ask: How is that possible? Where are these people coming from? I thought they were all coming from Mexico or maybe even Central America.

Well, it just so happens that there is a major city just south of Yuma, AZ, in northern Mexico, called Mexicali, and what we are seeing is international human smuggling operations flying people into Mexicali and then turning up in Yuma and claiming asylum—again, overwhelming the capacity of this small little border town to be able to deal with these huge numbers—and people, frankly, abusing the asylum system, which is supposed to be people fleeing from persecution.

There are people with Gucci luggage coming across the border and claiming asylum, knowing that, because of the broken asylum process, they will be transported into the interior of the United States and given a notice to appear for a future court hearing. But because of the backlog of the immigration courts, it will be literally years before they are notified to show up.

If they do show up, 90 percent of them will be unsuccessful in obtaining asylum. But the fact is they don't, which should be a surprise to no one.

Well, as I said, I have learned a lot from the experts on the ground, and I hope our colleagues, our bipartisan delegation of Senators, did as well.

I appreciate the Senators who took the time to visit El Paso and Yuma, and I know all of us appreciate the men and women on the frontlines who took time out of their busy schedules, already overwhelmed by this humanitarian crisis and border security crisis. They took the time to talk to us, hoping—just hoping—that we might be able to do something to help them.

Now, eight Senators—it won't surprise you—have different views and ideas about how to solve the crisis. Standing together along the border doesn't mean we agree on everything, but it does mean that we are interested in finding solutions. There are conversations occurring in the House and the Senate, and Members from both sides of the aisle are floating a range of ideas to address the crisis.

There are some bipartisan conversations occurring, including Senator SINEMA from Arizona and Senator TILLIS from North Carolina, and I am glad they are working on this, and I am eager to see what they come up with.

As we all know, President Biden has shown that he is completely unwilling to use his current authorities to secure the border. And the truth is, he has

plenty of authorities but refuses to do his duty and enforce our laws.

So it is time for Congress to take action. Of course, that is something that is easier said than done—535 of us, 435 in the House and 100 in the Senate. It is not easy to get everybody—or at least a majority—on the same page, and we have the new reality of divided government, as I said earlier. But we do have within our capacity the ability to try and to achieve consensus and the art of the possible.

I know it is going to be a huge reach, a steep hill—pick your metaphor. It is going to be hard because the Democratic majority in the Senate has a very different approach than a Republican majority in the House. But we have to be realistic about what can pass the House and earn 60 votes in the Senate. A bill that will pass only one Chamber won't accomplish anything in dealing with this crisis.

Of course, at this moment, the border crisis is consuming all the oxygen in the room, but this must be addressed before we will be able to come to an agreement on any other immigration reforms. It is a prerequisite, a foundation, for any larger agreement. The million-dollar question is, What will that look like?

As my colleagues and I saw a couple of weeks ago, one of the biggest challenges is processing and holding capacity. This is a feature of the current catch-and-release policies of the Biden administration. It is not a bug. It is a feature of their catch-and-release policies, and it is being exploited daily by the criminal organizations that continue to get rich smuggling people and drugs across the border.

Our system simply was not designed to keep up with the influx of this many people crossing the border every day. As a result, Border Patrol agents told us that they are being shifted from the frontlines to process people in the back office, leaving huge security gaps—fully 40 percent, in some instances, of the border left unprotected because the Border Patrol has to process the migrants, and they have to leave the frontlines to do so, which means that the drug smugglers have an opening, which they exploit on a regular basis, to move illegal drugs into the United States.

Cartels are using these corridors to traffic fentanyl and other dangerous drugs into the country—the drugs that took the lives of 108,000 Americans last year alone. One hundred eight thousand Americans died due to drug overdoses from drugs almost entirely coming across the southwestern border.

You wonder what it will take to get people's attention, to wake up to this public health hazard, this public safety hazard, this humanitarian and national security crisis.

At the same time, migrants with weak and even frivolous asylum claims are being released into the country to await a court date that is years down

the line. As I said, many are no-shows, having successfully made it into the United States without any legal right to immigrate. That has got to change.

We also need to strengthen border security, which I would define, again, based on learning from Border Patrol and other experts along the border—border security requires a combination of personnel, technology, and infrastructure. That includes appropriately located barriers, fences, levees. It includes sensors, cameras, roadways, and more agents to prevent dangerous people and dangerous substances from entering our country. A safe and secure border relies on all of these elements.

It is clear that Congress needs to invest in more resources, but more than that, in correct policies so that immigration across our border will be safe, orderly, humane, and legal.

This movement of masses of humanity—250,000 a month—handled by the human smugglers and by the cartels who are getting rich—this is not good for anybody. It is not good for the migrants, who are viewed as a mere commodity—many of whom are left to die. Many young girls and women are sexually assaulted en route because these cartels don't view them as human beings; they view them as a commodity, something they can trade for money.

Well, there are a range of other reforms that I am looking at as we try to find our way toward a solution. I am open to hearing from anyone who has an idea, and I hope we can have a serious debate and solutions here in Congress.

What the President saw in El Paso was a snapshot of a sanitized border. I have no illusions that he has any depth of understanding about the complexity of what we are dealing with there, but I am glad he finally showed up after 2 years.

Given a Republican majority in the House and a Democratic majority in the Senate, we need to be realistic about what it is we might be able to accomplish. But, again, this is all about what somebody has called the art of the possible. That is what legislating is all about. But the fact is, there is an unprecedented humanitarian and security crisis at the southern border, and it is past time for Congress to do something to address it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

TENNESSEE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, it was so wonderful to have time this month to kick off my annual 95-county tour, which is what I do in Tennessee each year. And I know that my colleagues across the aisle think they are here starting fresh with a new Congress, but that is not the way the people in Tennessee see this. As I have talked with people in our State, they continue to talk about what has happened this past couple of years with inflation, with crime, with that open border, with the supply chain issues. They

are worried about that. They are worried about how that is going to affect them this year. My colleague from Texas has touched on some of these issues.

Now, in Tennessee, as they look at what has transpired over the last couple of years, we talked a lot about a tornado in December that ripped through Dresden, TN. I went into the Presbyterian church that was demolished on my last visit over there, and I saw the progress they are making to rebuild that wonderful church. One of the things they talked about was how inflation and supply chain bottlenecks are really thwarting their efforts to get this sanctuary finished so they can have their Easter celebration right there in that sanctuary.

In Waverly, TN, those individuals know exactly how the people over in Dresden feel because we had floods that came through Humphreys County, TN—devastating floods. There were 20 Tennesseans who lost their lives when the floods ripped through that town, destroyed that town, about a year and a half ago, and the town is trying to rebuild.

My team and I were able to help those folks there in Waverly secure a disaster declaration and the funds they needed to help get rebuilding, but the same issues—inflation and supply chains—those things that are hurting Dresden are hurting Waverly as they try to rebuild homes and as they try to recover.

Now, this President, this administration, and my Democratic colleagues have focused on big spending and little else, and it has really created a minefield for our local leaders, whether they are trying to rebuild or whether they are trying to expand. But those issues—supply chains and inflation—continue to come up.

West Tennessee, where I started my 95-county tour, is experiencing massive growth. Ford Motor Company is coming in there, and they have a big plant, a multibillion-dollar investment. Sonova is over in that part of the State. There are other companies that are moving their operations to the area. These communities are set to welcome thousands of jobs, homes, and new businesses, but they are not ready because the existing utility infrastructure cannot support the growth and expansion that are coming into that part of our State.

Until recently, most of this West Tennessee area was fields and small rural communities. These local leaders now are seeing growth, and they need to expand their utilities, their water, their sewer, their electric power distribution, and their telecom services, and they are having to do it quickly as these major employers ramp up. But something is standing in their way, and, again, it is all of this government spending that has driven this inflation and the supply chain crisis that is slowing down what they need. They can't get pipe to build out water and

wastewater systems. They can't get telephone poles. If they could find a transformer to buy, they wouldn't be able to afford it because the price has increased by more than 400 percent—400 percent—since Joe Biden was sworn into office.

I know that the Biden administration has an agenda, and they are willing to do whatever it takes to check these items off of their to-do list. They do have an agenda. It is all about government control. It is all about government spending. It is not the agenda the people have.

The way people in these communities in Tennessee see it is there is a disregard for how this Federal policy, as it comes down, how it affects them and how it makes their future difficult. It should not be this difficult to rebuild a home or run a sewer line or to finish a new road. Tennesseans know this, and they trust me, when I meet with them, to bring that message back here to DC, that decisions that are made here make their life at the local level more difficult.

BORDER CODEL

Madam President, over the past few years, we have seen proof that until President Biden and his administration secure the southern border, every town is a border town and every State is a border State. My colleague from Texas spoke so well about this issue and the impact that an open border is having on our communities.

Tennesseans are suffering because of the open border agenda, particularly when it comes to the disastrous consequences of the cross-border drug trade.

Tennessee law enforcement officials are working overtime to take down the cartel kingpins who have set up shop in our State, just like they have set up shop in so many of our States. But drug overdoses continue to destroy families, they destroy lives and careers, and the Biden administration continues to look the other way.

This month, I had the opportunity to see just how bad the situation has gotten right down on that southern border. Senators HYDE-SMITH and BRITT were kind enough to join me as we went to Eagle Pass, TX, where we witnessed firsthand the chaos that this administration's open border policies have created.

As most of my colleagues know, the situation in Texas became so dire that the Texas officials decided to take matters into their own hands. In 2022, Operation Lone Star helped law enforcement apprehend more than 336,000 illegal immigrants. That is just in Texas. They arrested more than 23,000 criminals—criminal illegal aliens, 23,000—just in Texas, and they seized 354 million doses of fentanyl—354 million doses.

Now, these numbers are appalling. When you hear them stand-alone, they are appalling. When you talk to the Border Patrol and you realize that this is Texas, that this doesn't account for

the other States, that this doesn't account for what is going on as every State becomes a border State and every town becomes a border town—when you hear these numbers, one would think common sense would tell you this Chamber should get busy saying: How do we secure that southern border? But that hasn't happened, and the cost of negligence is more crime and more death and more American citizens losing their lives and the cartels making more money. Yes, indeed, the cartels are running that border. You do not cross. Nothing crosses without paying the cartels.

Now, we visited several locations in the Del Rio sector that are experiencing significant migrant traffic along the river. At every location, we found clothing, IDs, medication, and other personal items that the migrants dropped as they entered the country. What happened to those individuals is anyone's guess, because many of them don't want to be found out who they really are.

Many of them are convicted criminal aliens. Many of them come from countries where they would be sent back, so they create a new identity once they touch U.S. soil. Then they can be here because we have catch-and-release, because we do not have “Remain in Mexico,” because we do not have what the Border Patrol has been telling us for 30 years they need—a physical barrier and a better technology where they cannot have a physical barrier.

In Eagle Pass we were able to witness firsthand two separate migrant groups crossing the river. One of those groups included a pregnant woman and several children. The other included children and an elderly woman who was clearly struggling to keep her footing while she was coming across that river. With this dangerous situation, with those freezing waters, the Texas National Guard troops could only watch and just hope that no one drowned.

Now, that is what we saw in the early morning hours. But what we know is, during the night there were 57 other groups that crossed—a lot of them single adults. We know that the cartels, which are multi-billion dollar, multinational organizations, work globally, and they are bringing in hundreds of millions of dollars a week. And they have brought along people from 150 different countries who are going to the cartel to come into the country because they think it is faster to do it that way.

Or maybe they want to be the “got-aways,” people we see on surveillance who are known “got-aways” or the unknown “got-aways,” which are what the really bad ones are. They are going to completely different areas in crossing to bring in drugs, to bring in sex traffickers, to bring in human traffickers, to put people into modern-day slavery. There were 57 more known crossings—known—that we did not see.

Border agents told us that the day before our tour, there were 1,000 arrests

in the Del Rio sector. The day before we were out, it is important to note that there in Eagle Pass, there were 1,000 arrests. The President, on that very same day, was at El Paso. He saw no migrants. He saw a cleaned-up community. The visit had been sanitized so that he did not see what they were experiencing in the Del Rio sector and at Eagle Pass.

Now, after we had been out with Border Patrol and were watching all of this, we made one more stop, and it was to the Harris Ranch, which is near Uvalde, TX. This area has seen significant migrant traffic. It has disrupted their entire community.

I met with local officials—mayors, sheriffs, DAs, people that own businesses, farmers, ranchers—and they told us that sometimes people may need an ambulance, but many times they are unavailable to the people at Uvalde or Kinney County because they are too busy responding to migrant emergencies. The county attorney stated that he has prosecuted 4,000 criminal trespass cases—4,000—and since August of 2021, he has prosecuted twice the number of people as live in the entire county.

Now think about that: double the number of people in your county where you live. And think about that as cases that are going to come before your local court system. And who pays for that? That's right—you do, the taxpayer. Every penny being spent, every penny is coming out of your pocket.

And when you talk about the humanitarian crisis at that border—the loss of life, the abuse—the humanitarian cost is amazing. People are risking their lives because they are buying the lie of the cartels. They are physically, mentally, emotionally, sexually, and drug abused as they make this journey.

Now, the Harris Ranch has about 30 miles of fencing around it; but even though they have that fencing, it doesn't stop the migrants from coming onto the property. The owner of the ranch told us that he regularly gets a call in the middle of the night informing him that a migrant is having an emergency somewhere on his land and has dialed 911. Sometimes these calls come in too late or they don't come in at all. And we have all seen the news reports of these ranchers finding dead bodies on their property. And I will tell you that nothing in these reports is blown out of proportion. It is devastating. It is sad. It is a humanitarian crisis.

Many of the migrants that the people at Harris Ranch have discovered got lost or they were abandoned by the smugglers. Others were dumped there by the cartels, and we know this because the ranchers have seen it play out on their security footage.

I would encourage my colleagues to think about this the next time they are in front of the cameras and commenting about how compassionate they think the Biden administration policy is when it comes to open borders.

Madam President, it is not compassionate when you talk to a young woman who, for 4 years, suffered at the hands of a cartel and sex traffickers, raped over 400 times, beaten with chains. It is not compassionate when you hear these stories of abuse, when you hear about cartels killing somebody who they think is too weak to make the journey. There is nothing compassionate about it.

In December, according to Border Patrol and the Department of Homeland Security—which, by the way, is this administration's Department of Homeland Security—there were more than a quarter-million migrant encounters, which is the highest number of encounters ever recorded at the southern border. Putting that into context, that is more than the population of Knoxville, TN; more than the population of Chattanooga, TN.

Part of the tragedy is month after month, year after year, this gets worse. It continues to get worse. And we have to remember, these are the numbers that we know. These are not the “got-aways” that they could see on surveillance camera. They think they have had, in the last year, a million—a million “got-aways” that are running into the country. Those are the known “got-aways.” We don't have a number on the unknown “got-aways.” And we have people that want to say this administration's policy is compassionate?

They are bringing in drugs like fentanyl—16,000 pounds of it—enough to kill 3.3 billion people. They are trafficking women and girls and know that because we are hearing their stories. Our human-trafficking organizations are rescuing these women and girls. We hear about the gangs. We hear about crime in our communities, and we also hear from the Border Patrol.

We can fix this. We can fix it. As I said, they have asked for a barrier. They have asked for better technology. They tell us keep title 42. They tell us we need “Remain in Mexico.” They tell us: You have to end catch-and-release in this country, take away the incentives to come to the country illegally.

It is time that we make certain that we secure that southern border. My hope is that my Democratic colleagues will put down their talking points and that they will pay attention to what is happening, not only in the border communities but in towns and cities and communities and in families who are experiencing adverse effects because of what is happening with this open border.

It is time that we realize the cartels are taking advantage of an open border. They are taking advantage of a weak administration who will not stop them.

It is time to secure that southern border. It is time to give the Border Patrol what they need to defend our southern border. It is imperative that we address these issues.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the 5:30 vote commence immediately.

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

VOTE ON OWENS NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Owens nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam 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 Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) would have voted “nay” and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 1 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Baldwin	Grassley	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hassan	Rounds
Booker	Heinrich	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	McConnell	Tillis
Cornyn	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Moran	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Ernst	Murray	Welch
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Peters	Wicker
Gillibrand	Reed	Wyden
Graham	Romney	Young

NAYS—35

Barrasso	Daines	Mullin
Bennet	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hickenlooper	Schmitt
Britt	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Sullivan
Cotton	Kennedy	Thune
Cramer	Lankford	Tuberville
Crapo	Lummis	Vance
Cruz	Marshall	

NOT VOTING—5

King	Murkowski	Risch
Lee	Padilla	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Under the previous order,

the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Arizona.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO LOURDES E. "ALFIE" ALVARADO-RAMOS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, the Director of Washington State's Department of Veterans Affairs, who will retire on January 31, 2023, after serving Washington State and our veterans for over 29 years. Alfie's impressive career is marked by many well-earned accolades, but most of all by her dedication to serving Washington State and the Nation.

Throughout her military service, Alfie's service has been recognized with awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Order of Military Medical Merit, Expert Field Medical Badge, and Meritorious Service medal. After 22 years, she retired from Active Duty in August 1993 as the command sergeant major of Madigan Army Medical Center and Troop Command, Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

She has also proven herself a distinguished and passionate leader in the management of medical services delivery and human resources management, especially for our veterans. Alfie is an alumna of the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Program, the University of Washington Executive Management Program, and holds a master's degree in healthcare administration, and a licensed nursing home administrator.

As director of Washington State's Department of Veterans Affairs, Alfie was a member of Governor Jay Inslee's executive cabinet and chaired the Washington State Military Transition Council. In this capacity, she has helped the agency lead statewide efforts for the seamless transition of servicemembers and their families to Washington State's communities. As a leader in our State, she has been honored with many well-earned local, State, and national awards, including the Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award and the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary's Leadership Award.

Alfie's extraordinary commitment to servicemembers and veterans is unmatched. Anyone who has worked with Alfie, as I have been honored to do for

many years, knows her tireless dedication and relentless drive to improve services for members of the military, veterans, and their families. From mental health to education and training, military spouse employment, to emergency funding for State veterans homes in the depths of the COVID pandemic, Alfie has been an incredible partner.

Although there are so many stories I could share about the way Alfie has fought for veterans in Washington State, there is one in particular that I will never forget. Back in 2013, the State of Washington, thanks to Alfie's leadership, secured Federal funding for a veterans home in Walla Walla. Unfortunately, through a series of bureaucratic mishaps, our State was in danger of losing that funding—that is, until Alfie stepped in. She called to let my office know about the problem and was absolutely furious the Federal Government would pull the rug out from under those veterans who needed care the most. I couldn't have agreed more. It was unacceptable—so we didn't accept it. Together, we fought to keep the funding, and we won. There is now a beautiful veterans home in Walla Walla thanks to Alfie's tireless dedication to Washington State veterans.

I will miss working with her in the years ahead, but it has been an honor to know Alfie throughout her career as dedicated mentor, teacher, and guide for the next generation of military and veteran leaders. I know Washington State and the Nation will be in good hands, thanks to her and her legacy will continue far beyond her own retirement.

I offer my deepest appreciation for Alfie's dedicated service to the United States of America and Washington State. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Alfie on her well-earned retirement and wishing her many years of enjoyment with her family.

REMEMBERING ROBERT "BOBBY" SILVERSTEIN

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of Robert "Bobby" Silverstein, who was a champion for people who experience disabilities and who made an incredible impact throughout his career.

During his time working for both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, Bobby held a number of leadership roles where he helped develop legislation to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities. This includes serving as staff director and chief counsel for the Subcommittee on Disability Policy on what is now known as the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. During his tenure, Bobby worked to build bipartisan consensus and helped negotiate critical pieces of bipartisan legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act—ADA.

Bobby made a profound impact on countless families across the country,

including my own. My son Ben experiences physical disabilities and because advocates like Bobby worked to pass critical legislation like the ADA, Ben had the opportunity to go to school, to learn, and make friends in our community.

But my family's story is not unique. Across the country, in the more than three decades since the ADA was signed into law, people who experience disabilities have been more fully included in their communities and have received the support that they need to thrive at home, in school, at work, and in all aspects of their lives.

As we mark Bobby's legacy, we also recognize that we have more work to do to build on his incredible efforts. And we must follow his example of working to build consensus and make a difference for the American people.

While Bobby passed away in November, the impact that he has made in the lives of millions of people will live on in our democracy. I am profoundly grateful for the work he has done and will continue working to honor his legacy and ensure that Americans who experience disabilities are fully included in every aspect of our society.

TRIBUTE TO CHERYL L. MASON

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I would like to honor the 30 years of public service and career of a distinguished American and champion for veterans, servicemembers, and their families: Mrs. Cheryl L. Mason.

As the Department of Veterans Affairs' Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, Chairman Mason helped deliver thousands of veterans and their families appeals on their earned benefits and VA services, ensuring they received timely decisions, including throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairman Mason's lifelong commitment to serving veterans, servicemembers, and their families is no surprise given her background. She is the daughter of a U.S. Navy World War II veteran and a proud military spouse, serving her country alongside her husband Brett during his nearly 21 years in the U.S. Air Force.

Like many military spouses, Chairman Mason experienced a few breaks in her professional career due to relocations. However, she never let that stop her from working, whether it was as an LBJ intern on Capitol Hill for Congressman Bob McEwen, for the Department of the Air Force, in academia, or in private practice as an attorney. In fact, her experience served as a catalyst for her to become a champion for the military spouse community, where she went on to assist VA, the Department of Labor, Defense, and the Hiring Our Hero's Program at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to reduce military spouse unemployment and underemployment.

After decades of public service, Mrs. Mason was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and sworn-in as the Chairman of

the Board of Veterans' Appeals in November of 2017. She is the first woman and military spouse to hold this position.

During her time as Chairman, Mason demonstrated strong leadership to the veterans and communities she served. From hiring 65 new veterans law judges to increase both hearing and decision capacity, to expanding use of remote work during the pandemic that resulted in record-setting hearings, she delivered on her commitments.

As the top Democrat on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee since 2017, it was a great honor to work with Chairman Mason and the Board of Veterans' Appeals to spearhead landmark laws such as the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, which reduced the claims backlog from 472,000 cases to 96,000 cases in 4 years, and the VA Tele-Hearing Modernization Act, which VA was able to quickly implement as a result of Chairman Mason's efforts.

Cheryl has also been an outstanding champion for the hiring of veterans, military spouses, and caregivers at VA and in the executive branch. And as a PREVENTS ambassador, she has done great work in developing and distributing a holistic public health approach to suicide prevention, working locally and nationally to end suicide.

It is my honor to recognize Cheryl's 30 years of outstanding service and top-notch commitment to serving our military men and women, veterans, and their families. While Cheryl is beginning a new chapter, I have no doubt she will continue to serve as a leading national advocate.

Chairman Mason, on behalf of myself and a grateful nation, I extend my greatest appreciation to you for your enduring leadership, advocacy, and service to all veterans. Your impact will be felt by veterans nationwide for years to come. Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA LONG RUBIN

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Mrs. Victoria Long Rubin, a Knauss Sea Grant fellow on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. Ruben's scientific expertise has informed the committee's efforts in a meaningful and professional way. She has worked on several pieces of legislation that are important to improve the safety and economic security of the Nation, including the TORNADO Act, the Maritime Technical Advancement Act, and the first authorization of the Minority Business Development Agency. Her contributions will help improve tornado forecasting to keep Americans safer from deadly storms, promote maritime education at our Nation's community colleges, and increase support for rural minority businesses.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Rubin for all of the fine work she has done and wish her luck in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ASHLYN SPECTOR

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Ms. Ashlyn Spector, a Knauss Sea Grant fellow on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. Spector's scientific expertise has informed the committee's efforts in a meaningful and professional way. She has worked on several pieces of legislation that are important to improve the safety and economic security of the Nation, including the TORNADO Act. Her contributions will help improve data management at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, promote Federal partnerships with our Nation's historically black colleges and universities and increase Federal coordination on floods and wildfires.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ms. Spector for all of the fine work she has done and wish her luck in the years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 1973 VASTER HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 1973 Vaster High School basketball team on the 50th anniversary of its overall state championship game performance and the way it continues to inspire many Arkansans to this day.

From the small, rural Jefferson County community of Moscow, and with a first-year head coach, the Vaster basketball team had a remarkable season, earning the Class B title and advancing to the finals in the overall tournament. Vaster defeated bigger and better teams to earn the right to play in the overall championship contest against the powerhouse players of Little Rock Central High School.

The Vaster squad was certainly the underdog, but they played hard and kept the game close through late in the fourth quarter. In the final moments, they came up short, but despite the crushing defeat, the Vaster players held their heads high and fans rallied around these young men who proudly represented their community. They revealed wisdom beyond their years in learning from the loss, taking pride in all they had achieved and still displaying true sportsmanship.

Stories like theirs bring communities together and create memories and friendships that last a lifetime. Their performance at the end of the 1973 season has forged a bond between the players, coaches, and spectators that still sparks passion today.

I applaud the coaches and players for their ability to show such grit and resilience on the court and grace in defeat. By overcoming challenges they faced along their hard-fought journey, the Vaster team demonstrated the power of uniting to achieve a common goal. Even 50 years later, this game represents something bigger than just

basketball in the lesson it provides—anyone can face long odds, and even suffer a defeat, but still be considered a winner.●

RECOGNIZING THE 1973 VASTER MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

• Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, in the past half century, Arkansans have played millions of basketball games, most of which have disappeared into a blur of fond memories and forgotten scores. For many of the residents of Jefferson County, however, one game still stands out from the rest: the 1973 State overall championship final between the Vaster High School Pirates and the Little Rock Central High School Tigers.

In that game, the Pirates represented a small rural community of only a few hundred, against the Tigers of Little Rock, a city of a quarter million. The Tigers were taller, better ranked, and were defending champs. Vaster, on the other hand, had overcome great odds just to get to the championship final, and few thought they had a chance. The Pirates could have made a half-hearted effort that March day and met expectations. But that is not what makes a great game and not what the Pirates had in mind.

When they took the court, Vaster's coaches and players were intent on shattering expectations, and that is exactly what they did. Far from being blown out, the Pirates went toe-to-toe with the Tigers. Central would take the lead, only for Vaster to wrest it away. The Pirates made the Tigers fight for every pass, point, and inch of progress. And you better believe they made Central sweat. This climactic battle between two great teams ended in a one-point Tiger victory, after Vaster missed a free throw in the last 12 seconds of the game.

Fifty years later, that game still fills many Arkansans with pride. It remains proof that extraordinary effort, commitment, and drive, even by teenagers on a basketball court, can inspire and make a difference years later. That is why I would like to honor the great coaches, players, and staff of the 1972-73 Vaster High School Pirates: head coach Herbert Pryor, assistant coach Andrew Carr, Cleveland Allen, Eric Biley, Samuel Biley, Jr., Reddic Borkins, Jimmy Dade, Carl Evans, James Evans, Tommy Evans, Roy Franklin, Jimmy Gladney, Homer Jackson, Melvin Jackson, Charles Petty, Rodney Ryce, Thomas Tarty, Ronnie Grice, Rodney Crawford, and Jacob Jones.

The State of Arkansas and the U.S. Senate salute you on this 50th anniversary of your great game.●

REMEMBERING JAMES "JIMMY" DEAL

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the life and legacy of my dear friend, James

“Jimmy” Deal. Jimmy devoted his life to protecting others and remained fiercely loyal to his friends and family to his last breath. While I am incredibly sad to lose my friend, I am so grateful to the Deal family for sharing him with the rest of us and allowing him to devote so much of his time and energy toward keeping others safe.

Jimmy was born and raised in San Francisco, CA. After graduating from San Jose State, Jimmy was determined to protect others from crime and violence, and so he took an assignment as a special agent at the Las Vegas office of the newly formed Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Though moving to Las Vegas was a significant milestone in Jimmy’s career, the most important moment was a chance meeting with another Federal employee, Cathy Liance, who was also working in his building. Cathy and Jimmy were married after Jimmy started work at the Secret Service. Soon, the Deals filled their household with children Jennifer, Jessica, and David. Jimmy’s career with the Secret Service would take the Deals all over the country, but they eventually made Reno, NV, their home.

Jimmy served with the Secret Service for nearly 30 years, including several years when he was assigned to President Gerald Ford’s protective division after Ford faced multiple assassination attempts. After 9/11, Jimmy shifted his focus and became an early leader within another new Federal Agency, the Transportation Security Administration. Having spent nearly his entire adult life in Federal law enforcement, Jimmy saw how his experience and knowledge would be valuable for the new Agency. Jimmy took the role of Assistant Federal Security Director and provided a guiding hand in the Reno-Tahoe International Airport’s safety and security protocols. At the airport, Jimmy was a leader in raising awareness about human trafficking, and he worked with agencies in Nevada to assist victims of human trafficking to escape. He continued this important work until his sudden passing.

My husband Paul and I will truly miss Jimmy and will remain grateful for his friendship and his lifelong commitment to serving people and protecting the public. To Jimmy’s mother Urania and to Cathy, Jennifer, Jessica, David, and the grandkids Dylan and Casey, I hope you all keep Jimmy’s boundless love and spirit with you always and take pride in what he accomplished.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. DANIEL EDELMAN

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing a true Montana hero, Dr. Daniel Edelman. Dr. Edelman is a veteran of the U.S. Army who was seriously injured on a mission while deployed overseas as the non-commissioned officer in charge of security and intelligence of the 1st Military

Intelligence Battalion, First Infantry Division. Despite his severe injuries, Dr. Edelman pursued and obtained bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate degrees, along with several professional certifications, allowing him to have a long and distinguished career serving his fellow Montanans.

While serving as chancellor at Montana State University-Billings, Dr. Edelman championed many student causes with a particular focus on veterans, disabilities, first generation, underserved, and Native American students. He worked with the FBI and other Agencies to provide educational opportunities for victims of human trafficking and also entered into an agreement for MSUB to partner with the University of North Texas Health Science Center to identify human remains, particularly those of murdered Native Americans. Additionally, he created a veteran’s success center at MSUB. Dr. Edelman also helped raise the final funds for a science building and student scholarships. Outside of his work at MSUB, Dr. Edelman volunteers by serving on the board of Horses Spirits Healing, a nonprofit that helps veterans with PTSD.

After a career dedicated to serving Montana and our Nation, Dr. Edelman recently retired from MSUB due to a terminal condition connected to his time in the U.S. Army. Dr. Edelman truly embodies the values and spirit of a Montanan, and I have no doubt that his legacy of service will continue for generations to come. It is my honor to recognize Dr. Edelman for his service to our great State and Nation and for his dedication to improving the lives of his students and fellow Montana veterans. You have made Montana and our country proud.●

TRIBUTE TO DOUG BIBBY

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President. I rise today to honor the career of Doug Bibby, president of the National Multifamily Housing Council—NMHC—on the occasion of his retirement. For the past 30 years, Mr. Bibby has been a positive force in the housing sector, working to support families’ pursuit of safe and affordable housing across this country.

More than two decades ago, Mr. Bibby became the president of the National Multifamily Housing Council, one of the Nation’s leading associations representing the multifamily housing sector. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Bibby has led with empathy, clarity, and dedication. Early in his presidency, he outlined goals for the council and the apartment industry at-large, highlighting the benefits of this housing option for families. With that in mind, Mr. Bibby made housing affordability and safety a top priority through legislation, partnerships, and programming. His leadership was essential during the pandemic as he helped advocate for passage of bipartisan legislation that led to over \$50

billion in rental assistance going to households in need amidst the crisis.

At the helm of the council, Mr. Bibby formed their diversity, equity, and inclusion commitment strategy, recognizing its significance to the future of the multifamily industry. He took on the role of mentoring the next generation of leaders as a top priority. In addition, Mr. Bibby was committed to introducing a pipeline for new talent to enter the industry, which led to the formation of NMHC’s Emerging Leaders Program.

Mr. Bibby left a productive, positive and enduring mark on the apartment industry, a sector that provides homes for almost 37 million Americans and contributes \$3.4 trillion to the economy annually. His legacy will be felt for generations to come. Having delayed his well-deserved retirement more than once, I commend him for his many years of dedication and wish him the best in this next chapter of his life. I congratulate him and wish him a well-earned, enjoyable and fulfilling retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO HUGH T. CLEMENTS, JR.

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Hugh T. Clements, Jr., on his retirement from the Providence Police Department and on his new role at the Department of Justice running the COPS program. A 38-year veteran of the police force, Colonel Clements joined the police force right out of college. He worked his way to the top job and did so with integrity and devotion to the job and the city he loves. Two things stand out about Hugh: One, he made the transition from leading the FOP to leading the department, a feat that provides a measure of his skills and fairness; two, in the department’s dark days, he remained true to his oath, even though that likely ended any chance for him at promotion. When the skies ultimately brightened, his choice to stay true was rewarded; but at the time, it was not sure that day would ever come. It is easy to do the right thing when you are rewarded for it; when it comes with a price, that is the true test—one he passed. I have always admired and enjoyed working with Hugh. One of his many gifts is to always be in touch with and understand his officers and the challenges they face as they serve our capital city, with a similar understanding with the broader community. Leading any sizable department can be difficult, but Colonel Clements’ long tenure in the role of chief under several mayoral administrations is a testament to his abilities—to the affection, loyalty and respect he has earned and to his thoughtful and effective community-centered approach.

Chief Clements has received many accolades for his outstanding service. He is a three-time recipient of the Chiefs Award. He has been recognized

for his work by the FBI, ATF, and the Rhode Island Attorney General. And now, the Attorney General of the United States has placed his trust in him. I thank Colonel Clements for his steadfast commitment to the people of our capital city and to the officers of the Providence Police Department as he leaves city service. I wish him, his wife Donna, and their family, all the best—and I look forward to continuing to work with him here in Washington to protect the public safety.●

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN PARE

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Commissioner Steven Pare on his retirement as commissioner of public safety for the City of Providence. During Commissioner Pare's tenure, he worked tirelessly to strengthen the Providence public safety response team and create a system that delivered for all who work, visit, and live in our capital city.

As commissioner, he oversaw both police and fire operations in Providence. A dedicated public servant, Commissioner Pare served on the Rhode Island State Police for 26 years and then became superintendent commanding that distinguished organization. He enjoyed a successful interval in the private sector before duty called again, and he returned to take the helm in Providence. I have had the pleasure of working with Steve throughout his years on the State police and in Providence. Before him, his father was a legendary State police officer, with a sterling reputation for integrity that Steve has carried proudly forward.

Commissioner Pare has been a trusted and effective leader throughout his career in law enforcement. I wish him, his wife, Jill, and his family all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS VERDI

● Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Commander Thomas Verdi on his retirement from the Providence Police Department. Deputy Chief Verdi joined the force 35 years ago after graduating from the University of Rhode Island, fulfilling his lifelong dream of becoming a police officer. I had the pleasure of meeting Tom when he was a young officer, we did an overnight "ride-along" together, and I have worked with him over the years from my time as U.S. Attorney and Attorney General until his retirement.

His commitment to the job and love for Providence helped him rise up the ranks into leadership roles. He was the first Providence police officer to serve on the State parole board; he ran Providence's training program and led the department administratively. A cop's cop, Tom was a renowned undercover officer, he received the U.S. Attorney's Award for his work in the multi-agency Latin Kings gang investigation, and ul-

timately received the National Police Association's Top Cops award for his narcotics investigation prowess.

As he retires, I come to the floor to recognize how Commander Verdi has served with distinction and honored the residents of Providence. He comes from a Rhode Island family of great accomplishment, and I thank Tom for his distinguished service and wish him, his wife Kimberly, and his family all the best in the chapter of his life that lies ahead.●

HONORING THE CAREER OF DR. SCOTT ROBISON

● Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. Scott Robison, who is retiring after more than 40 years educating Hoosier children.

Dr. Robison hails from New Albany, IN, and earned his bachelor's degree in education from Indiana University in 1980. His career began as an elementary teacher in New Albany-Floyd County schools, as well as MSD Pike Township in Indianapolis. He then served as a principal in Southwest Allen Schools in Fort Wayne and as the founding principal of Pike Township's New Augusta K-8 Academy. He later became assistant school superintendent in Westfield Washington Schools before becoming superintendent of Marion-Adams Schools in Sheridan. In 2006, he was named superintendent of Zionsville Community Schools. After 16 years in the district, he is retiring this month.

Dr. Robison is an innovative leader. In the 1990s, he pioneered practices such as in-district school choice, alternative school calendars, multi-age classrooms, and parent/community partnerships that are now well-established practices in schools across the State. He is known as a tremendous recruiter and developer of educators, many of whom have benefited directly from his wisdom and inspirational leadership.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Robison has never lost his own love of learning. He earned an M.S. from Indiana University in 1986 and a Ph.D. from Purdue University in 2003. He has also served on countless boards, commissions, and committees throughout the years and even refereed high school and college basketball games for 20 years. It is my honor to thank Dr. Robison for his tireless devotion to the children of Indiana, and all Hoosiers join me in wishing him a restful retirement.●

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

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

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

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 22. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 23. An act to rescind certain balances made available to the Internal Revenue Service.

H.R. 26. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 1. Concurrent resolution regarding consent to assemble outside the seat of government.

H. Con. Res. 3. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress condemning the recent attacks on pro-life facilities, groups, and churches.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 1, resolving that Cheryl L. Johnson of the State of Louisiana be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives; that Catherine Szpindor of the Commonwealth of Virginia be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; that Reverend Doctor Margaret Grun Kibben of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 2, resolving that the Senate be informed that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that KEVIN MCCARTHY, a Representative from the State of California, has been elected Speaker; and that Cheryl L. Johnson, a citizen of the State of Louisiana, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress.

The message further announced that a committee of two Members be appointed by the Speaker on the part of the House of Representatives to join with a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make: Mr. SCALISE of Louisiana, and Mr. JEFFRIES of New York.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the

order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Chair, and Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 3. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress condemning the recent attacks on pro-life facilities, groups, and churches; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 23. An act to rescind certain balances made available to the Internal Revenue Service.

H.R. 26. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

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. DAINES:

S. 6. A bill to reduce a portion of the annual pay of Members of Congress for the failure to adopt a concurrent resolution on the budget which does not provide for a balanced budget, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 7. A bill to authorize an additional district judgeship for the district of Idaho; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Mr. CASEY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 8. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan, to improve cost-sharing subsidies under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 9. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from sending petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 10. A bill to improve the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 11. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to require the Sec-

retary of Energy to stipulate, as a condition on the sale at auction of any petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, that the petroleum products not be exported to certain countries, to prohibit such sales to certain state-owned entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. VANCE, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 12. A bill to prohibit the government of the District of Columbia from using Federal funds to allow individuals who are not citizens of the United States to vote in any election, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 13. A bill to prohibit Federal funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 14. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the purchase of certain firearms by individuals under 21 years of age, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. VANCE, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 15. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve the reporting of abortion data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 16. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal funds to an institution of higher education that hosts or is affiliated with a student-based service site that provides abortion drugs or abortions to students of the institution or to employees of the institution or site, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. KING, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 17. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that return information from tax-exempt organizations be made available in a searchable format and to provide the disclosure of the identity of contributors to certain tax-exempt organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. COTTON, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 18. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination by abortion against an unborn child on the basis of Down syndrome; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MULLIN:

S. 19. A bill to clarify that a State has the sole authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing on Federal land within the boundaries of the State; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MULLIN:

S. 20. A bill to achieve domestic energy independence by empowering States to control the development and production of all forms of energy on all available Federal land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 21. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to modify the definition of the term "at-risk community"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 22. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MULLIN:

S. 23. A bill to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 24. A bill to fight homelessness in the United States by authorizing a grant program within the Health Resources and Services Administration for housing programs that offer comprehensive services and intensive case management for homeless individuals and families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WADSWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 25. A bill to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BAR-RASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 26. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S.J. Res. 1. A joint resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution of the United States relative to the line item veto, a limitation on the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve, and requiring a vote of two-thirds of the membership of both Houses of Congress on any legislation raising or imposing new taxes or fees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VANCE, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S.J. Res. 2. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER:

S.J. Res. 3. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to clarify the authority of Congress and the States to regulate corporations, limited liability companies, and other corporate entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MULLIN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 10. A resolution memorializing the unborn by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the 22nd day of January each year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. BUDD):

S. Res. 11. A resolution designating the week of January 22 through January 28, 2023, as "National School Choice Week"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 12. A resolution designating January 23, 2023, as "Maternal Health Awareness Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr.

MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 14. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the purchase of certain firearms by individuals under 21 years of age, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 25. A bill to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, today I rise to introduce two pieces of legislation, the Assault Weapons Ban and the Age 21 Act.

Assault weapons are weapons of war and they have no place on our streets. We have successfully banned assault weapons in the past, and it is long past time that we do it again.

Last year, our Nation suffered 648 mass shootings according to data from the Gun Violence Archive. That is nearly two mass shootings every day. An analysis by the Rockefeller Institute of Government found that mass shootings involving assault weapons resulted in an average of 2.3 more deaths and 4.4 more injuries than mass shootings that did not involve assault weapons.

Congress must do more to protect people from these deadly weapons.

The good news is, we have a solution that has been proven effective in the past: the Assault Weapons Ban.

I introduced the original Assault Weapons Ban that was signed into law in 1994. In the 10 years that the Assault Weapons Ban was in place, our country saw a 37-percent decline in gun massacres. In the decade after the Assault Weapons Ban expired, gun massacres shot back up by a stunning 183 percent.

There is no doubt that this bill would save lives. While the Assault Weapons Ban was in effect, gun massacres were down. After it expired, gun massacres rose.

We must once again pass the Assault Weapons Ban. I am pleased that so many of my Democratic colleagues have agreed to cosponsor this bill.

At the very least, Congress needs to take the important step of preventing individuals under the age of 21 from purchasing assault weapons. The Age 21 Act, which I am reintroducing today, would do just that.

Under current law, a firearms licensee may not sell or deliver a handgun to a buyer under the age of 21. However, this commonsense protection does not apply to assault weapon purchases. This loophole costs lives.

The Giffords Law Center, using FBI and census data, calculated that while 18- to 20-year-olds make up just 4 percent of the U.S. population, they commit 17 percent of all homicides.

So it makes sense that the law restricts individuals under the age of 21 from purchasing a handgun. But it does not make sense that this restriction does not extend to assault weapons as well. In the last 2 years, the shooter in three of the five deadliest mass shootings in the United States was a man under the age of 21.

If the Age 21 Act had been law last year, it could have stopped the 18-year-old who killed 10 people in Buffalo, NY, and the 18-year-old who killed 21 people in Uvalde, TX. These shooters used assault-style weapons that were legally purchased shortly after their 18th birthdays.

I thank the Senators who have stood with me in support of the Assault Weapons Ban and the Age 21 Act. I urge the rest of our colleagues to join us.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 21. A bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to modify the definition of the term "at-risk community"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the Community Wildfire Protection Act, bipartisan legislation that Senator DAINES and I are reintroducing today.

This bill would ensure that those communities that are deemed to be under the greatest threat from wildfire are eligible to receive existing Federal wildfire grants. This sounds obvious but unfortunately is not the case under current law.

The current definition of an "at-risk community" was codified in the 2003 Healthy Forest Restoration Act. That law requires that, in addition to experiencing significant wildfire risk, an eligible community must either be adjacent to Federal land or included on a list generated in 2001 consisting of voluntary input from States and Tribes.

Unfortunately, this 2001 list is far from objective or comprehensive. Communities on the list were not added based on an objective evaluation of their wildfire risk or threat to life and property, only whether an individual Governor or Tribal leader decided to add them. To make matters worse, there are obvious omissions from the list that show its inadequacy, and in fact, 19 States and territories never submitted a single community.

For example, large California cities such as Fresno, Fairfield, and Napa are not encompassed by this definition, all of which have experienced recent major wildfires. The list also omits Grizzly Flats, CA, which was devastated by the 2021 Caldor Fire, despite its proximity to Federal lands, as well as countless other small towns at great risk of wildfire.

These small, rural towns are frequently at the highest risk of wildfire and lack the resources to undertake wildfire resiliency projects on their own. Obviously, these are some of the towns that would most benefit from additional Federal help but because of the outdated definition, may not be eligible.

Aligning the definition in law for at-risk communities to today's environmental realities is more important than ever given the increased spread, frequency, and destructiveness of wildfires, especially in the West.

Our bill would simply end the practice of making Federal grants contingent on this outdated, incomplete list or proximity to Federal lands. Instead, our legislation would allow communities to be eligible based on the most up-to-date quantitative wildfire risk data for the entire United States—data already maintained by the U.S. Forest Service.

The 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided \$1 billion for community wildfire resilience grants, and last year's Inflation Reduction Act included an historic \$1.8 billion for wildfire resilience on federal forestlands. Congress has done the work of providing funding for wildfire resilience. Now it must ensure that these projects can be targeted where they are most necessary and completed with the swiftness that the wildfire crisis demands.

I am pleased to work with Senator DAINES on this commonsense bill that will save lives, save communities, and ensure that Federal dollars are spent as effectively as possible. This change would help more communities in our home States of California and Montana and others throughout the West access Federal grants to reduce hazardous fuels around their communities and utilize authorities to complete them in a timely fashion, thereby reducing the threat posed by wildfire.

I am proud that our bill has received the support of the National Association of Counties, Rural County Representatives of California, the National Association of State Foresters, the Pacific Forest Trust, and the California Fire Safe Council.

Our bill is simple, but it would correct a glaring oversight in current law and ensure that billions of dollars in wildfire resiliency funding are applied where they are most needed. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself,
Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, Mr.

MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 22. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the West Coast Ocean Protection Act, legislation that would prohibit new oil or natural gas leases in federal waters off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington.

I am pleased to be joined today by Senators PADILLA, WYDEN, MERKLEY, MURRAY, CANTWELL, MENENDEZ, BOOKER, MARKEY, and SANDERS in introducing this bill, which is critically important to protecting the west coast from additional oil spills.

Californians know all too well the devastating effects of oil spills. In 1969, a well blowout on an offshore rig spilled an estimated 3 million gallons of crude oil into the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Santa Barbara. At the time, it was the worst oil spill in U.S. history and was catastrophic to the local environment and marine life, closing beaches, harming the economy, and killing thousands of birds, fish, and marine mammals.

After the Santa Barbara disaster, California had enough. The State blocked all new offshore drilling in state waters and in 1994 enacted a permanent offshore drilling ban. Through local ordinances, congressional opposition, and Presidential moratoria, no new drilling in Federal waters off California has been allowed since 1984.

Unfortunately, Californians are still confronting the impacts from ongoing offshore drilling operations. In October 2021, a ruptured pipeline spilled more than 25,000 gallons of crude oil into the Pacific Ocean and onto the beaches of Orange County. Despite numerous alarms, operators allowed oil to flow from the leak for over 14 hours. It was absolutely devastating.

The spill covered more than 8,000 acres of the ocean's surface and required more than a week of cleanup. In that time, local businesses suffered, fisheries shuttered, and crews worked to remove harmful oil and tar balls from sensitive wildlife habitat.

Despite the harm caused to individuals and businesses in the community, the operator has been given permission to repair the pipeline and begin drilling again, exposing the California coastline to the risk of yet another accident.

California's coastal and ocean economies are engines of growth that support millions of jobs and generate significant economic activity for the State and Nation. Because of the unique nature of the west coast ocean shelf, any new potential drilling would occur near the coastline and directly threaten the environment and robust economy.

Beyond that, we are currently in the midst of a historic offshore energy transition. This past December, a successful auction was held for five offshore wind energy areas off the California coast, paving the way for a new floating wind industry. At the same time, the Federal Government has begun a programmatic review of decommissioning oil and gas platforms in the Pacific to prepare for their eventual removal. The era of offshore oil and gas production in the Pacific is coming to a close, and it is long overdue.

It is time to respect the view of California and our fellow west coast States by passing the West Coast Ocean Protection Act permanently ban offshore drilling and protect the Pacific coast for generations to come.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself,
Mr. PADILLA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR,
and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 24. A bill to fight homelessness in the United States by authorizing a grant program within the Health Resources and Services Administration for housing programs that offer comprehensive services and intensive case management for homeless individuals and families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act, which would establish a new Federal grant program to increase capacity for comprehensive supportive services paired with housing as a way to address our country's homelessness crisis.

As we have seen with the growing diversity of our homeless populations—individuals with mental health conditions or those struggling with addiction, people who simply could not keep up with increases in rent, families with children, and veterans—our Nation's homelessness crisis is not going away on its own without coordinated efforts at every level of government.

According to the data released in December from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, there are approximately 582,500 homeless individuals, including families with small children, in the United States. Nearly 30 percent of this population is in California, with approximately 172,000 homeless people sleeping on the streets on any given night.

In a nation as prosperous and wealthy as ours, we can and we must do better to address the issue of homelessness.

That is why I am introducing the Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act, which would authorize a new Federal funding stream of \$1 billion per year, subject to annual appropriations. Grantees must serve individuals or families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by providing housing paired with a comprehensive set of services and must

provide a 25-percent match for any Federal funds received.

Because each individual and every community is unique, the grant program would be flexible in order to work in any region or for any homeless population.

This bill is based on a model that has proven to be effective and supports the great work already being done across the country, allowing local governmental entities and nonprofit organizations to expand their capacity and ensure a greater reach by putting Federal dollars where they will be most effective.

I am proud that this legislation is supported by a wide coalition of local governments, housing, health, and child welfare organizations, including the mayors and CEOs for U.S. Housing Investment, National League of Cities, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Association of Counties, National Low Income Housing Coalition, and the National Housing Conference.

Supportive services such as mental and physical health care, substance abuse treatment, education and job training, and life skills such as financial literacy are critical components. Paired with intensive case management, supportive housing models make a difference.

We have seen the success of such partnerships in San Francisco, where the GLIDE Foundation provides critical services that meet an individual's basic needs, including meals, crisis intervention and prevention, childcare and educational programming, legal advice, and housing.

This would not be possible without the organization's partnerships with the city of San Francisco, particularly the San Francisco Department of Public Health, and other critical stakeholders. I highly encourage my colleagues to examine this exemplary homeless services model to see firsthand how effective partnerships can help to combat homelessness.

It is imperative that we support these types of partnerships, as well as nonprofit service providers, as they work to get people into housing to both mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and address their long-term needs.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting the bill and moving it through the Senate, especially as we continue to contend with the increase in homelessness.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 10—MEMORIALIZING THE UNBORN BY LOWERING THE UNITED STATES FLAG TO HALF-STAFF ON THE 22ND DAY OF JANUARY EACH YEAR

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MULLIN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) sub-

mitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 10

Whereas, on January 22, 1973, the majority of the members of the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that abortion was a right secured by the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas, on June 24, 2022, the majority of the members of the Supreme Court of the United States overturned *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), to affirm that the Constitution of the United States does not confer a right to abortion; and

Whereas, since January 22, 1973, more than 60,000,000 unborn children have perished: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the recognition of the Day of Tears in the United States on the 22nd day of January each year;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to lower their flags to half-staff to mourn and honor the innocents who have lost their lives to abortion; and

(3) encourages legislators to enact laws that respect the sanctity of life.

SENATE RESOLUTION 11—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF JANUARY 22 THROUGH JANUARY 28, 2023, AS "NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK"

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. BUDD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 11

Whereas providing a diversity of choices in K-12 education empowers parents to select education environments that meet the individual needs and strengths of their children;

Whereas high-quality K-12 education environments of all varieties are available in the United States, including traditional public schools, public charter schools, public magnet schools, private schools, online academies, and home schooling;

Whereas talented teachers and school leaders in each of the education environments prepare children to achieve their dreams;

Whereas more families than ever before in the United States actively choose the best education for their children;

Whereas more public awareness of the issue of parental choice in education can inform additional families of the benefits of proactively choosing challenging, motivating, and effective education environments for their children;

Whereas the process by which parents choose schools for their children is non-political, nonpartisan, and deserves the utmost respect; and

Whereas tens of thousands of events are planned to celebrate the benefits of educational choice during the 13th annual National School Choice Week, held the week of January 22 through January 28, 2023: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of January 22 through January 28, 2023, as "National School Choice Week";

(2) congratulates students, parents, teachers, and school leaders from kindergarten through grade 12 education environments of all varieties for their persistence, achievements, dedication, and contributions to society in the United States;

(3) encourages all parents, during National School Choice Week, to learn more about the education options available to them; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during National School Choice Week to raise public awareness of the benefits of opportunity in education.

SENATE RESOLUTION 12—DESIGNATING JANUARY 23, 2023, AS "MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY"

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

S. RES. 12

Whereas, each year in the United States, approximately 700 individuals die as a result of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth;

Whereas the pregnancy-related mortality ratio, defined as the number of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births, more than doubled in the United States between 1987 and 2017;

Whereas the United States is one of the only Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development member countries in which the maternal mortality rate has increased over the last several decades;

Whereas, of all pregnancy-related deaths in the United States between 2011 and 2016—

(1) nearly 32 percent occurred during pregnancy;

(2) approximately 35 percent occurred during childbirth or the week after childbirth; and

(3) 33 percent occurred between 1 week and 1 year postpartum;

Whereas more than 80 percent of maternal deaths in the United States are preventable;

Whereas, each year, more than 50,000 individuals in the United States suffer from a "near miss" or severe maternal morbidity, which includes potentially life-threatening complications that arise from labor and childbirth;

Whereas approximately 17 percent of individuals who give birth in a hospital in the United States report experiencing 1 or more types of mistreatment, such as—

(1) loss of autonomy;

(2) being shouted at, scolded, or threatened; or

(3) being ignored or refused or receiving no response to requests for help;

Whereas certain social determinants of health, including bias and racism, have a negative impact on maternal health outcomes;

Whereas significant disparities in maternal health outcomes exist in the United States, including that—

(1) Black individuals are more than 3 times as likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause as are White individuals;

(2) American Indian and Alaska Native individuals are more than twice as likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause as are White individuals;

(3) Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native individuals with at least some college education are more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than are individuals of all other racial and ethnic backgrounds with less than a high school diploma;

(4) Black, American Indian, and Alaska Native individuals are about twice as likely to

suffer from severe maternal morbidity as are White individuals;

(5) individuals who live in rural areas have a greater likelihood of severe maternal morbidity and mortality, compared to individuals who live in urban areas;

(6) less than ½ of rural counties have a hospital with obstetric services;

(7) counties with more Black and Hispanic residents and lower median incomes are less likely to have access to hospital obstetric services;

(8) more than 50 percent of individuals who live in a rural area must travel more than 30 minutes to access hospital obstetric services, compared to 7 percent of individuals who live in urban areas; and

(9) American Indian and Alaska Native individuals living in rural communities are twice as likely as their White counterparts to report receiving late or no prenatal care;

Whereas pregnant individuals may be at increased risk for severe outcomes associated with COVID-19, as—

(1) COVID-19 contributed to 25 percent of maternal deaths from 2020 to 2021;

(2) pregnant individuals with symptomatic COVID-19 are more likely to be admitted to an intensive care unit, receive invasive ventilation, and receive extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (commonly known as “ECMO”) treatment, compared to nonpregnant individuals with symptomatic COVID-19;

(3) pregnant individuals with symptomatic COVID-19 have a risk of dying that is 7 times higher than nonpregnant individuals with symptomatic COVID-19; and

(4) pregnant individuals with COVID-19 are at risk for pre-term delivery and stillbirth;

Whereas 49 States have designated committees to review maternal deaths;

Whereas State and local maternal mortality review committees are positioned to comprehensively assess maternal deaths and identify opportunities for prevention;

Whereas 48 States and the District of Columbia are participating in the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health, which promotes consistent and safe maternity care to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality;

Whereas community-based maternal health care models, including midwifery childbirth services, doula support services, community and perinatal health worker services, and group prenatal care, in collaboration with culturally competent physician care, show great promise in improving maternal health outcomes and reducing disparities in maternal health outcomes;

Whereas many organizations have implemented initiatives to educate patients and providers about—

(1) all causes of, contributing factors to, and disparities in maternal mortality;

(2) the prevention of pregnancy-related deaths; and

(3) the importance of listening to and empowering all people to report pregnancy-related medical issues; and

Whereas several States, communities, and organizations recognize January 23 as “Maternal Health Awareness Day” to raise awareness about maternal health and promote maternal safety; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates January 23, 2023, as “Maternal Health Awareness Day”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Maternal Health Awareness Day, including—

(A) raising public awareness about maternal mortality, maternal morbidity, and disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

(B) encouraging the Federal Government, States, territories, Tribes, local communities, public health organizations, physicians, health care providers, and others to take action to reduce adverse maternal

health outcomes and improve maternal safety;

(3) promotes initiatives—

(A) to address and eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

(B) to ensure respectful and equitable maternity care practices;

(4) honors those who have passed away as a result of pregnancy-related causes; and

(5) supports and recognizes the need for further investments in efforts to improve maternal health, eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes, and promote respectful and equitable maternity care practices.

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2022 fourth quarter Mass Mailing report is Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable PDF document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically at <http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass-mailing-form.htm> or e-mailed to OPR-MassMailings@sec.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224-0322.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-591, as amended by Public Law 102-221, appoints the following member of the United States Senate for appointment as a Senate Trustee to the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation: The Honorable JOE MANCHIN III of West Virginia.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 23 AND H.R. 26

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 23) to rescind certain balances made available to the Internal Revenue Service.

A bill (H.R. 26) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

Mr. KELLY. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023

Mr. KELLY. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2023; further, that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

RECESS UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:27 p.m., recessed until Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STACY LYNN DEAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES, VICE KEVIN W. CONCANNON.

MARGO SCHLANGER, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, VICE JOE LEONARD, JR.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

SOLOMON JEFFREY GREENE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE SETH DANIEL APPLETON, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

RON BORZEKOWSKI, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FINANCIAL RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE DINO FALASCETTI.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

DAVID UEJIO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE ANNA MARIA FARIAS.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

SAMUEL H. SLATER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2023, VICE WILLIAM SHAW MCDERMOTT, TERM EXPIRED.

SAMUEL H. SLATER, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2029. (REAPPOINTMENT)

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

ALVIN BROWN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2026, VICE ROBERT L. SUMWALT III, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JEFFREY MATTHEW MAROOTIAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY), VICE DANIEL SIMMONS.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

LAURA DANIEL-DAVIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE JOSEPH BALASH, RESIGNED.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS REFORM BOARD

JEFFREY R. GURAL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS REFORM BOARD FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS. (NEW POSITION)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DAVID M. UHLMANN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE SUSAN PARKER BODINE.

JOSEPH GOFFMAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE WILLIAM L. WEHRUM.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

ANDREW G. BIGGS, OF OREGON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2030. (REAPPOINTMENT)

KATHRYN ROSE LANG, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, VICE HENRY J. AARON, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

BRENT NEIMAN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE RAMIN TOLOUI.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

MARY CATHERINE PHEE, OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 27, 2026, VICE LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD, RESIGNED.

CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 22, 2023, VICE IQBAL PAROO, TERM EXPIRED.

CAROL MOSELEY BRAUN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 22, 2029. (REAPPOINTMENT)

MONDE MUYANGWA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 22, 2027, VICE LINDA I. ETIM, TERM EXPIRED.

UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

JANET KELLER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2023, VICE ELIZABETH F. BAGLEY, TERM EXPIRED.

JANET KELLER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2026. (REAPPOINTMENT)

JAY T. SNYDER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2023, VICE LYNDON L. OLSON, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

JAY T. SNYDER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2026. (REAPPOINTMENT)

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

JANET LOUISE YELLEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS; UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS; AND UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE STEVEN T. MNUCHIN.

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

JANET LOUISE YELLEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES GOVERNOR OF THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, VICE STEVEN T. MNUCHIN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CYNTHIA KIERSCHT, OF MINNESOTA, 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 DJIBOUTI.

DAVID J. KOSTELANCIK, OF ILLINOIS, 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 ALBANIA.

JENNIFER L. JOHNSON, OF NEW YORK, 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 FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.

JULIE TURNER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

ELIZABETH ALLEN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY, VICE IRWIN STEVEN GOLDSTEIN.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

ELIZABETH SHORTINO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE MARGRETHE LUNDSDAGER, RESIGNED.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD

KATHLEEN CUNNINGHAM MATTHEWS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027. (NEW POSITION)

JEFFREY GEDMIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2025. (NEW POSITION)

KENNETH M. JARIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD. (NEW POSITION)

KENNETH M. JARIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027. (NEW POSITION)

LUIS MANUEL BOTELLO, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2025. (NEW POSITION)

MICHELLE MAI SELESKY GIUDA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027. (NEW POSITION)

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA

GERALD H. ACKER, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A COMMISSIONER ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA, VICE JANE L. CORWIN, RESIGNED.

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

RICHARD L.A. WEINER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT, VICE J. STEVEN DOWD.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

L. FELICE GORRDO, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS, VICE ERK BETHEL, RESIGNED.

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

LEOPOLDO MARTINEZ NUCETE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, VICE ELIOT PEDROSA.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

ESTRELLITA BOGRAD BRODSKY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026, VICE RUSSELL A. BERMAN, TERM EXPIRED.

BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

BARBARA GEORGE JOHNSON, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING FEBRUARY 4, 2026, VICE MARIA E. RENGIFO-RUESS, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DANTE QUINTIN ALLEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF THE REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE MARK SCHULTZ.

LAWANDA AMAKER TONEY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE PETER CUNNINGHAM.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

MOSHE Z. MARVIT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2028, VICE ARTHUR R. TRAYNOR III, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JESSICA LOOMAN, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE CHERYL MARIE STANTON.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GLENNA LAUREEN WRIGHT-GALLO, OF NEVADA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, VICE JOHNNY COLLETT, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JOSE JAVIER RODRIGUEZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR, VICE JOHN P. PALLASCH.

NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD

LINDA A. PUCHALA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2024. (REAPPOINTMENT)

LINDA A. PUCHALA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2027. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEIRDRE HAMILTON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MEDIATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2025. (REAPPOINTMENT)

THE JUDICIARY

ADRIENNE JENNINGS NOTI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE FREDERICK HOWARD WEISBERG, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

PATRICE H. KUNESH, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF THE ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE JEAN CAROL HOVLAND.

THE JUDICIARY

WESLEY L. HSU, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE VIRGINIA A. PHILLIPS, RETIRED.

MARIAN F. GASTON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE WILLIAM Q. HAYES, RETIRED.

MONICA RAMIREZ ALMADANI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE JOHN A. KRONSTADT, RETIRED.

ROBERT STEWART BALLOU, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA, VICE JAMES P. JONES, RETIRED.

TODD E. EDELMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE FLORENCE Y. PAN, ELEVATED.

KYMBERLY KATHRYN EVANSON, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, VICE RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, RETIRING.

MYONG J. JOUN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, VICE GEORGE A. O'TOOLE, JR., RETIRED.

COLLEEN R. LAWLESS, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS, VICE SUE E. MYERSCOUGH, RETIRING.

JONATHAN JAMES CANADA GREY, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, VICE DENISE PAGE HOOD, RETIRED.

JULIA E. KOBICK, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS, VICE WILLIAM G. YOUNG, RETIRED.

RITA F. LIN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE EDWARD MILTON CHEN, RETIRED.

RAMON ERNESTO REYES, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE KIYO A. MATSUMOTO, RETIRED.

JAMES EDWARD SIMMONS, JR., OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE ANTHONY J. BATTAGLIA, RETIRED.

GORDON P. GALLAGHER, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO, VICE WILLIAM JOSEPH MARTINEZ, RETIRING.

P. CASEY PITTS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE LUCY HAERAN KOH, ELEVATED.

ANDREW G. SCHOPLER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE LARRY ALAN BURNS, RETIRED.

ARUN SUBRAMANIAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE ALISON J. NATHAN, ELEVATED.

ORELIA ELEFTA MERCHANT, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, VICE WILLIAM FRANCIS KUNTZ II, RETIRED.

CHARNELLE BJELKENGREN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON, VICE SALVADOR MENDOZA, JR., ELEVATED.

SCOTT WINSTON COLOM, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI, VICE MICHAEL P. MILLS, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TODD GEE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE D. MICHAEL HURST, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

JILL E. STEINBERG, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE BOBBY L. CHRISTINE, RESIGNED.

ISMIL J. RAMSAY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DAVID L. ANDERSON, RESIGNED.

KATE E. BRUBACHER, OF KANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE STEPHEN R. MCALLISTER, RESIGNED.

ROY W. MINTER, JR., OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DAVID L. LYONS, TERM EXPIRED.

WILLIAM R. HART, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE NICK WILARD, TERM EXPIRED.

MICHAEL PURNELL, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DANIEL R. MCKITTRICK, TERM EXPIRED.

DALE L. BELL, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MARK B. SHEPHERD.

STEPHEN K. EBERLE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MICHAEL D. BAUGHMAN.

JUSTIN L. MARTINEZ, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MATTHEW D. HARRIS, RESIGNED.

CRAIG J. ANDERSON, OF MONTANA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE RODNEY D. OSTERMILLER, RETIRED.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

ALMO J. CARTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE J. PATRICIA WILSON SMOOT, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JOSHUA DAVID JACOBS, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR BENEFITS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE PAUL R. LAWRENCE.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID J. BERKLAND
COL. AMY S. BUMGARNER
COL. IVORY D. CARTER
COL. RAJA J. CHARI
COL. JASON E. CORROTHERS
COL. JOHN B. CREEL
COL. NICHOLAS B. EVANS
COL. BRIDGET V. GIGLIOTTI
COL. CHRISTOPHER B. HAMMOND
COL. LESLIE F. HAUCK III
COL. KURT C. HELPHINSTINE
COL. ABRAHAM L. JACKSON
COL. BENJAMIN R. JONSSON
COL. JOY M. KACZOR

COL. CHRISTOPHER J. LEONARD
COL. CHRISTOPHER E. MENUY
COL. DAVID S. MILLER
COL. JEFFREY A. PHILIPS
COL. ERIK N. QUIGLEY
COL. MICHAEL S. ROWE
COL. DEREK M. SALMI
COL. KAYLE M. STEVENS
COL. JOSE E. SUMANGIL
COL. TERENCE G. TAYLOR
COL. JASON D. VOORHEIS
COL. MICHAEL O. WALTERS
COL. ADRIENNE L. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. LEIGH A. SWANSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. COREY A. SIMMONS

IN THE ARMY

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. KARL H. GINGRICH

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. SEAN A. GAINES

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. HEIDI J. HOYLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. LAURENCE S. LINTON

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 major general

BRIG. GEN. STACY M. BABCOCK

To be brigadier general

COL. PEGGY R. MCMANUS

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Armed Services was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

BRENDAN OWENS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate January 23, 2023:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BRENDAN OWENS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE