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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of our destinies, guide our Senators this day by Your higher wisdom. Lord, watch over them and use their work for Your glory. Replace fear with faith, pessimism with hope, and error with truth. May these lawmakers become Your instruments for enabling justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. Give our legislators the serenity to accept what they can't change, the courage to change what they can, and the wisdom to know the difference. Provide them with strength and courage for the living of these days.

And, Lord, we thank You for the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the U.S. alliance with South Korea.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 27, 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 BALDWIN, a Senator from the State of Wisconsin, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

REMOVING THE DEADLINE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res 4, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 3, S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

S.J. RES. 4

Mr. SCHUMER. First, Mr. President, I would like to speak about the upcoming vote on the Equal Rights Amendment.

As we all know, the story of American democracy has been a hard but inexorable march toward greater equality—equality regardless of race, equality regardless of social status, equality regardless of marital status, and equality regardless of sex. That march began at the founding of our country, when Abigail Adams reminded her husband to “remember the ladies” when drafting the Constitution, which fell, unfortunately, on deaf ears.

It was a march that drew great numbers during the convention at Seneca Falls, NY, in 1848, and found expression in the abolitionist movement. That march took a bold step 100 years ago, when Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman drafted the original iteration of the Equal Rights Amendment and came before Congress for the first time.

Let that great march toward equality take the next bold step today when the Senate votes to take up this bipartisan resolution on the ERA.

This resolution is as necessary as it is timely. America can never hope to be a land of freedom and opportunity so long as half its population is treated like second-class citizens.

So 100 years after the ERA first came to Congress, the work is not done. The fight has yet to be won. The march continues. And we have a chance to take this next step forward.

The resolution is simple. It removes the arbitrary deadline for State ratification of the ERA that was imposed in the 1970s.

Today, 38 States have ratified the ERA, as required by the Constitution.

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



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S1403

But because two States acted only recently, after the deadline set by Congress, the ERA remains unratified.

Today's resolution says this deadline shall be in effect no more and, by doing so, recognizes that a sufficient number of States have now acted for the ERA to become the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

There is no good reason—none—for this Chamber, this Congress, and this Nation to bind itself to limitations set 50 years ago. The Constitution itself imposes no such barrier. By keeping this barrier in place—this 7-year barrier—all we are doing is needlessly obeying skewed rules set by politicians who are long gone and whose views ought not to rule the day any longer.

In 2023, we should move forward to ratify the ERA with all due haste because, if you look at the terrible things happening to women's rights in this country, it is clear we must act. To the horror of hundreds of millions of American people, women in America have far fewer rights today than they did even a year ago. The protections of *Roe v. Wade* are gone, thanks to the MAGA majority on the Supreme Court. Over a dozen States have near-total abortion bans and millions of people have to travel hundreds of miles just to access reproductive care. That is sickening.

That is why the Senate, today, should vote in favor of advancing this ERA resolution so we can bring our Nation one step closer to greater justice, greater equality, and a more perfect union.

Again, let that great march toward equality take the next bold step today.

I thank Senators CARDIN and MURKOWSKI, as our lead sponsors—it is a bipartisan bill—and all Members who have championed this resolution. I will proudly vote yes on this measure.

LIMIT, SAVE, GROW ACT OF 2023

Mr. President, now on default, yesterday, House Republicans passed, through the narrowest possible margin, a bill that amounts to a little more than a hard-right ransom note to the American people.

Republicans' "Default on America Act," DOA, cannot possibly be called a real "plan" for resolving the default crisis. The DOA reads more like a threat coming directly from the House Freedom Caucus: Either Republicans will force a default on the debt, or they will force steep cuts, highly unpopular with the American people, for law enforcement, veterans, families, teachers, and kids.

Let's be perfectly clear. The Republicans' "Default on America Act" does nothing to actually resolve the looming debt crisis, and it has no hope of ever becoming law. If anything, the House's actions have made the likelihood of default more likely. It locks the House into an unacceptable position and pulls us even further apart.

This shows the real solution is a clean, bipartisan plan to avoid default. It is the same one both parties have adopted many times before. That is the

solution, not this "Default on America Act" that is going nowhere.

If Republicans want to sell this terrible agenda to the American people, they should make their case in talks about the budget and appropriations, where it belongs, not by using the full faith and credit of the United States as a hostage.

Let me say that again. The Republicans' "Default on America Act" does nothing to resolve the default crisis and, in fact, makes it only more likely. The "Default on America Act," which the House just passed, is not a step forward but rather a costly step backward.

Speaker MCCARTHY has claimed for months he wants to negotiate on avoiding default, but, according to reports, he is saying the opposite behind closed doors.

Per at least one GOP House Member, Speaker MCCARTHY called this radical bill "a floor, not a ceiling." That is what he told the hard-right Members whose votes he needed. The Speaker has reportedly promised his right flank that, moving forward, he will oppose any measure that doesn't have every single hard-right priority considered in this bill.

In other words, to say this bill is "a floor, not a ceiling" is a threat to make the GOP bill even more extreme and avoid any alternative.

If these reports are true—and Speaker MCCARTHY has made clear he has no intention of negotiating—the Speaker can't say his bill is "a floor, not a ceiling" and also claim he wants to negotiate. This is rather a hostage-taking tactic, and this "Default on America Act" is the ransom note forced on us by a hard-right, unrepresentative small group in the House of Representatives who have leverage because of the rules there.

The GOP should realize that the American people will object to steep cuts to education, law enforcement, veterans' care, and border security that the DOA bill proposes.

So for all the effort the GOP spent trying to pass their bill, unfortunately, we are not any further along to resolving the debt ceiling crisis, and, if anything, we have taken a costly step backward.

It all brings us back to the place where we have been since the very beginning. The only real solution to avoiding a catastrophic default is the same solution that both parties have adopted in the past: Come together for a clean plan to avoid default, with no ransom notes, no "floors," and no brinksmanship.

Democrats will not allow this "Default on America Act" to become law.

SAFE BANKING ACT

Mr. President, finally on safe banking, yesterday, Senators from both sides of the aisle—I met with them repeatedly—reintroduced the SAFE Banking Act.

SAFE Banking would ensure cannabis businesses that operate in States

with legal cannabis have equal access to critical banking infrastructure. Clearly, this bill has provisions particularly aimed at helping minority business owners who are at a critical disadvantage in the cannabis industry.

Right now, the norm for the cannabis businesses is to operate on all cash, and that is simply not fair. It exposes them to too many risks and stifles their opportunities to grow.

Congress should be in the business of promoting entrepreneurs, promoting job growth, not holding these things back.

I have worked very hard to make progress in SAFE Banking Plus, and the work will continue, but I have also made it clear that one of my top priorities to ensure SAFE Banking passes is that it contain critical criminal justice provisions—most importantly, expunging criminal records for certain low-level marijuana offenses.

We have a moral responsibility in Congress to undo the terrible damage caused by the War on Drugs. It almost always has affected people of color. So I am going to work very hard with my colleagues to make sure criminal justice provisions are a part of SAFE Banking when it reaches the floor.

I thank all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. We have met numerous times, and I think everyone is working in good faith, including Senators MERKLEY, DAINES, BROWN, SULLIVAN, and PAUL—a bipartisan group if there ever was one.

I look forward to working with my colleagues—Democrat and Republican—to make progress on SAFE Banking Plus this Congress, and I hope this portends more bipartisan cooperation on future cannabis legislation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

S.J. RES. 4

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, we will shortly be voting on the cloture motion for S.J. Res. 4, and we are joined by Senator MURKOWSKI. I first want to start by thanking her for her extraordinary leadership on this issue and so many other issues that involve equality and opportunity for all Americans. It has been a journey that we have shared together, and I really want to thank her for her leadership on S.J. Res. 4.

It is bipartisan, and I know we are going to have a strong vote. I would just urge our colleagues not to filibuster equality. Let's get onto this resolution and complete the work that we have done. The States have already completed the work. Three-fourths, 38 States, have already approved and ratified the constitutional amendment for equal rights.

It is now necessary for us to take the final step and remove any doubt on the validity of the previous actions of Congress and the ratifications by the States. The courts have held what we have done before. It is up to Congress to do this. We have the authority, and we have the opportunity today by the vote that is going to take place.

We just got a statement on the administration's policy. President Biden strongly supports S.J. Res. 4. So we now have the support of the executive branch, and I hope that we can get the votes today in order to move forward on this. It is necessary.

We know that there are still systemic challenges based upon sex in our workplace, in healthcare, and domestic violence. This will be helpful, and most Americans already think it is part of the Constitution. So let's get the job done. We will have an opportunity to do so in a few moments.

Again, I want to thank my colleague, who has been a true leader on this, Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank Senator CARDIN for his leadership on this issue, not only in this Congress but in the previous Congresses when we have attempted to advance this very important measure.

What we have in front of us right now is S.J. Res. 4, an amendment to add the Equal Rights Amendment to our Constitution. It is pretty simple. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. It is as simple as that. That is it. That is the full substance of the Equal Rights Amendment. We refer to it as the ERA.

I think most people in this country believe that it is already a part of the Constitution, that it is already a protection under it.

Justice Scalia stated more than a decade ago now:

Certainly the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn't.

A little bit of the history here: The ERA was first proposed back in 1923, 3 years after ratification of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote, fully 100 years removed from where we are today. Now, 50 years later, the ERA finally passed Congress, was signed by President Carter in 1972.

There was a 7-year deadline for ratification. Thirty-five States moved quickly, including the State of Alaska, within that deadline. It was extended once, in 1982, to give the remaining States some more time to consider it. But momentum waned as other things took precedent.

The ERA didn't go away, though. Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia became the 36th, the 37th, and the 38th States to ratify it between 2017 and 2020. And so where we are today is there are 38 States that have ratified the ERA.

That meets the threshold of the three-quarters of the States that are needed to ratify a constitutional amendment, but that can't happen because of a technicality because the preamble of the ERA contains an outdated deadline for ratification.

And that is where our simple resolution comes in. It removes that arbitrary deadline to reflect what has actually happened instead of what Congress thought was going to happen some decades ago. It would affirm the Equal Rights Amendment has been ratified by 38 States, met the threshold to be made part of the Constitution, and allow that to finally occur.

Now, some have suggested that the ERA is no longer needed. We have certainly made great strides as women since 1923, but there is a lot more that needs to be done. Women are a majority of the U.S. population but continue to be underrepresented in elected office, in the courts, in the business world, and in so many other areas.

There remains, of course, a pay gap. We know of this. We hear the statistics all the time—a pay gap between men and women: 18 cents on the dollar according to the GAO—and that gap is wider across industries and within certain groups, to 22 cents on the dollar for women at private, for-profit companies and 23 cents for full-time managers.

As the Senator from Maryland has mentioned, the ERA is also needed to help address violence against women. Statistics from the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, for example, show that 1 in 7 women compared to 1 in 25 men have been injured by an intimate partner.

Again, what the Equal Rights Amendment provides: It would establish fundamental protections against discrimination based on sex. Every one of us should agree that such discrimination is completely unacceptable and that every citizen, regardless of sex, should enjoy the same rights under our Constitution, and that is all we are doing here today.

Again, equality of rights under the law should not be denied on account of sex. It shouldn't be controversial, but just about everything nowadays somehow is.

There has been debate about whether Congress has the authority to act on this resolution. I believe we do. There is no constitutional provision, there is no law, no Supreme Court decision telling us that we can't. The Constitution contains no time limit for ratification of amendments, and there is clear precedent for States taking years—decades, even centuries—to do so.

The 27th congressional pay act amendment was ratified in 1992. That was a full 203 years after it was enacted in 1789.

Another issue that has been raised is the five States that have attempted to rescind their ratification, but the Constitution does not contemplate rescissions, and there is clear precedent for

Congress determining that rescinding an amendment after ratification is ineffectual. In 1868, Congress adopted a concurrent resolution declaring that the 14th Amendment had been ratified despite the fact that two States—New Jersey and Ohio—had attempted to rescind their prior ratifications.

Again, the purpose of the ERA is to secure full equality for women, and there should be no time limit on that. Men and women should be treated equally under the law, and that is not a controversial position; it is a widely held view. The fact of the matter is, the vast majority of Americans support the ERA: 73 percent, according to one poll from 2020; 78 percent according to another; and 85 percent according to a poll from last year, including 93 percent of Democrats, 93 percent of Independents, and 79 percent of Republicans. At least half of the States have Constitutions like Alaska that guarantee equal rights based on sex in some way.

So I am proud, again, that our State stepped up in 1972 and, a few months later, by an overwhelming vote, amended our constitution to prohibit sex discrimination.

Mr. President, we are at the point where we are going to take a vote here right now. I am not entirely pleased by the timing of our debate on this resolution because we have not yet secured the 60 votes needed for its passage. I don't really like it being used as a filler on the floor, as somewhat of an exercise that runs the clock in a largely empty legislative calendar.

I don't see how the ERA or women in this country will ultimately benefit from that, but I am proud to lead this resolution with Senator CARDIN. I am proud to be working with him and others that, again, would see through the hollow arguments against the Equal Rights Amendment and would join us in passing it.

The American people are waiting for this. It is long overdue for Congress to act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, once again, I want to thank Senator MURKOWSKI for her leadership. This is a bipartisan effort, this joint resolution that we have, and it has been what the Equal Rights Amendment journey was about.

It started with action in the Congress. There was strong bipartisan support for the resolution for no discrimination based upon sex in our Constitution. It was passed by the House and Senate by bipartisan majorities.

The States' ratification process—I can tell you about the one in Maryland that I was part of when I was in the House of Delegates in our State legislature when we ratified the Equal Rights Amendment. There was strong bipartisan support.

And I am proud today that I am joining with Senator MURKOWSKI for the need for the Equal Rights Amendment

to be ratified. This is a bipartisan effort. I hope our colleagues will not filibuster it. I understand the concern.

This will be our first vote in the Senate on the resolution. The House has already passed it in two previous Congresses. I know that our House colleagues are watching, and I thank them for their leadership in the House. This will be our first opportunity in the Senate. I am glad we are having this opportunity.

With that, Mr. President, I would ask consent that, despite the previous order, we start the vote immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 3, S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Cory A. Booker, Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Amy Klobuchar.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 99 Leg.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein	Lee
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(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Gallery will come to order.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Gallery will come to order.

The Sergeant at Arms will remove the individual.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The individual will leave the Chamber.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The Sergeant at Arms will remove the individual from the Chamber.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The Sergeant at Arms will remove the individual from the Chamber.

The Senate will come to order.

(Disturbance in the Visitors' Galleries.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, let me explain. I switched my vote to no, not because I am not strongly for ERA—I wanted to bring it to the floor—but it will allow us to go back and cast a vote again in the future. This issue is too important, so we are not giving up. So I am moving to reconsider so I can bring it back up at a later time.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 22, Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

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

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 100 Leg.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—5

Braun	Lee	Warnock
Feinstein	Moran	

(Mr. WELCH assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The yeas are 50, the nays are 45, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as everyone in America knows, fentanyl is ravaging communities across the country. It is killing more than 70,000 people a year in the United States alone, making it the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 49.

The fentanyl epidemic does not discriminate. It kills old people, young people, rich people, poor people, people from major urban areas, and people from the countryside. One of the most alarming trends of what we are seeing is the rise of fentanyl-related deaths among teenagers. In 2021, 77 percent of all teenage overdose deaths involved fentanyl, the synthetic opioid.

We continue to hear and read of heartbreaking stories of teens who overdosed in their bedrooms or in a car or at school. Sadly, this is a recurring nightmare in communities across Texas which have experienced a wave of overdoses among teens.

Last fall, I sat down with a number of people in Dallas to learn more about the community-wide effort to fight fentanyl. I heard from parents who lost their children, as well as law enforcement officials, local elected leaders, healthcare professionals, and school administrators.

I learned that most of the time, these teenagers think they are buying something that is relatively innocuous—Xanax or Percocet—only to find out that it is a counterfeit pill made to look like a prescription drug that is laced with a deadly dose of fentanyl.

And it doesn't take much. If you look at the end of your pencil, the piece of lead sticking out of the end of your pencil, that amount of fentanyl can kill you.

People will frequently refer to these not necessarily as overdoses but poisonings, because in most cases, the victims have no idea that they are taking a lethal dose of fentanyl. That was the case for Patricia Hammad's daughter, Cassandra, who died from a fentanyl overdose 2 years ago. Patricia told me that Cassandra took the pill because she thought it was a Xanax, but, actually, it contained a lethal dose of fentanyl.

I heard a similar story from parents in Hays County when I visited there in

February at a high school. Darren and Shannon McConville lost their son Kevin to fentanyl last summer. Darren told me that Kevin took a pill to help him sleep at night, and that that pill cost him his life.

Earlier this week, I heard more heartbreaking stories from folks in Carrollton, TX, outside of Dallas. Lilia Astudillo told me about her 14-year-old son Jose, who loved playing sports and spending time with his brothers and sisters. One night, Jose took a pill that he thought would help him calm down before he went to bed. When Lilia went to wake her son up for school the next morning, it was too late. Her happy and talented son had died.

I also heard from another brave parent, Ryan Vaughn, who told me about his 16-year-old daughter Sienna. She was a cheerleader at Plano High School, and she loved going to concerts and thrift shopping. Sienna's father told me that he talked to her about the danger of drugs many times. Had she been offered fentanyl, he knows she would have said no. But when her friend came over for a family get-together and gave her what seemed to be an innocuous pill, she had no idea and she said yes. Later that evening, the Vaughns found their daughter and her friend overdosing. They were able to save her friend using Narcan. But for Sienna, it was too late.

These families in their communities have experienced every emotion in the book, including shock, fear, devastation, and anger; and they have channeled their grief and fury into action.

On Monday, I was at R.L. Turner High School and heard from Saniyah Rodriguez, who heard the telltale noise of somebody overdosing in the bathroom and saved that student's life using the lessons she learned on a video at school.

She said it took weeks before she could even go back into that bathroom having witnessed what she did—the gurgling noise of a fellow classmate overdosing was emblazoned upon her memory. Despite being traumatized by her experience, she was adamant that students cannot keep quiet about fentanyl. They must speak out and they must get help when a classmate needs it.

All around the school, in bathrooms and the hallways, there were signs in English and Spanish about the dangers of fentanyl. Communities across Texas are doing the best they can to fight fentanyl head-on, and I am grateful for the work they have done to protect and educate our children. But that is only one piece of the puzzle.

Law enforcement works around the block to take deadly drugs like fentanyl off the streets. And, fortunately, those responsible for dealing fentanyl-laced pills to students in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD have been arrested and charged. But, again, this is just one other piece of the puzzle.

When I spoke with the grieving parents in Hays County, which is in San

Marcos right outside of Austin, TX, where I live, they stressed the importance of securing the border and preventing fentanyl from ever getting across the border into their communities in the first place.

Shannon McConville, who lost her son Kevin, was especially adamant about the need to do more to stop fentanyl from getting into the country in the first place. She said, when it comes to the border, the Biden administration is failing.

I completely agree.

The Biden administration has simply abdicated its responsibility at the border in the name of a humane response to the border crisis, but there is nothing humane about what is happening. We are losing more than 70,000 Americans a year to fentanyl, and given the rate that fentanyl is coming into the country, I fear the worst is still to come.

The most crucial step at this moment is to stop the poison from coming into the country in the first place, but it is all about money. The cartels continue to get rich. They care nothing about the deaths of these parents' children, and they care nothing about the devastation that they are bringing to our communities across Texas and across the country.

The most crucial step is to stop it before it gets here. Until that happens, the situation will only get worse. More fentanyl will come across the border and seep into our communities. More of our children, more of our neighbors, more of our friends, more of our loved ones will die from fentanyl poisoning, and the cartels and criminal organizations will continue to get rich from the suffering that they cause because they don't care about our suffering. They don't care about our grieving. They don't care about the deaths of these young people and the potential that has been snuffed out at an early age. All they care about is the money.

I appreciate everyone who joined me in Carrollton, on Monday, to talk about this crisis. I am especially grateful, as I said, to Saniyah Rodriguez and the families of Jose and Sienna, who had the courage to tell their stories. It has got to be incredibly painful to tell the stories about your sons or daughters losing their lives to this drug. This is not something that they look forward to doing, but they are driven to do it by the conviction that maybe, just maybe, the losses of their children's lives will not be in vain; that the Federal Government will step up and do its job to stop the poison from entering the country in the first place; and that maybe, as a result of their telling their stories and getting visibility on this issue, that it will save another life.

There is nothing that can prepare you for the pain a parent feels from losing a child, especially in such a cruel, unexpected, and unnecessary way. These are, admittedly, emotional and difficult conversations, but they

are important. As Jose's mother told me, we cannot let overdose deaths become faceless statistics.

People need to remember that these are not just data points. These are bright, young, loving people who were stolen from their families and from this world. They are our children, our grandchildren, brothers, sisters, friends, and classmates.

Until the Biden administration steps up and does its duty to secure the border and takes action to stop this fentanyl from entering the southern border in the first place, there will continue to be more and more victims and more and more grieving parents and families and friends like I heard from at the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District this last week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN524 AIR FORCE nomination of Brian J. Bohenek, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

PN466 ARMY nomination of Jorge M. Arzolas, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN467 ARMY nomination of James F. Cantorna, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN468 ARMY nominations (2) beginning Sandeep R. Rahangdale, and ending Christie A. Shen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN469 ARMY nomination of Song Qu, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN470 ARMY nomination of Timothy S. McKiddy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN471 ARMY nominations (6) beginning KEVIN J. HUXFORD, and ending DAVID A. RIDGEWAY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN474 ARMY nomination of Jerome C. Ferrin, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN506 ARMY nomination of Chet M. Korensky, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN507 ARMY nomination of Anthony L. Ghezzi, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN511 ARMY nominations (464) beginning MATTHEW ACOSTA, and ending D016876, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN512 ARMY nominations (433) beginning MARK P. ADAMS, and ending D016116, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN513 ARMY nominations (304) beginning ALEXANDER ACHEAMPONG, and ending D015566, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN514 ARMY nominations (35) beginning EMMANUEL T. ADENIRAN, and ending D015933, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN475 MARINE CORPS nomination of Nathan D. Morris, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

PN476 NAVY nominations (2) beginning Ryan E. Dinnen, and ending Matthew C. Miller, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN477 NAVY nomination of Jillian M. Mears, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN478 NAVY nomination of Mary J. Hessert, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 27, 2023.

PN523 NAVY nomination of Matthew A. Bubnis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN526 NAVY nominations (2) beginning Andrew R. Flora, and ending Jordan J. Foley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN527 SPACE FORCE nominations (2) beginning Micah R. Kelley, and ending Erica M. Mitchell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN528 SPACE FORCE nominations (2) beginning ERICA J. BALFOUR, and ending JAMES R. TURNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN529 SPACE FORCE nomination of Craig E. Frank, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

PN530 SPACE FORCE nominations (2) beginning Marouane Balmakhtar, and ending Daniel J. Levinson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 17, 2023.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration

of PN284, PN354, and the names sent to the desk under PN285; that the Senate proceed to their en bloc consideration and vote without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of the following-named Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service of the United States Department of Agriculture for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Minister-Counselor: Cynthia Duerr, of VA; the following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor: Conrad Estrada, of DC; Cristobal Zepeda, of CO; the following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service of the Department of State to be a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America: James Robert Adams, of IA; Leonore Kathryn Adams, of OH; Bilqis Majidah Aidara Adjei, of FL; Brandon Clinton Aitchison, of SD; Bryce Todd Armstrong, of VA; Hanitra M. Austin, of VA; Janel L. Baskerville, of VA; Natalie Ann Bonomo, of VA; Laura S. Bonsmann, of VA; Ralph E. Brown, of WA; Christina G. Bucton, of CA; Paul B. Butki, of NV; Camilo Andres Caballero, of GA; Patrick David Cho, of OH; Ross A. Conroy, of ME; Robert R. Cooper, of TX; Michael N. Cunningham, of VA; Jason E. Currier, of NH; Jon Adam Custis, of FL; Jennifer M. Das, of VA; Stephen Diaz, of VA; William L. Ding-Everson, of CA; Rebecca Clare Dister, of VA; Stephen C. Dove, of TX; Paily Eapen, of VA; Suzanne Kay Ebert, of NE; Nicole D. Fader, of VA; Laura A. Fields, of CA; Adam R. Gannaway, of TX; Mary C. Gillmore, of SD; Janette Lasken Gilman, of VA; Jason Robert Gross, of VA; Filmon Bekit Hagheray, of VA; Matthew V. Haley, of VA; Peter L. Hansen, of WA; Lani Harrell, of VA; George Spencer Harrison, of SD; Lori R. Hetrick, of VA; Wesley A. Holzer, of CA; Gabriel R. Hughes, of VA; Jenna Maye Hummel, of VA; Andrea Jo Huston, of TX; Justin V. Ivey, of VA; Isaac B. Jenkins, of CA; Alex Reis Johnson, of WI; Kathryn L. Jones, of SD; Braphus E. Kaalund, of CA; Ari Katz, of WA; Yongkyu Kim, of WA; Chloe Cosima Bowser Kirsch, of VA; Kevin Alex Kravitz, of OH; Elias Krawczuk, of NY; Jessica B. Kuntz, of PA; Scott Jonathan Lavon, of MD; Leonard H. Leid, of FL; Anne Elizabeth Lero, of VA; Jakub D. Liskowiak, of FL; Sara E. Locke, of CA; Robin L. Lowe, of VA; Julia S. Ludy, of VA; Wynne Mancini, of VA; Daniel S.

Mandell, of FL; Sheree N. Marambio, of CA; Taylor R. Mauck, of NH; Christine Ann Mooney, of VA; Katherine S. Morris, of WA; Ryan M. Mullen, of TX; Angelee Mullins, of MD; Kristen A. Nagle, of TX; Kathleen M. O'Brien, of MO; Jacob Samuel Olson, of VA; Jeffrey Charles O'Neill, of VA; Alexis L. Orton, of VA; Deniz Zeynep Ozdemir, of NJ; Valerie J. Parry, of WA; Augusta B. Philbin, of DC; Shirah E. Rissler, of VA; David N. Roberts, of VA; Gregory L. Rofman, of VA; Kimberly A. Roseman, of VA; Zachary Alexander Rosner, of DC; Kaitlin A. Ruehr, of VA; Matthew T. Schramm, of VA; Anne N. Sherman, of MD; Maria Skirk, of FL; Raymond Anthony Slanina, of CA; Mikolaj M. Slomka, of NV; Emilia Borgatta Smith, of AZ; Patrick D. Smith, of WA; Christina M. Stegura, of FL; Gregory Stevenson, of VA; Gregory Bruce Stoneberg, of VA; Thomas D. Talbot, of VA; Dragana Tatic, of FL; Bart John Thiltgen, of CA; Alisa May Thomas, of OH; Trisha M. Thomas, of VA; Brandon To, of VA; Jennifer Lee Turner, of VA; Katherine T. Wallace, of VA; Daniel James Walsh, of FL; Kip Tendai Whittington, of TX; Anne G. Willoughby, of VA; Philip J. Wolfe, of TX; Shay Robert Wood, of VA; Elizabeth M. Wysocki, of MA; Jessica Yoakum, of VA; and the following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America: Brent L. Brown, of VA; the following-named Career Members of the Senior Foreign Service of the Department of State for promotion within the Senior Foreign Service of the United States of America, Class of Minister-Counselor: Tamika D. Abbott, of VA; Mary Ruth Avery, of FL; Bruce R. Begnell, of MD; William David Bent, of FL; William J. Bistransky, of VA; Walter M. Braunohler, of RI; A. R. Brouillette-Rodriguez, of VA; David John Burger, of VA; Ian Patrick Campbell, of OR; Dwayne L. Cline, of TX; Rachel L. Cooke, of VA; Cherrie S. Daniels, of TX; John C. Dockery, of TX; Christopher Lee Dudding, of VA; Marion Johnston Ekpuk, of VA; Anthony C. Fernandes, of VA; Michael E. Garrote, of PA; John P. Ginkel, of DC; David J. Greene, of DC; Edward G. Grulich, of VA; Jennifer A. Harhigh, of VA; Julia L. Harlan, of VA; James Robert Heller, of VA; Colleen E. Hyland, of NH; Robert L. Kingman, of VA; Michael F. Kleine, of DC; Gharun S. Lacy, of MD; Stephan Allen Lang, of VA; Jennifer A. Larson, of DC; Karen A. Lass, of VA; Gregory Daniel Logerfo, of VA; Deborah C. Lynn, of TX; Michael L. Mahoney, of WA; Marcos C. Mandojana, of TN; John T. McNamara, of VA; Larry L. Memmott, of MD; Marcus Robert Micheli, of VA; Andrew Thomas Miller, of VA; Benjamin Ward Moeling, of VA; Katherine E. Monahan, of AZ; Michael A. Newbill, of IL; Rebecca A. Pasini, of MD; Roy Albert

Perrin, of DC; Brett George Pomainville, of CO; Daniel Alan Rochman, of VA; Edwin C. Sagurton, of VA; Douglas E. Sonnek, of CA; Christopher Teal, of DC; Marja Verloop, of WA; Peggy Jeanne Walker, of DC; Eric A. Watnik, of MD; James Andrew Wolfe, of CA; the following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor: Jonathan A. Alan, of DC; Robert S. Allison, of MO; Christopher L. Andino, of VA; Stephanie C. Arnold, of VA; Juan T. Avecilla, of CA; Benjamin S. Bailey, of UT; Juliana K. Ballard, of MD; Elias Stephen Baumann, of FL; Courtney Allison Kramer Beale, of DC; Sally P. Behrhorst, of CA; Sheryl J. Bistransky, of OH; Jane Ellen Bocklage, of TX; Melissa A. Brown, of VA; Dena D. Brownlow, of CA; Steven R. Butler, of KY; Douglas G. Carey, of NM; Phathanie Chapman, of TN; Patrick Liang Chow, of VA; Dan Cintron, of VA; Louis J. Crishock, of VA; Jesse S. Curtis, of VA; Alexander N. Daniels, of NC; Mary E. Daschbach, of RI; Richard C.W. Davy, of MD; Alexander P. Delorey, of FL; Lillian Germaine deValcourt-Ayala, of CA; Melisa M. Doherty, of MN; Kathleen M. Eagen, of NY; Ann Marie Everitt, of FL; Timothy Eydelnant, of VA; Shannon B. Farrell, of VA; James D. Fellows, of NY; Mary Sue Fields, of VA; David Lawrence Fisher, of CA; Rebecca A. Fong, of CA; Thomas B. Fullerton, of FL; Colin P. Furst, of VA; Ann E. Gabrielson, of AZ; Lynne Brett Gadkowski, of FL; David H. Gamble, of VA; Gregory Nelson Gardner, of CA; David L. Gehrenbeck, of VA; Keith R. Gilges, of DC; Jeffrey D. Graham, of MD; Karen E. Grissette, of CA; Maureen E. Haggard, of WA; Ann M. Hardman, of TN; Zachary V. Harkenrider, of NY; Kimberly D. Harrington, of DC; Cynthia R. Harvey, of VA; Edward P. Heartney, of VA; Ian Tavish Hillman, of MD; John J. Hillmeyer, of MO; Brian B. Himmelsteib, of VA; Stephanie Elizabeth Holmes, of VA; Melissa P. Horwitz, of VA; Laura P. Hruby, of DC; Robert J. Jachim, of VA; Amanda S. Jacobsen, of WA; John E. Johnson, of WA; Pauline A. Kao, of WA; Emily L. Katkar, of VA; John C. Kelley, of DC; Emily Allt Kenealy, of VA; Karen Young Keshap, of VA; Elizabeth J. Konick, of NY; David A. Krzywdia, of VA; William Henry Laitinen, of NH; Michael D. Lampel, of CA; Michael J. Layne, of VA; Nancy W. Leou, of VA; Jan Levin, of DC; Timothy E. Liston, of VA; Michelle G. Los Banos, of VA; Aaron L. Luster, of TX; Jason R. Mack, of NY; Deborah A. MacLean, of FL; Jenny H. Malheiro, of VA; Mark F. Marrano, of MD; Elizabeth K. Martin-Shukrun, of IL; Sara Mercado Matthews, of CA; Mikael C. McCowan, of NY; Alexandra K. McKnight, of VA; Luis Mendez, of FL; Jennifer T. Mergy, of CA; Eric S. Meyer, of CT; Kenneth L. Meyer, of OH; Deborah A. Miller, of MD; Terry D. Mobley, of AR; Carrie L. Muntean, of VA; Tiffany A. Murphy, of

WA; Marc A. Nordberg, of TX; Adrienne B. Nutzman, of VA; Matthew E. O'Connor, of TX; Stephen P. O'Dowd, of VA; Rolf A. Olson, of VA; Jami L. Papa, of FL; Dante Paradiso, of OR; Darragh Theresa Paradiso, of OR; Deena Johnsonbaugh Parker, of VA; Morgan A. Parker, of VA; Melinda M. Pavcek, of WY; Margaret H. Peirce, of VA; Peggy Le Am Plunkett Petrovich, of OH; Usha Pitts, of DC; James H. Potts, of IN; Anupama Prattipati, of PA; Tessa K. Rebholz, of DC; Scott R. Riedmann, of OH; Alberto Rodriguez, of FL; Elisabeth Michorl Rosenstock-Siller, of NY; Edwin S. Saeger, of MD; Juha P. Salin, of WA; Caroline J. Savage, of DC; Michael J. Schreuder, of MI; Nomi Seltzer, of NY; Charles H. Sewall, of DC; Matthew L. Shields, of VA; Demian Smith, of VA; Jeffrey B. Smith, of TX; Diane L. Sovereign, of CA; Daniel M. Stoian, of CA; Amy L. Storrow, of DC; Harry Robert Sullivan, of NV; Roger Chance Sullivan, of WA; Rakesh Surampudi, of PA; Inger A. Tangborn, of WA; Alexander J. Titolo, of VA; Scott C. Turner, of NY; Scott E. Urbom, of VA; Rajeev M. Wadhwani, of DC; John K. Watson, of VA; Catherine J. Westley, of IL; John W. Whiteley, of MD; Stuart Raymond Wilson, of NC; Joseph Edward Zadrozny, of TX; Marika R. Zadva, of VA; Melanie A. Zimmerman, of MD; and the following-named Career Members of the Foreign Service for promotion into the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, and a Foreign Service Officer, a Consular Officer, and a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service of the United States of America: Gregory M. Anderson, of VA; Gregory F. Battistone, of FL; Francoise Z. Blais, of VA; Robert Bentley Calhoun, of VA; William W. Chang, of CA; Michael L. Cygrymus, of FL; Ralph E. Delarue, of VA; Donna Lynn Edmonds, of NC; Barry W. Fisher, of PA; Irving Fontaine, of NJ; Shelly Lynn Gasow, of CO; Rick A. Gregory, of VA; Yvon Guillaume, of FL; Cassandra Dione Marie Hamblin, of WA; James D. Hine, of VA; James E. Horner, of OK; Beth J. King, of FL; Osman M. Koclar, of NY; Calvin Dewayne Levo, of TX; Rajiv Malik, of CA; Tarik Merghoub, of VA; Patrick S. Mills, of TX; Thomas P. Nave, of FL; Francesco D. Pasqualino, of CA; Matthew M. Percival, of WA; Maurice B. Pettiford, of VA; Alston A. Richardson, of VA; Benjamin W. Sides, of AK; Glenda L. Siegrist, of VA; Jason H. Smith, of DC; Sebron J. Toney, of NV; Michael F. Vannett, of VA, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam 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.

WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the decision last year by the Supreme Court's conservative majority overruling *Roe v. Wade* and the right to abortion marks the first time in our Nation's history that the Supreme Court has ever repealed a constitutional right.

One of the most striking features of the *Dobbs* decision was the almost complete absence of any serious discussion about the impact the ruling might have on the lives and health of women. In a 79-page ruling, women receive only a few paragraphs. Justice Alito, the author of the majority opinion, defended this disregard for women's lives and health by arguing that it is "hard for anyone—and in particular, for a court—to assess . . . the effect of the abortion right on society and in particular on the lives of women."

Perhaps the Court's conservative majority should have paid closer attention to amicus briefs filed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Association, who warned that overruling *Roe* would unleash an immediate healthcare crisis across America. Ten months later, it is clear for anyone to see that the consequences of the *Dobbs* ruling are devastating. Instead of settling old controversies, the *Dobbs* decision has unleashed chaos for women and doctors. We are seeing a torrent of new State laws that aim to reduce abortion access by threatening to punish or criminalize those who provide abortions and, in some cases, those who help someone to obtain an abortion.

Nearly half of all States now impose severe restrictions on abortion—and at least a dozen States have enacted near-total bans. The laws surrounding abortion—and miscarriage management—seem to be changing by the week. A few weeks ago, a Federal judge in Texas issued a ruling that would ban the sale of mifepristone, one of the safest forms of reproductive care, nationwide—even in States where abortion remains legal.

Mifepristone was approved more than 20 years ago by the Food and Drug Administration as safe and effective. It is used in more than half of all abortions in the country. And it is used to help women suffering from a miscarriage. It has a better safety profile than penicillin, Tylenol, or Viagra. Thankfully, the Supreme Court issued a temporary reprieve by staying the decision. So, for the moment, mifepristone remains on the market while the case works its way through the legal system.

But the initial ruling by the Federal judge in Texas marked the first time that a judge has ever overruled the FDA to ban a medication deemed safe and effective by medical and scientific

experts. And it is troubling confirmation that instead of ending the debate on abortion, *Dobbs* was actually the beginning of a different debate: How far will the war on women's healthcare go before we say enough is enough?

The number of horror stories that have emerged over the past year is staggering: stories of rape victims—as young as 10 years old—being denied healthcare because of laws outlawing abortion; an 11-year-old victim of sex trafficking—also denied a medically necessary abortion; stories of women being forced to flee their home States to access basic, reproductive care services; stories of pregnant women suffering miscarriages being turned away by doctors, until their lives are at risk, because healthcare providers are understandably afraid of facing criminal penalties and other serious punishments if their patient is not sick enough to receive abortion care.

Yesterday, the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, held a hearing in which we heard more about the horrific consequences of the *Dobbs* decision on pregnant women and the doctors who care for them. Let me tell you about one of our witnesses. Her name is Amanda Zurawski. She was one of the most profound and heartbreaking witnesses I have heard during my time in Congress.

Amanda lives in Texas, one of the first States in which a near-total ban on abortion took effect after *Dobbs*. Amanda endured 18 months of fertility treatments to get pregnant. When she finally did, she and her husband were over the moon. They named their soon-to-be little girl Willow.

Last August, in the second trimester of her pregnancy, Amanda felt something unusual. She called her doctor, who told her to come in as quickly as possible. After an examination, Amanda and her husband received a heartbreaking diagnosis: Her cervix had dilated prematurely. The loss of her baby was inevitable. Amanda asked what could be done to assure what she called "the respectful passing" of her baby and to protect Amanda from a possibly deadly infection.

To her shock, her doctors told her there was nothing they could do because of Texas's new anti-abortion laws—laws that threaten doctors with fines of up to \$100,000, up to 99 years in prison, and loss of their medical license. Amanda's doctors tried to find another hospital nearby that could possibly help her—but those hospitals all had the same response: Because of Texas's new laws, they couldn't do anything.

Amanda told our committee: "People have asked why we didn't get on a plane or in our car to go to a state where the laws aren't so restrictive. But we live in the middle of Texas, and the nearest 'sanctuary' state is at least an eight-hour drive. Developing sepsis—which can kill quickly—in a car in the middle of the West Texas desert, or 30,000 feet above the ground, is a death

sentence, and it's not a choice we should have had to even consider. So all we could do was wait."

After 3 agonizing days, Amanda developed a raging fever and dangerously low blood pressure. Sepsis had set in. Her husband rushed her to the hospital. Several hours later, her daughter arrived, stillborn. Amanda spent the next 3 days in the I.C.U. fighting for her own life. She has spent the last 8 months battling trauma and depression, as well as the medical fallout from her delayed treatment, including complications that may make it difficult to ever have children.

We also heard from an OB/GYN, Dr. Nisha Verma, who has chosen to stay and practice in Georgia despite knowing that, in her words, "Georgia's law threatened to make [her] a criminal for providing life-saving care to [her] patients."

Dr. Verma told our committee: "Imagine looking someone in the eye and saying: 'I have all the skills and the tools to care for you, but our state's politicians have told me I can't.'"

She reminded us that the U.S. already has the highest maternal mortality rate of any wealthy nation. Restrictive abortion laws, she said, are making pregnancy even more dangerous for women. Regrettably, some of our Republican colleagues on the committee tried to make the hearing about what they called late-term abortions and other abortion foes call "partial birth" abortions—both medically inaccurate terms.

They neglected to note that abortions after 21 weeks account for less than 1 percent of abortions in this country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They also failed to acknowledge that in the very rare instances when an abortion happens later in a pregnancy, it is generally because the woman's life is in danger; a fatal fetal anomaly has been discovered, as in Amanda's case; or because a woman wasn't able to get an abortion earlier due to restrictive laws.

For nearly 50 years, abortion opponents said their only goal was to return the right to decide abortion laws to the State. It is now clear that was a Trojan horse. Dismantling *Roe* was the first step. The real goal is to systemically strip away access to abortion nationwide. And that is exactly what they are doing. Last year, dozens of congressional Republicans proposed a bill that would ban abortion nationwide at 15 weeks—even in States that have chosen to protect access to abortion later in pregnancy. And one member of our committee noted yesterday: "We're not going to back off."

In addition, nearly 150 congressional Republicans joined an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in the mifepristone case, arguing for the Court to keep in place the Fifth Circuit's stay that limited mifepristone access nationwide—even in States where abortion remains legal.

Congress needs to stop this chaos and needless, avoidable suffering by passing the Women's Health Protection Act to restore abortion access across the country.

REMEMBERING JOHN D. COONEY, SR.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, earlier this year, Chicago—and the entire legal world—lost a giant. John Devitt Cooney, Sr., a titan of trial law, passed away at the age of 68. He was a skilled litigator who used his brilliant legal mind, charm, quick wit, and sense of humor to help everyday “Davids” in the never-ending battle against corporate “Goliaths.” John may have been born for the role.

His father, Robert Cooney, Sr., served in World War II, returned home—GI benefits in hand—and attended Loyola University School of Law in Chicago. When he graduated from law school, Robert worked in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office before setting up a successful personal injury firm. John followed suit.

Born and raised in Oak Park, IL, John graduated from Fenwick High School and went on to attend Georgetown University for his undergraduate studies. During his years at Georgetown, he briefly worked on Capitol Hill. It was the 1970s: an era of disco, tie-dye, and Watergate. While John may not have been all that interested in politics at the time, his experience on Capitol Hill enhanced his interest in the law.

John finished his studies at Georgetown and moved back to Illinois to attend Loyola University School of Law in Chicago. His first job out of law school was as a Cook County Assistant State's Attorney, just like his father, where he worked within the Felony Trial Division. It was a formative experience for John. As a young lawyer, he developed a deep empathy for how wrongful acts hurt victims and their families. It was there where he honed his craft, spending invaluable time in the courtroom, selecting juries, developing trial strategies, and presenting cases to juries.

After 5 years, in 1985, John joined his father, his brother Robert, Jr., and his future partner Kevin Conway, at the Chicago personal injury firm, Cooney & Stenn. John made partner in just five years at the firm that would become Cooney & Conway, one of the leading personal injury and wrongful death firms in the United States. John excelled in cases related to construction accidents and product liability, and he had a strong commitment to helping individuals in asbestos exposure cases.

Some may have only heard of “asbestos” or “mesothelioma” through late-night television commercials or radio ads. If that is the case, they are fortunate. Asbestos is a strong, heat resistant fiber that can be found in many building materials, such as insulation, roofing shingles, and pipe coverings.

Inhaling these fibers can have devastating health consequences. As early as the 1930s, public health professionals were sounding the alarm about the dangers of exposure to asbestos. Yet, for decades, some companies ignored the risks, putting profits above the health and well-being of employees and consumers.

Between 1940 and 1979, nearly 30 million workers were exposed to asbestos, and around one-third of those workers were veterans. To this day, exposure to asbestos is the only known cause of mesothelioma, an aggressive and incurable form of cancer in which a tumor develops in the protective lining of lungs, and slowly compresses until the victim suffocates. It can take years to discover mesothelioma, and by the time it is discovered, the victim often only has several months to live.

John and his team at Cooney & Conway focused on holding the companies that put profits over people accountable and doing right by victims and their families. And they were successful, obtaining more than \$20 billion for victims and their families, including a \$200 million asbestos exposure settlement that was the largest personal injury settlement in the history of Illinois. While compensation does little to ease the pain or the loss of a loved one to this devastating disease, John's efforts protected victims' rights to justice and gave them a voice against powerful corporations.

John's legacy goes well beyond the courtroom. In 2014, John became president of the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, an organization of more than 2,000 members that has served the interests of plaintiffs' attorneys and consumers since 1952. He also was the founding chairman of the mass torts litigation committee for the American Bar Association, and he served as an elected governor of the American Association for Justice, the leading voice for trial lawyers at the national level.

John and his firm also gave back. Cooney & Conway provided more than \$1 million to support the work of Dr. Hedy Lee Kindler, one of the Nation's leading mesothelioma researchers at the University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center, a leading mesothelioma research and treatment center. John also served on the boards of the University of Chicago Medical Center and Lurie Children's Hospital.

Holding large manufacturers and the wealthiest corporations accountable was not just a professional endeavor. For John, it was personal. Everyday folks—pipefitters, laborers, construction workers, members of “The Greatest Generation”—those are the people for whom John gladly went to bat. He knew these were people whose only error was venturing into a hazardous workplace, putting in a hard day's work, and daring to breathe, to try to make a good life for themselves and their families.

Earlier this year, Loretta and I gathered with John's family and friends at

Old St. Pat's Church in Chicago, to say farewell to John and celebrate the light that he brought into this world. John's many friends filled every pew.

Loretta and I extend our sincerest condolences to Barbara, his loving wife of 35 years; his daughter Elizabeth (Matt); his sons Devitt (Bess); and Bobby (Hutton); his brother Robert, Jr., (Loretta); his entire family; and his many friends and colleagues. John's legacy and contributions to the law, to Chicago, and to our Nation will not be forgotten.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-32, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Norway for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER,
(for James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-32

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Norway.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$550 billion.
Other \$450 billion.
Total \$1,000 billion.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Six (6) MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters.
Fifteen (15) T-700-GE-401C Engines (12 installed, 3 spares).

Nine (9) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems Joint Tactical

Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS) (6 installed, 3 spares).

Eighteen (18) Embedded Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (12 installed, 6 spares).

Six (6) Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) (aircraft provisions only).

Non-MDE: Also included are M514 impulse cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; MJ20 cartridge actuated thruster/cartridge actuated devices; WB53 fire extinguisher cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; CCU-136A/A impulse cartridge; GAU-21 crew-served guns (including pintle and laser pointer); AN/ARC-210 RT-2036 radios with Communications Security (COMSEC); AN/AAR-47 missile warning systems; AN/APX-123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; AN/ALE-47 dispensers; Electronic Countermeasures; Advanced Data Transfer Systems (ADTS); AN/AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems; Identification Friend or Foe Mode 4/5 Cryptographic Applique, KIV-78; Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS); AN/ARQ-59 Hawklink radio terminals; Training Simulators/Operational Machine Interface Assistants (ATS/OMIA); Aviation Maintenance Weapons Loading Trainer (AMWLT); Tactical Operational Flight Trainer (TOFT); AN/ALQ-210 Electronic Support Measures (ESM) systems; APS-153(V) multi-mode radars; spare engine containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communications equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; obsolescence engineering, integration, and test activities required to ensure readiness for the production of the Norwegian MH-60R helicopters; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (NO-P-SAR).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NO-P-GFF.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 26, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Norway—Defense Articles and Services Related to the MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters

The Government of Norway has requested to buy six (6) MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopters; fifteen (15) T-700-GE-401C engines (12 installed, 3 spares); nine (9) Link 16 Multifunctional Information Distribution Systems Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS) (6 installed, 3 spares); eighteen (18) Embedded Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) (12 installed, 6 spares); and six (6) Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS) (aircraft provisions only). Also included are M514 impulse cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; MJ20 cartridge actuated thruster/cartridge actuated devices; WB53 fire extinguisher cartridge/cartridge actuated devices; CCU-136A/A impulse cartridges; GAU-21 crew served guns (including pintle and laser pointer); AN/ARC-210 RT-2036 radios with Communications Security (COMSEC); AN/AAR-47 missile warning systems; AN/APX-123 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponders; AN/ALE-47 dispensers; Electronic Countermeasures; Advanced Data Transfer Systems

(ADTS); AN/AAS-44C(V) Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems; Identification Friend or Foe Mode 4/5 Cryptographic Applique, KIV-78; Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS); AN/ARQ-59 Hawklink radio terminals; Training Simulators/Operational Machine Interface Assistants (ATS/OMIA); Aviation Maintenance Weapons Loading Trainer (AMWLT); Tactical Operational Flight Trainer (TOFT); AN/ALQ-210 Electronic Support Measures (ESM) systems; APS-153(V) multi-mode radars; spare engine containers; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; communications equipment; ferry support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; obsolescence engineering, integration, and test activities required to ensure readiness for the production of the Norwegian MH-60R helicopters; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$1 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Norway's capability to perform search and rescue, anti-surface, and anti-submarine warfare missions along with the ability to perform secondary missions, including vertical replenishment and communications relay. Norway will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense. Norway will have no difficulty absorbing these helicopters and support into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems, Owego, New York. The purchaser has requested off-sets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips by U.S. Government representatives and the assignment of contractor representatives to Norway on an intermittent basis over the life of the case to support delivery and integration of items and to provide supply support management, inventory control, and equipment familiarization. In addition, there will be up to four (4) contractor representatives in Norway full-time for the duration of the case.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-32

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopter focuses primarily on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and anti-surface warfare (ASuW) missions. The MH-60R also performs search and rescue, naval gunfire support, surveillance, communications relay, logistics support, personnel transfer, and vertical replenishment missions. The MH-60R carries several sensors and data links to enhance its ability to work in a network centric battle group and as an extension of its home ship or main operating base. The mission equipment subsystem consists of the following sensors and subsystems: an acoustics system capable of, but not configured for, future dipping sonar and sonobuoy operations, Multi-Mode Radar (MMR) with integral Identification Friend or

Foe (IFF) interrogator, radios with COMSEC, Electronic Support Measures (ESM), Integrated Self-Defense (ISD), and Multi-Spectral Targeting System (MTS). The aircraft processes sensor data onboard, and transmits data via Common Data Link (CDL) (also referred to as Hawklink). The aircraft is night vision compatible. It can carry AGM-114A/B/K/N Hellfire missiles, as well as MK 46/54 torpedoes to engage surface and sub-surface targets. The MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopter is capable of carrying the Airborne Low Frequency Sonars (ALFS), GAU-61 Digital Rocket Launchers, Advanced Precision Kill Weapons System (APKWS), GAU-21 crew-served guns, and M240 crew-served guns.

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

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

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

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Norway.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-34, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Norway for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$166 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public

of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER,

(for James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-34

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Norway.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$0 million.

Other \$166 million.

Total \$166 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: The Government of Norway has requested continued sustainment and associated services for four (4) C-130J aircraft beyond Block 6 through 2028. Included are Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS); aircraft components, spare parts, consumables, and accessories; repair and return support; aircraft support and support equipment; unclassified publications and technical documentation; software delivery and support; unclassified Computer Program Identification Number (CPIN) systems; telecommunications support; minor modifications, maintenance and maintenance support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (NO-D-QBV).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: NO-D-QAT.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: April 26, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Norway—C-130J Sustainment

The Government of Norway has requested continued sustainment and associated services for four (4) C-130J aircraft beyond Block 6 through 2028. Included are Joint Mission Planning Systems, (JMPS); aircraft components, spare parts, consumables, and accessories; repair and return support; aircraft support and support equipment; unclassified publications and technical documentation; software delivery and support; unclassified Computer Program Identification Number (CPIN) systems; telecommunications support; minor modifications, maintenance and maintenance support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$166 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Norway's capability to meet current and future threats by bolstering operational readiness while enhancing air and defense capabilities with a modernized fleet. Norway already has C-130Js and will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Marietta, GA. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement would be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

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

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

REMEMBERING ULYSSES S. GRANT

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, 201 years ago today, a great American hero was born. Ulysses S. Grant rose from humble beginnings to stand next to Washington and Eisenhower, as one of America's truly indispensable generals. William Tecumseh Sherman once remarked that "Grant is the greatest soldier of our time if not of all time." This great defender of the Republic won our bloodiest war and crushed the darkest forces of disunion. He was an unshakable pillar of strength, upon which this Nation's future rested time and again.

Virtually no one foresaw Grant's rise to greatness before the Civil War. Although he had graduated from West Point and distinguished himself as a soldier in the Mexican-American War, he had stumbled from one failure to another in private life. When the Confederates attacked Fort Sumner, that all changed. He redonned his army uniform and marched into the history books.

For the first 3 years of the Civil War, Grant fought on the western front, winning several of the Union's early victories while commanders in the East dithered. After Grant's first great victory, his Confederate counterpart sued for peace and asked what terms he would give them. Grant firmly responded that he would accept, "no terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender." This earned him the nickname "Unconditional Surrender Grant" and resulted in the largest capture of enemy troops in the history of Western Hemisphere up to that time.

Grant waged a relentless form of warfare. He knew that "the art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can and as often as you can, and keep moving on." Grant's warrior spirit famously moved President Lincoln to declare that "I can't spare this man—he fights." When Grant's enemies spread the rumor that he was an alcoholic and should be dismissed, Lincoln wryly responded that "if he could find out what brand of whiskey Grant drank, he would send a barrel of it to all the other commanders."

Grant displayed his famous determination and grit during the brutal battle of Shiloh, one of the bloodiest episodes of the Civil War. In the first day of fighting, Grant's army was mauled by Confederate forces under the command of Alfred Sidney Johnston,

the Confederacy's most capable general at the time. General Sherman approached Grant that rainy night beneath a great oak tree and said, "well, Grant, we've had the devil's own day, haven't we?" Grant replied between puffs of his ubiquitous cigar, "Yes. Lick em tomorrow though." He made good on this promise, threw back the Confederate forces, and won the carnage-filled battle. Sidney Johnston was killed in the fighting and Confederate President Jefferson Davis later wrote that "it was the turning point of our fate." This story remains so legendary in the Army that it was commonplace for young officers in the Iraq war to conclude a hard day by borrowing from Grant: "lick 'em tomorrow."

After the bloodshed at Shiloh, scheming Washington insiders and armchair generals removed Grant from the field, only to be forced to return him to the fight.

Grant continued his brilliant streak of victories and on July 4, 1863, the 87th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, he seized the fortress city of Vicksburg, splitting the Confederacy in two and securing the Union's control of the mighty Mississippi. This was perhaps the greatest strategic victory of the war. Combined with the victory at Gettysburg the previous day, Grant's seizure of Vicksburg put the Union on the path to victory.

Soon after Grant's decisive victory in the Battle of Chattanooga a few months later and capture of the supposedly impregnable heights of Missionary Ridge, Lincoln promoted him to the rank of lieutenant general, a position that no one had held since George Washington. A few days later, Lincoln also named him the commander of Union forces.

In his new command, Grant quickly turned eastward and confronted Robert E. Lee, a skilled tactician who had run circles around the Army of the Potomac for 2 years. Lee had spooked Union commanders for years with his audacious battle plans. But not Grant. "I am heartily tired of hearing about what Lee is going to do," an exasperated Grant admonished them. "Some of you always seem to think he is suddenly going to turn a double somersault, and land in our rear and on both our flanks at the same time. Go back to your command, and try to think what we are going to do ourselves, instead of what Lee is going to do."

As he marched into the Confederacy, he told a reporter, "if you see the President, tell him from me that whatever happens, there will be no turning back." In the weeks and months that followed, Grant attacked Lee's army again and again. Whether he won or not, Grant continued to advance deeper into the Confederacy. Grant's army fought in the burning forests of the Wilderness and in the muddy trenches of Petersburg, experiencing extraordinary hardship but never allowing Lee to regroup or reinvigorate his shrinking army. Less than a year after Grant

began his Overland Campaign, Union forces took the rebel capital of Richmond and broke the back of Confederate resistance.

U.S. Grant wasn't a great general simply because he won the war. He was also great because he never lost sight of the first goal of the war: to reunite our shattered Republic and restore the "bonds of affection" and "mystic chords of memory" between Americans, North and South. Instead of humiliating Lee at Appomattox Court-house, Grant offered him generous and honorable terms. Uncompromising in war, Grant was magnanimous in peace. He allowed Confederate officers to keep their sidearms and horses, did not demand Lee's sword, and promised not to prosecute rebels who laid down their arms. And as Lee departed the court-house, Grant and his staff took off their hats in respect, a small act for the victors, but an extraordinary gesture to the defeated Confederates.

Today, if you travel to his memorial and final resting place in New York City, you will see his four-word 1868 Presidential campaign slogan etched into stone, which summarizes the prayer of every soldier. Those words read "Let Us Have Peace."

Our country may not exist today if it weren't for Ulysses S. Grant. It may have been shattered and divided forever by civil strife, but for one man. That is why I was pleased last year to sponsor his posthumously promotion to the rank of General of the Armies of the United States, the highest rank in the U.S. military only held by George Washington and John Pershing.

This was an important step towards recognizing the greatness of a too often neglected hero in our Nation's past. His close friend, General Sherman, reputedly said that he didn't understand Grant and didn't believe Grant understood himself. And for decades, our Nation too has misunderstood this American giant. But as we reflect upon his accomplishments two centuries after his birth, we realize how great they were and how extraordinary he was. I hope that we continue to reclaim this exceptional and noble American's legacy.

RECOGNIZING GIFFORDS

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I rise today to honor the 10-year anniversary of an organization that has been instrumental in our efforts to protect kids and families from gun violence: Giffords, the organization founded by former Congresswoman and gun violence victim, Gabby Giffords.

This anniversary is particularly important to me because Gabby Giffords and I were in the same House of Representatives freshman class in 2007. Our offices were right next to each other, and we became fast friends, dreaming up the idea for supermarket office hours called "Congress on Your Corner." Four years later, on January 8, 2011, Gabby was shot in the head at one

of those events. Eighteen others were also shot, and six died. She almost lost her life that day and began a very long road to recovery.

But my friend Gabby is a fighter, and she doesn't back down. Two years after she was shot and just 25 days after 20 children and six educators were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School, she launched an organization dedicated to the fight to end gun violence. Today, that organization is known as Giffords.

Giffords and the gun violence prevention movement spent the next decade growing stronger, more determined, and more convinced that the righteousness of our cause would eventually prevail. Gabby and her organization channeled the outrage and frustration of millions of Americans into action. Across the country, they helped to pass 525 lifesaving laws that make sure guns only end up in the hands of responsible, law-abiding Americans. They took on the gun lobby in State legislatures and the courts. They raised awareness, recruited volunteers, and registered new voters.

On May 24, 2022, at Robb Elementary School, an all too familiar tragedy struck, 19 children and 2 teachers shot and killed in their classroom. A weary American public once again called on Congress to act, and for the first time in 30 years, it did. One month later, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, legislation to tighten our gun laws, invest in mental health services, and make our schools and communities safer.

That historic piece of legislation would not have been possible without Gabby Giffords. In the face of unimaginable adversity, Gabby spent a decade helping to build a gun violence prevention movement more powerful than the gun lobby. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is just the beginning, and we will keep fighting to end the scourge of gun violence in this country together.

In reflection of Giffords' 10-year anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their tireless advocacy to end gun violence and honoring my personal hero, Gabby Giffords.

TRIBUTE TO RILEY COBURN

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Riley for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Riley is a native of Upton. She recently graduated from the University of Wyoming, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in international studies. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Riley for her dedication to our office. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team.

TRIBUTE TO SOPHIA JARAMILLO

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Sophia for her hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican Conference. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Sophia is a native of Tennessee. She attends the University of Mississippi, where she studies journalism and Spanish. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Sophia for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO KATIE JOHNSON

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Katie for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Katie is a native of Casper. She attends the University of Wyoming, where she studies international relations, philosophy, and Spanish. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Katie for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID "GUNNER" KELLY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Gunner for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Gunner is a native of Mississippi. He is currently attending Casper College and plans to attend the University of Wyoming in the fall. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Gunner for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO BRYAN NOEL

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Bryan for his hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Bryan is a native of New Hampshire. He attends Arizona State University, where he studies political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Bryan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO KODY SMOOT

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Kody for his hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Kody is a native of Idaho. He recently graduated from Boise State University, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in health informatics and information management. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Kody for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING SIMPLY BLOOMING

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Simply Blooming of Traer, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Simply Blooming was founded in 2006 by Lisa Eikamp as a one-stop shop for all of your floral needs. Simply Blooming has flowers from all over the world in store. As an experienced floral designer, Eikamp is able to design and accessorize an arrangement for a variety of events and occasions. Simply Blooming's website boasts a broad portfolio of floral designs including

prom corsages, wedding bouquets, and sympathy flowers. In addition to flowers, you can also find a variety of plants, home decor, stylish clothing, and even boots for sale.

This year has been a momentous one for Simply Blooming. They opened a new location in Vinton on the exact day of their 17th anniversary of the flagship store opening in Traer. The second store is called Simply Blooming, Too, and has already become an integral part of the Vinton community. They had a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the occasion, and an Elvis Presley impersonator even stopped by for the festivities.

Part of what makes Simply Blooming special is their attention to customer service. They maintain active social media profiles updating customers on the arrangements they design, community events hosted at Simply Blooming, and information on all of their new products.

Simply Blooming's commitment to providing flower arrangements for every occasion is clear. In 17 years, Ms. Eikamp has been able to provide quality customer service by treating her customers like family. I want to commend Lisa Eikamp and the entire team at Simply Blooming for their work. This business exemplifies the innovative spirit and leadership skills of the Iowa entrepreneur. I look forward to seeing your continued growth and success in Iowa. •

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT AND LINDA BURLOCK

• Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Robert and Linda Burlock of Berlin as April's Granite Staters of the Month. For half a century, the couple has shown tremendous dedication to their community by continually welcoming new families and residents moving into the East Side of Berlin.

Throughout the time that Robert—"Bobby"—and Linda have lived on Grafton Street in Berlin, every time newcomers have arrived, they have made it their personal mission to welcome them. They are the unofficial ambassadors for the neighborhood. One time, when Bobby saw from across the street two newcomers struggling to move their furniture, he sprung up to help. He originally had taken days off of work to relax and lay back, but instead, he spent the next few days helping the newcomers settle in. Another time, when a neighbor's father passed away, Bobby helped her clean out her father's garage, a task that would have been daunting if done alone. When heavy snow covered Grafton Street, Bobby would send over a buddy with a snow plow to his neighbors' yards, and when their front yards were overgrown with grass, he would offer to mow their lawns. Linda worked in lockstep with her husband to welcome the newcomers, always inviting them over for drinks and quickly forging strong

friendships. For every new neighbor, she would always make a dish to send over as a welcome gesture.

Beyond any single act of assistance, Bobby and Linda have developed a sense of community in Berlin that is truly special. When their longtime neighbor and good friend passed away a few years ago, a newcomer moved in from New Jersey. Although he kept to himself at first, Bobby and Linda were determined to get to know him, and soon enough they were good friends. Bobby says that he now sees his new neighbor as another son.

Bobby and Linda's generosity leaves a lasting impact on the people that they assist, showing neighbors, new and old, that everybody counts. And they set an example for all Granite Staters by showing that each and every one of us can make a difference in our own community. I hope that all Granite Staters are inspired by Bobby and Linda's story and follow their example of extending kindness to strangers, since our communities are only as strong as their individual members. Bobby and Linda are a shining example of the Granite State spirit of kindness and generosity, and I am glad to honor the neighborhood spirit that they have created on the East Side of Berlin. •

REMEMBERING HARRY A. ARVIDSON

• Mr. TESTER. Madam President, today I would like to honor the life and service of a distinguished Montanan and World War II veteran, Mr. Harry A. Arvidson.

Harry was a proud patriot who loved his country. Never one to shy away from service or sacrifice, he answered the call to duty during World War II following the attack on Pearl Harbor. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy submarine service in 1942 and left high school before graduation to serve.

During his time in uniform, Harry served as a ship cook third class for his regular duty and radar observer for his battle station post. His first assignment was on the USS *Pollack*, where he was a member of the *Pollack's* ninth war patrol, a patrol that sunk and damaged more ships than any of the other *Pollack* patrols conducted in the Pacific. At the end of the war, Harry was assigned to a 40-man prize crew which boarded and seized a surrendering Japanese I-400 submarine. Harry and the prize crew sailed submarines into Tokyo Bay for the surrender ceremonies.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy in 1946, Harry returned to civilian life, married his wife Lola, and had two children, Lynda and Scott. While Harry was deployed during the war, Lola also contributed to the war-time effort as a member of the Rosie the Riveters, working on airplane gliders.

In 1956, Harry and Lola moved to Conrad, MT, where they established the Home Cafe on Main Street in Conrad. Harry and Lola ran the Home Cafe

until 1982, when they retired and passed the torch over to Scott and their daughter-in-law, who continue to run the family business today. Soon after, Harry and Lola moved to Lincoln, where they spent the remainder of their lives.

Harry was immensely proud of his service to the Nation. Since 1972, he was a member the U.S. Submarine Veterans of WWII organization, even serving as the Montana State commander for many years. In that role, he helped host the 53rd national convention in Billings alongside his family. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 9 in Lincoln and a member of the Montana Honor Flight that traveled to Washington, DC, in 2012.

On October 18, 2022, Harry passed away at the age of 97 at the Fort Harrison VA Hospital, joining Lola—his wife of 72 years—who passed in 2019. Today, it is my honor to commemorate his service and legacy. Harry's exemplary service and that of the entire Greatest Generation is what makes our country the greatest in the world. He is a true patriot who made Montana proud, and he will be sorely missed. •

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14059 OF DECEMBER 15, 2021, AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO ORDER TO ACTIVE DUTY SUCH UNITS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE READY RESERVE TO ENSURE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CAN PROPERLY SUSTAIN ITS SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKING ALONG THE SOUTHWEST BORDER—PM 9

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Effective today, pursuant to the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) and section 12302 of title 10, United States Code, and in order to respond to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021 (Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade), I am authorizing the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-

retary of Homeland Security to order to active duty such units and individual members of the Ready Reserve under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned as the Secretary concerned considers necessary, consistent with the terms of section 12302 of title 10, United States Code. The authorities that have been invoked will ensure the Department of Defense can properly sustain its support of the Department of Homeland Security concerning international drug trafficking along the Southwest Border.

A copy of the Executive Order I have issued is enclosed.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 27, 2023.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:02 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 bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1353. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules for the provision of emergency connectivity service, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1353. An act to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules for the provision of emergency connectivity service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 349. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of spouses of members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty, disabled, or deceased to positions in which the spouses will work remotely (Rept. No. 118-14).

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

S. 933. A bill to amend the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 to modify requirements relating to data centers of certain Federal agencies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-15).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Ann Marie Yastishock, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to

serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Vanuatu.

Nominee: Ann Marie Yastishock.

Post: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
None.

Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Nominee: Elizabeth H. Richard.

Post: Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank of Ambassador.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Self: none.

Elizabeth Rood, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Turkmenistan.

Nominee: Elizabeth Rood.

Post: Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Act Blue (Biden Presidential Campaign), \$199.00, 10/19/2020, self; Act Blue (Biden Presidential Campaign), \$15.00, 10/9/2020, self; Senate Majority PAC, \$50, 5/9/2021, self.

Eric W. Kneeder, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda.

Nominee: Eric William Kneeder.

Post: Republic of Rwanda.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:
Self: None.
Spouse: None.

Hugo Yue-Ho Yon, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Maldives.

Nominee: Hugo Yue-Ho Yon.

Post: Republic of Maldives.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: none.
2. Liza Andriani Yon, none.

Karen Sasahara, of Massachusetts, 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 State of Kuwait.

Nominee: Karen Hideko Sasahara.
Post: Kuwait.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$16.66, 11/18/2020, Andy Kim; \$16.67, 11/18/2020, Jon Ossoff; \$16.67, 11/18/2020, Raphael Warnock; \$100.00, 07/31/2021, Andy Kim; \$100.00, 11/17/2022; ActBlue.
2. Spouse: (Michael Ratney): None.

Kathleen A. FitzGibbon, 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 Republic of Niger.

Nominee: Kathleen FitzGibbon.
Post: Ambassador, Republic of Niger.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Kathleen FitzGibbon: None, N/A, N/A.

Martina Anna Tkadlec Strong, of Texas, 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 United Arab Emirates.

Nominee: Martina Anna Tkadlec Strong.
Post: Ambassador to the UAE.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

No contributions.

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.

Nominee: David J. Kostelancik.
Post: Republic of Albania.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Patricia J. Kostelancik: None.

Robin Dunnigan, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Georgia.

Nominee: Robin Dunnigan.
Post: Georgia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent con-

tributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date and donee:

1. Self: \$250, Oct. 28, 2020, Biden for President; \$250, Oct. 21, 2020, Biden for President; \$250, Oct. 14, 2020, Biden for President; \$500, Sep. 23, 2020, Biden for President.

Spouse: \$500, Oct. 13, 2020, Biden for President.

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Amanda K. Brailsford, of Idaho, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1328. A bill to clarify the rights of Indians and Indian Tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1329. A bill to direct the Librarian of Congress to carry out activities to support Armenian Genocide education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

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

S. 1330. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a burial and funeral allowance for certain veterans who die at home or in other settings while in receipt of hospice care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 1331. A bill to ensure that borrowers who have performed qualifying public service are eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1332. A bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 1333. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants for providing evidence-based caregiver skills training to family caregivers of children with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities or delays, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1334. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop, in cooperation with allies and partners in the Middle East, an integrated maritime domain awareness and

interdiction capability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1335. A bill to establish the New York-New Jersey Watershed Restoration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 1336. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits be calculated using the value of the lowest-cost food plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 1337. A bill to temporarily prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until a certain level of taxpayer services have improved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1338. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply the mailbox rule to documents and payments electronically submitted to the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1339. A bill to provide for increased oversight of entities that provide pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of group health plans and health insurance coverage; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1340. A bill to establish an Independent Financial Technology Working Group to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1341. A bill to reauthorize title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1342. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide incentives for States to implement policy changes to reduce prison populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1343. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to alter the definition of "conviction", and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 1344. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish an emergency grant aid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1345. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Credit Risk Management, to require the Administrator

of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certified development companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1346. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to award grants to implement innovative approaches to securing prompt access to appropriate follow-on care for individuals who experience an acute mental health episode and present for care in an emergency department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1347. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to waive cost-sharing under the TRICARE program for three mental health outpatient visits per year for certain beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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

S. 1348. A bill to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. ROMNEY, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1349. A bill to establish a postsecondary student data system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1350. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission to issue regulations requiring certain products to have "Do Not Flush" labeling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1351. A bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1352. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guaranty program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1353. A bill to amend section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLI-

BRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1354. A bill to increase the quality and supply of child care and lower child care costs for families; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1355. A bill to establish a program to develop antimicrobial innovations targeting the most challenging pathogens and most threatening infections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 1356. A bill to establish a task force on organizational structure for artificial intelligence governance and oversight; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1357. A bill to address advertising by digital asset intermediaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1358. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 and the Flood Control Act of 1968 to provide for provisions relating to collection and retention of user fees at recreation facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1359. A bill to create a safe harbor for insurers engaging in the business of insurance in connection with a cannabis-related legitimate business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 1360. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to include exposure to perfluoroalkyl substances and polyfluoroalkyl substances in periodic health assessments of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1361. A bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide for floodplain easement restoration and management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1362. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to enhance rulemaking requirements for the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. LEE):

S. 1363. A bill to eliminate the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1364. A bill to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to provide the Attorney General with greater authority to promote enforcement of disclosure require-

ments for agents of foreign principals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1365. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide for the enrollment of citrus land in the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1366. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a forest incentives program to keep forests intact and sequester carbon on private forest land of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1367. A bill to amend XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care, to amend title XVIII of such Act to modify the requirements for diabetic shoes to be included under Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1368. A bill to counter the military-civil fusion strategy of the Chinese Communist Party and prevent United States contributions to the development of dual-use technology in China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1369. A bill to expand access to capital in underserved markets by providing resources for the Small Business Administration to approve additional Non-Federally Regulated Lenders to make business loans guaranteed by the Small Business Administration to small business concerns in low-income and moderate-income neighborhoods; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 1370. A bill to reauthorize and limit the pre-disaster mitigation program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 1371. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that consumer reporting agencies and other credit reporting companies provide certain protections to small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1372. A bill to prohibit certain business concerns from receiving assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1373. A bill to increase access to medication for opioid overdose reversal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 1374. A bill to prohibit group health plans and health insurance issuers from entering into contracts that would prevent or

restrict patient access to drug pricing information otherwise available through consumer decision-support tools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1375. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply additional payments, discounts, and other financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BENNET, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1376. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1377. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the low-income housing credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1378. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide incentives for behavioral health integration under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 1379. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish an excess urban heat mitigation grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1380. A bill to amend the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to provide States and communities with additional assistance to plant and maintain trees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1381. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1382. A bill to amend section 1507 of title 18, United States Code, to establish appropriate penalties for obstruction of justice by picketing or parading in or near court buildings or residences of judges, jurors, witnesses, or other court officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1383. A bill to regulate firearm silencers and firearm mufflers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1384. A bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1385. A bill to develop a national strategy to increase the number of youth recreation visits to Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 179. A resolution condemning the wrongful detainment of United States citizens and residents by the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. Res. 180. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 30, 2023, as "National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 181. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of April 24 through April 28, 2023, as "National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 182. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 183. A resolution celebrating the 151st anniversary of Arbor Day; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 184. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 2023 as "Parkinson's Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 185. A resolution designating April 2023 as "Financial Literacy Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Con. Res. 9. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that there is a climate emergency which demands a massive-scale mobilization to halt, reverse, and address its consequences and causes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 120

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 120, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 184

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 184, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 217

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for certain casualty losses of uncut timber.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 305, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

S. 359

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

S. 473

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 473, a bill to provide for drone security.

S. 596

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 596, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 626

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 626, a bill to recommend that the

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 767

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 767, a bill to enhance mental health and psychosocial support within United States development and humanitarian assistance programs.

S. 915

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 915, a bill to require Presidential appointment and Senate confirmation of the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

S. 1201

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1201, a bill to reform the labor laws of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1206

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1206, a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1271, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to trafficking of illicit fentanyl and its precursors by transnational criminal organizations, including cartels, and for other purposes.

S. 1311

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1311, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 15, a joint reso-

lution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to "Procedures Covering Suspension of Liquidation, Duties and Estimated Duties in Accord With Presidential Proclamation 10414".

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Adverse Effect Wage Rate Methodology for the Temporary Employment of H-2A Nonimmigrants in Non-Range Occupations in the United States".

S. RES. 113

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 113, a resolution recognizing the need for greater access to rural and agricultural media programming.

S. RES. 157

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 157, a resolution commemorating the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 174

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 174, a resolution condemning the human rights record of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini and the brutal killing of Eswatini activist Thulani Maseko on January 21, 2023.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 1337. A bill to temporarily prohibit the hiring of additional Internal Revenue Service employees until a certain level of taxpayer services have improved, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

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

S. 1337

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Increase Reliable Services Now Act".

SEC. 2. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL TAX ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Internal Revenue Service may not hire any person for the purpose of conducting enforcement activities

during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the first date after such date on which—

(1) the Internal Revenue Service has maintained, for 6 consecutive months—

(A) a level of access for accounts management phone lines of not less than 90 percent; and

(B) an average speed of answering enterprise-wide calls in 4 minutes or less; and

(2) not less than 90 percent of the regular employees of the Internal Revenue Service perform work in person at their job sites.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The term "enforcement activities" means activities described in section 10301(a)(1)(A)(ii) of Public Law 117-169.

(2) LEVEL OF ACCESS.—The term "level of access" means a telephone performance measure that reflects overall taxpayer call demand and Internal Revenue Service assistance and is calculated by dividing—

(A) the sum of assistant calls answered and the automated calls answered; by

(B) the total dialed number attempts (not including any dialed number attempts after hours).

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF ADDITIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE FUNDS FOR TAXPAYER AUDITS.

Section 10301(a)(1)(A)(ii) of Public Law 117-169 is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "Provided further, That the Internal Revenue Service shall not audit taxpayers with taxable incomes below \$400,000 at a greater rate than such taxpayers were audited for the most recent taxable year beginning before the date of the enactment of this Act".

SEC. 4. TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE HIRING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the Internal Revenue Service may not hire any person (other than for activities related to return processing and call center operations) during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the first date after such date on which the Internal Revenue Service meets the requirements of subsection (b).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) With respect to the completion of processing original and amended tax returns, the completion of processing suspended tax returns, and the resolution of accounts management cases, the Internal Revenue Service has an aggregate inventory not in excess of 5,000,000 items as of the close of any calendar quarter.

(2) With respect to tax returns eligible for a refund, refunds are issued to taxpayers on average within six weeks or less of the receipt of the return.

SEC. 5. REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 7 days after the last day of each calendar quarter beginning during the applicable period, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, in consultation with the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, shall submit to the appropriate Congressional committees report on—

(1) the level of access for accounts management phone lines for each month during such calendar quarter;

(2) the average speed of answering enterprise-wide calls for each month during such calendar quarter;

(3) the percentage of regular employees of the Internal Revenue Service that perform work in person at their job sites during such calendar quarter;

(4) the aggregate inventory of unprocessed original and amended tax returns, unprocessed suspended tax returns, and unresolved

accounts management cases as of the last day of the calendar quarter; and

(5) with respect to tax returns eligible for a refund, the average length of time between receipt of a tax return and the issuance of a refund.

(b) **APPLICABLE PERIOD.**—For purposes of this section, the term “applicable period” means the period beginning with the first calendar quarter beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act and ending with the first calendar quarter in which the Internal Revenue Service—

(1) has met the requirements under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2(a); and

(2) has met the requirements of section 4(b).

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—For purposes of this section, the term “appropriate Congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1341. A bill to reauthorize title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Madam President, it is time for a national investment in building a strong and resilient educator pipeline to ensure that all schools have the diverse, profession-ready teachers, principals, librarians, counselors, and other specialized instructional support personnel they need to support student development and academic achievement. Today, along with Senators CASEY, LUJÁN, VAN HOLLEN, WYDEN, STABENOW, MERKLEY, and HEINRICH, I am reintroducing the EDUCATORS for America Act to provide the blueprint for building this pipeline. I am pleased that Representative ALMA ADAMS is introducing a companion bill in the other body.

For years, we have seen declines in enrollment in educator preparation programs. Now in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, schools are facing pervasive staffing shortages. An Education Week survey found that 40 percent of school district leaders and principals describe the shortages as “severe” or “very severe.” The National Association of Secondary School Principals reported that nearly 4 out of 10 principals expect to leave the profession in the next 3 years. We cannot afford to neglect the educator pipeline any longer.

As we work to replenish the ranks of our educators, we also have the opportunity to advance diversity in the profession. Multiple studies have shown that racial diversity can provide significant benefits to students. However, the gap between the demographic makeup of the student body and the

education profession has been widening. Even though over 50 percent of students are people of color, a 2022 Department of Education report showed that 80 percent of public-school teachers identified as White, a figure that has barely changed since 2000.

The EDUCATORS for America Act calls for a \$1 billion annual investment in the educator pipeline, divided evenly between State capacity building and direct support for educator preparation programs and partnerships with high-need school districts. It addresses the full scope of educator workforce development, including early outreach and career exploration, financial assistance, and wraparound supports for those pursuing education careers. It supports clinical preparation for teachers, principals, and other educators, as well as fostering faculty development, all with a focus on ensuring equity and diversity.

The EDUCATORS for America Act will also reduce financial barriers to pursuing careers in education. The legislation will double the value of the TEACH—Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education—grant to \$8,000 per year and provide greater flexibility for meeting service requirements. It forgives loans for teachers, principals, and early childhood educators in high need schools after 5 years of service, and it establishes a new monthly credit for all other educators that will allow them to earn loan forgiveness as they serve instead of being forced to wait a decade before receiving any benefit.

The EDUCATORS for America Act reflects input from stakeholders across the field about what is needed to recruit, prepare, and support educators. To date, more than 50 organizations have endorsed it.

The Nation’s outlook for the future is tied to the strength of the education profession. Our economic prosperity, the health of our democracy and civic society, and our ability to meet the challenges of climate change and the information age depend on our students having access to well-prepared and supported educators who reflect the diversity of the students they serve.

Today, the profession is in crisis. It is time to act. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the EDUCATORS for America Act and work with me to see that it is enacted into law.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 1343. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to alter the definition of “conviction”, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Fair Adjudications for Immigrants Act.

This legislation would ensure that immigrants with criminal convictions do not face barriers to naturalization and experience unfair removals after their convictions have been dismissed, expunged, or pardoned by a Federal or State locality.

The Fair Adjudications for Immigrants Act is important in ensuring immigrants are not unjustly treated after receiving a criminal charge that never resulted in a conviction or after a previous conviction no longer stands.

Specifically, this bill would ensure that immigrants whose convictions have been overturned are not penalized when they are no longer considered valid in the court of conviction or for sentences that have been fully suspended by the sentencing court.

By redefining the term “conviction” in the Immigration and Nationality Act, this legislation also clarifies that any adjudication that is appealable or in which the court has issued a judicial recommendation against removal or probation without judgment will not count as a conviction.

The bill would apply retroactively to any conviction, adjudication, or judgment entered before, on, or after the enactment of this bill. Finally, it establishes that an immigrant cannot be removed on the basis of a conviction if the sentencing court issues a recommendation against removal to the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Under current law, rather than having access to many rehabilitative measures that are afforded in the criminal justice system, immigrants with dismissed criminal charges, suspended sentences, or criminal convictions that are no longer considered valid in the court of conviction still face severe consequences in the immigration court system.

Some of the immigration consequences that immigrants can face include unjust removals, mandatory detention, and barriers to naturalization.

It is imperative that we resolve this disparity between immigration and criminal law to prevent those immigrants with dismissed criminal charges or with convictions that are no longer considered valid in the court of conviction from continuing to face punitive immigration consequences.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1353. A bill to amend section 455(m) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to allow adjunct faculty members to qualify for public service loan forgiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

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

S. 1353

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Adjunct Faculty Loan Fairness Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. LOAN FORGIVENESS FOR ADJUNCT FACULTY.

Section 455(m)(3)(B)(ii) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(m)(3)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “teaching as” and inserting the following: “teaching—

“(I) as”;

(2) by striking “, foreign language faculty, and part-time faculty at community colleges, as determined by the Secretary.” and inserting “and foreign language faculty), as determined by the Secretary; or”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(II) at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a)), a postsecondary vocational institution (as defined in section 102(c)), or a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b)), in non-tenured track employment as an adjunct or contingent faculty, teacher, or lecturer who—

“(aa) teaches—

“(AA) not less than 9 credit hours per semester, 6 credit hours per trimester, or 18 credit hours per calendar year; or

“(BB) not less than a total of 30 hours per week, as determined by multiplying each credit or contact hour taught per week by 3.35 (or a larger number, if determined appropriate by the Secretary); and

“(bb) is not employed on a full-time basis by any other employer.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**SENATE RESOLUTION 179—CONDEMNING THE WRONGFUL DETAINMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 179

Whereas the Constitution of the Russian Federation guarantees the right to assemble, freedom from censorship, and the freedom of speech and thought to its citizens;

Whereas, under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin, the Government of the Russian Federation has failed to protect these ideals and has used the power of the state to diminish the rights of Russians and others within its borders and across the territories Russia unlawfully occupies;

Whereas President Putin’s regime has used the power of the state to unlawfully detain individuals committed to fighting corruption within the Russian Federation;

Whereas President Putin’s regime has unjustly targeted and detained individuals such as Sergei Magnitsky, who provided evidence that \$230,000,000 had been stolen from the Russian treasury by senior Russian officials;

Whereas Sergei Magnitsky died at the age of 37 after being denied critical medical care while being unjustly detained in inhuman conditions;

Whereas President Putin’s regime also utilizes the power of the state to target political opponents and repress freedom of speech, thought, and expression;

Whereas Alexey Navalny, a Russian opposition leader and vocal critic of President Putin, has been unjustly detained and subject to poisoning by the Kremlin;

Whereas the Putin regime has also used its power to unjustly detain citizens of the United States;

Whereas United States citizen Paul Whelan is currently serving a 16-year prison sentence after being wrongfully detained by the Russian Federation for espionage;

Whereas, following Paul Whelan’s conviction on June 15, 2020, the Department of State released a statement demanding his immediate release, and this statement continues to be ignored by the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas, on April 12, 2022, United States resident Vladimir Kara-Murza was arrested for condemning Russia’s war in Ukraine and was charged with “spreading deliberately false information” about the armed forces of Russia, which was criminalized under a Russian law passed after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, Vladimir Kara-Murza was convicted of treason and sentenced to 25 years in prison;

Whereas additional United States citizens continue to be detained in Russia for unjust cause, including American journalist Evan Gershkovich;

Whereas wrongful detention, as defined in section 302 of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741) and Department of State guidance, covers the detention of United States nationals, including lawful permanent residents (LPRs);

Whereas, under section 302 of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741), the Secretary of State is required to review the cases of United States nationals detained abroad to determine if there is credible information that they are being detained unlawfully or wrongfully and if this determination is made, the Secretary is required to transfer responsibility for such case from the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Department of State to the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA);

Whereas a referral to SPEHA, pursuant to Executive Order No. 14078 (relating to Bolstering Efforts To Bring Hostages and Wrongfully Detained United States Nationals Home), allows SPEHA to utilize additional tools not regularly available in order to deter and disrupt hostage-taking and wrongful detentions by imposing costs on terrorist organizations, criminal groups, and other malicious actors who take hostages for financial, political, or other gains and thus threaten the integrity of the international political system and the safety of United States nationals and other persons abroad;

Whereas, on April 17, 2023, United States Ambassador to the Russian Federation Lynne Tracy stated, “The right to have political opinions, or to disagree with the decisions of one’s own government, are fundamental freedoms enshrined in both the Russian constitution and international treaties to which Russia is a party.”;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation, under the leadership of President Putin, has clearly failed to uphold the values guaranteed in the Russian constitution and the international treaties the Russian Federation is party to;

Whereas the actions of President Putin’s regime, including illegal detentions, military operations against sovereign nation states, and attacks on political opponents, constitute acts of international terrorism;

Whereas, under chapter 113B of title 18, United States Code, the term “international terrorism” means activities that involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, or that

would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any State, and appear to be intended—

(1) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;

(2) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or

(3) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping;

Whereas, at a minimum, the Government of the Russian Federation’s treatment of detained Americans, Russian citizens, and others through inhuman prison conditions, including the lack of medical care, and the lack of due process constitutes a danger to human life which would be a criminal violation in the United States and is clearly intended to intimidate or coerce the free exercise of rights available to individuals in the Russian Federation; and

Whereas United States law authorizes the designation of countries that have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism as state sponsors of terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the United States Government to designate Vladimir Kara-Murza as wrongfully detained under United States law;

(2) condemns the wrongful detainment of all United States citizens and residents by the Government of the Russian Federation and demands their immediate release from such detention;

(3) stands with the people of Russia in their desire to exercise freedom of speech and expression, without retaliation by an oppressive regime;

(4) demands that the Russian leadership be held accountable for their inhumane and unjust actions against their own citizens who want nothing less than to be represented by a fair and just government; and

(5) calls on the United States Government to immediately designate the Russian Federation as a state sponsor of terrorism under United States law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 180—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 30, 2023, AS “NATIONAL ADULT HEPATITIS B VACCINATION AWARENESS DAY”

Ms. HIRONO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 180

Whereas up to 2,400,000 individuals in the United States are chronically infected with hepatitis B, and up to ⅓ of individuals with chronic hepatitis B are unaware of their infection;

Whereas hepatitis B is a viral infection of the liver transmitted via infected blood and other bodily fluids, including through mother-to-child transmission and injection drug use;

Whereas hepatitis B is associated with significant disparities among communities of color (including Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and African immigrants), sexual and gender minority communities, and those affected by the opioid crisis;

Whereas individuals with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, HIV, hepatitis C, and chronic liver disease, and individuals on hemodialysis are at an increased risk for hepatitis B co-infection;

Whereas there is no cure for hepatitis B, and individuals with chronic hepatitis B require lifelong medical care;

Whereas chronic hepatitis B represents 1 of the most common causes of liver cancer;

Whereas 1 in every 4 individuals with unmanaged chronic hepatitis B will develop liver cancer, cirrhosis, or liver failure, with liver cancer having a 5-year survival rate of only 18 percent in the United States;

Whereas safe and highly effective vaccines to protect against hepatitis B are available;

Whereas, in accordance with universal childhood hepatitis B vaccination recommendations in the United States, infants and children have been routinely vaccinated against hepatitis B since the 1990s;

Whereas all adults between 19 and 59 years of age, and adults 60 and older who have hepatitis B risk factors, are recommended to be vaccinated against hepatitis B;

Whereas the hepatitis B vaccine, which is 95 percent effective and was the first anticancer vaccine to be developed, is projected to have prevented 310,000,000 cases of hepatitis B worldwide from 1990 to 2020;

Whereas only 30 percent of adults in the United States are vaccinated against hepatitis B;

Whereas the number of reported acute hepatitis B cases increased by 11 percent nationwide from 2014 to 2018;

Whereas, as a result of the drug use epidemic, there have been significant regional increases in acute hepatitis B cases in the United States, including—

(1) a reported 489 percent increase from 2015 to 2016 in Maine;

(2) a reported 114 percent increase from 2009 to 2013 in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee;

(3) a reported 78 percent increase in 2017 in southeastern Massachusetts; and

(4) a reported 56 percent increase from 2014 to 2016 in North Carolina;

Whereas 36 percent of new hepatitis B cases are among individuals who inject drugs;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, hepatitis B is 50 to 100 times more infectious than HIV and 5 to 10 times more infectious than hepatitis C; and

Whereas there are significant opportunities, particularly with respect to the drug use epidemic, to prevent new hepatitis B infections and thereby reduce the incidence of liver cancer and cirrhosis through efforts to—

(1) increase adult hepatitis B vaccination; and

(2) maintain childhood hepatitis B vaccination: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 30, 2023, as “National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes the importance of providing support and encouragement—

(A) for all adults to be tested for hepatitis B at least once in their lifetime in accordance with recommendations;

(B) for individuals susceptible to infection to be vaccinated against hepatitis B; and

(C) for individuals diagnosed with hepatitis B to be linked to appropriate care; and

(3) in order to reduce the number of new hepatitis B infections and hepatitis B-related deaths, encourages a commitment to—

(A) increasing adult hepatitis B vaccination rates;

(B) maintaining childhood hepatitis B vaccination rates; and

(C) promoting provider and community awareness of adult hepatitis B vaccination.

SENATE RESOLUTION 181—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF APRIL 24 THROUGH APRIL 28, 2023, AS “NATIONAL SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL APPRECIATION WEEK”

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 181

Whereas there are more than 1,000,000 specialized instructional support personnel serving the schools and students of the United States, including—

(1) school counselors;
(2) school social workers;
(3) school psychologists; and
(4) other qualified professional personnel, such as—

(A) school nurses;
(B) psychologists;
(C) social workers;
(D) occupational therapists;
(E) physical therapists;
(F) art therapists;
(G) dance and movement therapists;
(H) music therapists;
(I) speech-language pathologists; and
(J) audiologists;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide school-based prevention and early intervention services to reduce barriers to learning;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel work with teachers, school leaders, and parents to ensure that all students are successful in school;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel encourage multidisciplinary collaboration to promote student and school success;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel provide educational, social, emotional, and behavioral interventions and activities that support—

(1) student learning; and
(2) teaching;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel help to create environments that are safe, supportive, and conducive to learning;

Whereas safe and supportive school environments are associated with improved academic performance;

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel support—

(1) student communication;
(2) the development of social skills by students;
(3) the physical wellness of students;
(4) the physical development of students; and
(5) the behavioral, emotional, and mental health of students; and

Whereas specialized instructional support personnel serve all students who struggle with barriers to learning: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 24 through April 28, 2023, as “National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week”;

(2) recognizes that specialized instructional support personnel implement evidence-based practices to improve student outcomes;

(3) commends—

(A) those individuals who work as specialized instructional support personnel; and

(B) the individuals and organizations that support the efforts made by specialized in-

structional support personnel to promote and improve the availability of specialized instructional support services;

(4) encourages Federal, State, and local policymakers to work together to raise awareness of the importance of specialized instructional support personnel in school climate and education efforts;

(5) recognizes the important role of specialized instructional support personnel in efforts to improve mental health, reduce drug use, and improve overall community safety for students; and

(6) encourages experts to share best practices so that others can replicate the success of those experts.

SENATE RESOLUTION 182—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 182

Whereas, each year, the underground utility infrastructure of the United States, including pipelines, electric, gas, telecommunications, fiber, water, sewer, and cable television lines, is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to have underground utility lines located prior to digging;

Whereas some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground, making the lines easy to strike, even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas digging prior to having underground utility lines located often results in unintended consequences, such as service interruption, environmental damage, personal injury, and even death;

Whereas the month of April marks the beginning of the peak period during which excavation projects are carried out around the United States;

Whereas, in 2002, Congress required the Department of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a 3-digit, nationwide, toll-free number to be used by State “One Call” systems to provide information on underground utility lines;

Whereas, in 2005, the Federal Communications Commission designated “811” as the nationwide “One Call” number for homeowners and excavators to use to obtain information on underground utility lines before conducting excavation activities (hereinafter referred to as the “One Call/811 program”);

Whereas the nearly 2,000 members of the Common Ground Alliance, States, “One Call/811” program, and other stakeholders who are dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services, promote the national “Contact 811 Before You Dig” campaign to increase public awareness about the importance of homeowners and excavators contacting 811 to find out the location of underground utility lines before digging;

Whereas the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 (Public Law 112-90; 125 Stat. 1904) affirmed and expanded the “One Call/811” program by eliminating exemptions given to local and State government agencies and their contractors regarding notifying “One Call/811” centers before digging;

Whereas, according to the 2021 Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) Report published by the Common Ground Alliance in October 2022—

(1) estimated annual instances of excavation-related damages to underground facilities were on-par or higher than the approximately 486,000 damages from the prior year; and

(2) failing to contact 811 in advance of a digging project caused 26 percent of these damages;

Whereas, in 2021, the Common Ground Alliance conducted a survey of active diggers who have completed a project during the prior year and found that 74 percent of the more than 1,800 respondents were aware of the “One Call”/811 program; and

Whereas the Common Ground Alliance has designated April as “National Safe Digging Month” to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the United States and to celebrate the anniversary of 811, the national “Contact Before You Dig” number: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month;

(2) encourages all homeowners and excavators throughout the United States to contact 811 by phone or online before digging; and

(3) encourages all damage prevention stakeholders to help educate homeowners and excavators throughout the United States about the importance of contacting 811 to have the approximate location of buried utilities marked with paint or flags before digging.

SENATE RESOLUTION 183—CELEBRATING THE 151ST ANNIVERSARY OF ARBOR DAY

Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 183

Whereas Arbor Day was founded on April 10, 1872, to recognize the importance of planting trees;

Whereas Arbor Day is a time to recognize the importance of trees and an opportunity for communities to gather and plant for a greener future;

Whereas Arbor Day is observed in all 50 States and across the world;

Whereas participating in Arbor Day activities promotes civic participation and highlights the importance of planting and caring for trees and vegetation;

Whereas such activities provide an opportunity to convey to future generations the value of land and stewardship;

Whereas working forests have contributed to an increase in the number of trees planted in the United States and are sustainably managed, with less than 2 percent of working forests nationally harvested each year;

Whereas a key factor in preventing forest conversion and deforestation is keeping forests productive;

Whereas working forests are a critical part of a nature-based solution to climate change, and by providing a continuous cycle of growing, harvesting, and replanting, active forest management maximizes the ability to sequester and store carbon and improves forest resilience;

Whereas private forests play an important role in conserving at-risk and declining species, and collaborative conservation efforts can benefit species while also helping to keep forests as forests;

Whereas sustainably grown wood can be used in a wide variety of resilient infrastruc-

ture and building applications—from traditional timber framing to high-tech mass timber—and as a natural, renewable, and biodegradable material, the significant use of wood building materials in buildings and bridges helps decrease global carbon emissions;

Whereas the Arbor Day Foundation and the Tree City USA program have been committed to greening cities and towns across the country since 1976, and, in that time, more than 3,600 communities have made the commitment to becoming Tree City USA communities;

Whereas Tree City USA communities are home to more than 153,000,000 individuals in the United States who are dedicated to core standards of sound urban forestry management and who dedicate resources and time to urban forestry initiatives, which helps make their communities and our country a better place to live;

Whereas National Arbor Day is observed on the last Friday of April each year; and

Whereas April 28, 2023, marks the 151st anniversary of Arbor Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes April 28, 2023, as “National Arbor Day”;

(2) celebrates the 151st anniversary of Arbor Day;

(3) supports the goals and ideals of National Arbor Day; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to participate in National Arbor Day activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 184—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2023 AS “PARKINSON’S AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 184

Whereas Parkinson’s disease—

(1) affects more than 1,000,000 individuals in the United States;

(2) is the fastest-growing and second most common neurodegenerative disease in the world;

(3) is believed to be caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause in most individuals is still unknown; and

(4) is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas it is estimated that, by 2037, the number of individuals with Parkinson’s disease in the United States will nearly double, and the disease will cost the United States at least \$80,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease can include dementia and cognitive impairment, tremors, slowness of movement and rigidity, gait and balance difficulties, speech and swallowing difficulties, depression, and a variety of other symptoms;

Whereas there are millions of family caregivers, friends, and loved ones whose lives are greatly affected by Parkinson’s disease; and

Whereas more research, education, and community support services are needed to—

(1) find better treatments and a cure for Parkinson’s disease; and

(2) maintain dignity for those living with the disease today: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of April 2023 as “Parkinson’s Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Parkinson’s Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments and a cure for Parkinson’s disease;

(4) recognizes the individuals living with Parkinson’s disease who participate in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals across the country working to improve the quality of life of people living with Parkinson’s disease and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 185—DESIGNATING APRIL 2023 AS “FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH”

Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 185

Whereas, according to the report entitled “Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2021” by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, a noted increase in financial well-being occurred broadly as the United States recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, but existing gaps in education, ethnicity, and disability persisted;

Whereas, according to the 2021 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation National Survey of Unbanked and Underbanked Households—

(1) approximately 4.5 percent of households, representing 5,900,000 households in the United States, are unbanked and, therefore, have limited or no access to savings, lending, and other basic financial services; and

(2) an estimated 14.1 percent of households, representing 18,700,000 million households in the United States, are underbanked;

Whereas, according to the 2021 Consumer Financial Literacy and Preparedness Survey of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling and Wells Fargo—

(1) 47 percent of the general population in the United States report having credit card debt;

(2) 38 percent of adults in the United States report carrying credit card balances from month-to-month; and

(3) 44 percent of the general population in the United States have a budget and keep close track of expenses, such as food, housing, and entertainment;

Whereas, according to a report entitled “Financial Capability of Adults with Disabilities” by the National Disability Institute and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, people with disabilities were more likely to struggle with the key components of financial capability, which are making ends meet, planning ahead, managing financial products, and financial knowledge and decision-making, and could benefit from targeted financial education;

Whereas, according to the statistical release of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the fourth quarter of 2022 entitled “Household Debt and Credit”—

(1) outstanding household debt in the United States has increased by \$2,750,000,000,000 since the end of 2019;

(2) outstanding student loan balances have more than doubled in the last decade to nearly \$1,600,000,000,000; and

(3) the share of debt newly transitioning into delinquency increased for nearly all debt types, following 2 years of historically low delinquency transitions;

Whereas, according to the 2022 report entitled “Survey of the States: Economic and Personal Finance Education in Our Nation’s Schools” by the Council for Economic Education—

(1) only 25 States require students to take an economics course as a high school graduation requirement; and

(2) only 23 States require students to take a personal finance course as a high school graduation requirement, either independently or as part of an economics course;

Whereas expanding access to the safe, mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing finances and building wealth;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared—

(1) to make sound money management decisions about credit, debt, insurance, financial transactions, and planning for the future; and

(2) to become responsible workers, heads of household, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas financial education in schools in the United States is critical to a long-term financial inclusion strategy to reach students who are not able to get sufficient personal finance guidance at home;

Whereas, according to the 2021 report entitled “Game Changer: The Evaluation of the JumpStart Financial Foundations for Educators Professional Development Program” by the Financial Literacy Group, teacher training regarding financial education improves student outcomes significantly, especially among historically underserved students;

Whereas increased financial literacy—

(1) empowers individuals to make wise financial decisions; and

(2) reduces the confusion caused by an increasingly complex economy;

Whereas a greater understanding of, and familiarity with, financial markets and institutions will lead to increased economic activity and growth; and

Whereas, in 2003, Congress—

(1) determined that coordinating Federal financial literacy efforts and formulating a national strategy is important; and

(2) in light of that determination, passed the Financial Literacy and Education Improvement Act (20 U.S.C. 9701 et seq.), establishing the Financial Literacy and Education Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2023 as “Financial Literacy Month” to raise public awareness about—

(A) the importance of personal financial education in the United States; and

(B) the serious consequences that may result from a lack of understanding about personal finances; and

(2) calls on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe Financial Literacy Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 9—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THERE IS A CLIMATE EMERGENCY WHICH DEMANDS A MASSIVE-SCALE MOBILIZATION TO HALT, REVERSE, AND ADDRESS ITS CONSEQUENCES AND CAUSES

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WELCH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. CON. RES. 9

Whereas the 8 warmest years on record have now occurred since 2014, with 2016 as the hottest year recorded, and each of the past 4 decades have been warmer than the one preceding;

Whereas global atmospheric concentrations of the primary global warming pollutant, carbon dioxide—

(1) have increased, primarily due to human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, by 40 percent since preindustrial times, from 280 parts per million to 415 parts per million;

(2) are rising at a rate of 2 to 3 parts per million annually; and

(3) must be reduced to not more than 350 parts per million, and likely lower, “if humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted”, according to former National Aeronautics and Space Administration climatologist Dr. James Hansen;

Whereas global atmospheric concentrations of other global warming pollutants, including methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons, have also increased substantially since preindustrial times, primarily due to human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels;

Whereas climate science and observations of climate change impacts, including ocean warming, ocean acidification, floods, droughts, wildfires, and extreme weather, demonstrate that a global rise in concentrations of global warming pollutants is already having dangerous impacts on human populations and the environment;

Whereas, with the current 1.1 degrees Celsius of warming above preindustrial levels, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration finds that climate change is already increasing the frequency of extreme weather and other climate-related disasters, including drought, wildfire, and storms that include precipitation;

Whereas the overall costs of these disasters for the United States in 2022 was roughly \$165,000,000,000, the third highest recorded total costs, including 18 separate weather and climate disasters which cost at least \$1,000,000,000 each and caused at least 474 direct or indirect known fatalities;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention finds that there are wide-ranging, acute, and fatal public health consequences from climate change that impact communities across the United States;

Whereas, according to the National Climate and Health Assessment of the United States Global Change Research Program, climate change is a significant threat to the health of the people of the United States, leading to increased—

- (1) temperature-related deaths and illnesses;
- (2) air quality impacts;
- (3) extreme weather events;
- (4) numbers of vector-borne diseases;
- (5) waterborne illnesses;

(6) food safety, nutrition, and distribution complications; and

(7) mental health and well-being concerns;

Whereas environmental and public health threats from climate change and climate disasters are not randomly distributed and disproportionately affect low-income communities and communities of color;

Whereas the consequences of climate change are felt most severely by frontline communities and endanger populations made especially vulnerable by existing exposure to extreme weather events, such as children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing disabilities and health conditions;

Whereas individuals and families on the frontlines of climate change across the United States, including territories, living with income inequality and poverty, institutional racism, inequity on the basis of gender and sexual orientation, poor infrastructure, and lack of access to health care, housing, clean water, and food security are often in close proximity to environmental stressors or sources of pollution, particularly communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities, which—

(1) are often the first exposed to the impacts of climate change;

(2) experience outsized risk because of the close proximity of the community to environmental hazards and stressors, in addition to collocation with waste and other sources of pollution; and

(3) have the fewest resources to mitigate those impacts or to relocate, which will exacerbate preexisting challenges;

Whereas climate change holds grave and immediate consequences not just for the population of the United States, including territories, but for communities across the world, particularly those communities in the Global South on the frontlines of the climate crisis that are at risk of forced displacement;

Whereas the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the intelligence community have identified climate change as a threat to national security, and the Department of Homeland Security views climate change as a top national security risk;

Whereas the climatic changes resulting from global warming above 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, including changes resulting from global warming of more than 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, are projected to result in irreversible, catastrophic changes to public health, livelihoods, quality of life, food security, water supplies, human security, and economic growth;

Whereas, even with global warming up to 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, the planet is projected to experience—

- (1) a significant rise in sea levels;
- (2) extraordinary loss of biodiversity; and
- (3) intensifying droughts, floods, wildfires, and other extreme weather events;

Whereas, according to climate scientists, addressing the climate emergency will require a just phase-out of the use of oil, gas, and coal in order to keep the carbon that is the primary constituent of fossil fuels in the ground and out of the atmosphere;

Whereas, in 2022, some of the largest oil and gas companies in the world reported record annual profits and rewarded shareholders with buybacks while knowingly exacerbating the ongoing climate crisis;

Whereas the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has determined that limiting warming through emissions reduction and carbon sequestration will require rapid and immediate acceleration and proliferation of “far-reaching, multilevel, and cross-sectoral climate mitigation” and “transitions in energy, land, urban and rural infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems”;

Whereas, in August 2022, the United States took its single most aggressive action to tackle the climate crisis and transition to create renewable energy solutions when Public Law 117-169 (commonly known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and referred to in this preamble as the “IRA”) was signed into law by President Biden;

Whereas the IRA includes \$369,000,000,000 for energy security and climate change, including investments in disadvantaged communities, projects that repurpose retired fossil fuel infrastructure and employ displaced workers, and setting the United States on course for a renewable energy transition as soon as possible;

Whereas the IRA creates new environmental justice block grants, establishes renewable energy financing, provides funding for Tribal communities to boost climate resilience, makes it more affordable to purchase energy efficient and electric appliances, incentivizes domestic manufacturing of renewable energy technologies, and will boost the renewable energy economy;

Whereas the passage of the IRA is projected to reduce global warming emissions in the United States between 31 percent to 44 percent below 2005 levels by 2030;

Whereas the United Nations Environment Programme still found in October 2022 that the existing commitments made in the Nationally Determined Contributions since the 2015 Paris Climate Conference are insufficient to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius;

Whereas urgent governmental action is still required to address the severe environmental, economic, social, public health, and national security threats posed by the climate crisis;

Whereas the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate will continue to require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate crisis;

Whereas the United States has a proud history of collaborative, constructive, massive-scale Federal mobilizations of resources and labor in order to solve great challenges, such as the Interstate Highway System, the Apollo 11 moon landing, Reconstruction, the New Deal, and World War II;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States protects the fundamental rights to life, liberty, property, and equal protection of the laws, and a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society and the preservation of those fundamental rights;

Whereas 18 national governments across the world and the European Union have declared a climate emergency, as well as the State of Hawaii and more than 190 cities, counties, and local jurisdictions in the United States;

Whereas the United States maintains existing resources and international commitments for bilateral and multilateral assistance to support economically emerging countries, including the Green Climate Fund, the Clean Technology Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the International Sustainable Landscapes programs, which should be supported with robust funding levels;

Whereas President Biden also maintains existing executive authority under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the various Acts concerning rivers and harbors, the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C.

717 et seq.), and the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) that can be used to address the ongoing climate crisis;

Whereas, under these existing authorities, the President can phase down the rate of fossil fuel production on Federal lands and in Federal waters, limit gas exports, halt approval of new fossil fuel infrastructure projects, establish national limits for greenhouse gases, and decarbonize transportation;

Whereas a national climate emergency declaration would further unlock the broad powers of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.), and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

Whereas such a declaration can be used to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address environmental injustice, invest in large scale mitigation and resiliency projects, create additional jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits, and ensure a just transition to a renewable energy economy;

Whereas such a declaration will allow the United States to further mobilize domestic industry, ramp up domestic manufacturing of renewable energy technologies, and deploy resilient energy infrastructure;

Whereas such a declaration can also reinstate the ban on crude oil exports, suspend offshore fossil fuel leases, curb fossil fuel imports, and stop the hundreds of billions of dollars in investments in fossil fuel projects abroad while taking additional steps toward strengthening our emergency preparedness for thousands of high-risk communities;

Whereas such a declaration necessitates the adoption of policies and processes rooted in principles of racial equity, self-determination, and democracy, as well as the fundamental human rights of all people to clean air and water, healthy food, and adequate land, education, and shelter, as promulgated in the 1991 Principles of Environmental Justice;

Whereas frontline communities, Tribal governments and communities, people of color, and labor unions must be equitably and actively engaged in a national climate emergency declaration, in such a way that aligns with the 1996 Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing, and prioritized through local climate mitigation and adaptation planning, policy, and program delivery so that workers in the United States, and the communities of those workers, are guaranteed a strong, viable economic future; and

Whereas the United States has an obligation, as a primary driver of accelerated climate change, to mobilize at emergency speed to ensure the safest climate and environment possible, not just for communities of the United States but for communities across the world, particularly those on the frontlines of the climate crisis which have least contributed to the crisis, and to account for global and community impacts of any actions the United States takes in response to the climate crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) climate change caused by human activities, which increase emissions of greenhouse gases, constitutes a climate emergency that—

(A) severely and urgently impacts the economic and social well-being, health, safety, and national security of the United States; and

(B) demands that the President wield both existing authorities and emergency powers to ensure a national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization of the resources and labor of the United States at a massive scale

to mitigate and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency for current and future generations; and

(2) nothing in this concurrent resolution constitutes a declaration of a national emergency for the purposes of any Act of Congress authorizing the exercise, during the period of a national emergency or other type of declared emergency, of any special or extraordinary power.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 8 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions introduced earlier today: S. Res. 182 and S. Res. 183.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolutions by title, en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 182) supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month.

A resolution (S. Res. 183) celebrating the 151st anniversary of Arbor Day.

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

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 182 and S. Res. 183) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, May 1; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Johnstone nomination postcloture; further, that all cloture time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. and that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session ripen on Tuesday, May 2; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:26 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 1, 2023, at 3 p.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CYNTHIA DUERR AND ENDING WITH CRISTOBAL ZEPEDA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TAMIKA D. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL F. VANNETT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2023. (MINUS 1 NOMINEE: LAURA E. WILLIAMS)

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES ROBERT ADAMS AND ENDING WITH BRENT L. BROWN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 27, 2023:

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BRIAN J. BOHENEK, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF JORGE M. ARZOLA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES F. CANTORNA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SANDEEP R. RAHANDALE AND ENDING WITH CHRISTIE A. SHEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SONG QU, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY S. MCKIDDY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEVIN J. HUXFORD AND ENDING WITH DAVID A. RIDGEWAY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JEROME C. FERRIN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHET M. KORENSKY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANTHONY L. GHEZZI, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH D016876, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK P. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH D016116, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDER ACHEAMPONG AND ENDING WITH D015566, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EMMANUEL T. ADENIRAN AND ENDING WITH D015933, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF NATHAN D. MORRIS, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN E. DINNEN AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW C. MILLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2023.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JILLIAN M. MEARS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MARY J. HESSERT, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW A. BUBNIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW R. FLORA AND ENDING WITH JORDAN J. FOLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICAH R. KELLEY AND ENDING WITH ERICA M. MITCHELL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERICA J. BALFOUR AND ENDING WITH JAMES R. TURNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF CRAIG E. FRANK, TO BE COLONEL.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MAROUANE BALMAKHTAR AND ENDING WITH DANIEL J. LEVINSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE

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