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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable GARY C. PETERS, a Senator from the State of Michigan.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, most holy, the source of our hope, keep us from dragging the honor of this great Nation in the dust.

Lord, our Senators need Your presence and help for the journey ahead. You have promised that You will never fail or forsake them. So empower them to trust You, come what may. Allow them to minister to those on life's margins, continuing Your work of setting the captives free.

Lord, give our lawmakers wisdom and courage to serve their generation in a way that honors You. May they place their lives and this Nation's future into Your all-powerful hands.

We pray in Your merciful 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, May 11, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable GARY C. PETERS, a Senator from the State of Michigan, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE RELATING TO ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; REGULATIONS FOR LISTING ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES AND DESIGNATING CRITICAL HABITAT

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS FOR NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the en bloc con-

sideration of the following joint resolutions, which the clerk will report:

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 23) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat".

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 24) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat".

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, with June 1 only 21 days away, the most important thing congressional leaders can do to protect the well-being of Americans is to say, loud and clear, default is off the table.

That is the assurance the President gave 2 days ago when he met with congressional leaders. It is the assurance Leader JEFFRIES and myself gave that day at the meeting, as well. Even Leader MCCONNELL said the United States will not default on the national debt.

Speaker MCCARTHY, however, continues on a path to drive the country toward disaster. Instead of taking default off the table, Speaker MCCARTHY is taking default hostage.

Let me say that again because that sums up what is happening right now.

Instead of taking default off the table, Speaker MCCARTHY is taking default hostage.

The strategy of the hard right remains "our way or the highway." Either Americans accept devastating

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



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cuts to veterans, law enforcement, and even cancer research, or the hard right will allow default—what a terrible choice.

And that is what makes this default fight uniquely dangerous: The hard right is dominant in the House, and they seem to be ready—seem to be perfectly willing—to let the United States default.

Speaker MCCARTHY realizes his hard-right agenda—as embodied in their “Default on America Act”—cannot win support from the American people on the merits. So he and the hard right are holding the country hostage to default.

And if anyone doubts that the hard right is in control, all they have to do is watch last night’s CNN town hall, where former President Donald Trump openly called on Republicans to “do a default” if they cannot enact their hard-right agenda.

Never mind that, under Donald Trump’s watch, Republicans agreed to avoid default three times without ever getting hung up about unrelated partisan priorities. And never mind that 25 percent—a quarter—of the national debt was actually accumulated while President Trump was in office.

He is openly calling on his party to destroy the economy if they can’t pass their radical agenda.

By now, of course, it is old news that Donald Trump is about as qualified to run the country as a broken brick, but the danger here is he holds enormous sway over Speaker MCCARTHY and the hard right.

If Donald Trump says that it is better for the United States to default than it is for Republicans to compromise, that, unfortunately, only makes default more likely.

Donald Trump’s demand for default would cause tens of millions of Americans to suffer.

This isn’t difficult: Can we all clearly and unmistakably take default off the table? Will Speaker MCCARTHY take default off the table? He is the only one of the five of us who met at the White House who has not answered that.

Speaker MCCARTHY, will you allow the hard right to keep pulling the strings and push our country off a cliff, or will you make it clear that, no matter what, we will preserve the full faith and credit of the United States?

Look, we recognize that Republicans have objections about certain policies, certain spending, certain investments. We do not agree with them, but these discussions are a normal part of the budget process that both sides have engaged in for a long time. This is too important for brinksmanship and reckless ultimatums.

White House staff, along with my office, the Speaker’s office, Leader MCCONNELL, and Leader JEFFRIES, will continue to meet in an attempt to find a constructive way forward on the budget, appropriations priorities.

If Speaker MCCARTHY is willing to state that, despite what Trump says,

default is off the table, there can be real progress on the budget. Obviously, as the Speaker of the House, MCCARTHY will have some real influence in that. But that progress should not and cannot be tied to default.

I hope Americans take a moment to listen to the dangerous things President Trump has said last night about default, because he exposed just how unfit MAGA Republicans are for governing and how serious they are about their threats.

(Ms. ROSEN assumed the Chair.)

MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Madam President, now, on military holds, I want to talk about the profane and dangerous things a colleague of ours recently said on the radio. For the past couple of months, hundreds of senior military officers and their families have had their lives unnecessarily put on hold because of a Senator from Alabama.

Senator TUBERVILLE’s actions are endangering our military readiness, provoking reaction not just from the current Secretary of Defense but from seven—seven—former Defense Secretaries from both parties.

And, earlier this week, new comments of his came to light where he not only doubled down on his obstruction but also, apparently, bemoaned the military’s efforts to root out White nationalism from our Armed Forces.

Let me read the exchange with Senator TUBERVILLE because it is shocking. During the interview, the Senator was asked:

Do you believe [the Defense Department] should allow White nationalists in the military?

The Senator’s response:

Well, they call them that. I call them Americans.

Can you believe that? Revolting—utterly revolting. Does Senator TUBERVILLE honestly believe that our military is stronger with White nationalists in its ranks? I cannot believe this needs to be said, but White nationalism has no place in our Armed Forces and no place in any corner of American society. Period. Full stop. End of story.

I urge Senator TUBERVILLE to think about the destructive spectacle he is creating in the Senate. His actions are dangerous. His words are gravely damaging, and his refusal to think about the consequences of his actions on our military personnel and families is a stain upon this Chamber.

Senators are called to a higher standard of conduct, but our colleague from Alabama is dragging all of us down. And for what? To push the hard right’s party line on banning freedom of choice.

Senator TUBERVILLE needs to do two things. He needs to come out and state clearly and unequivocally that White nationalism is un-American, and he needs to drop his destructive holds on hundreds of our senior military leaders. This farce is endangering our national security and putting the lives of

men and women who have served our country for decades in real trouble, and it needs to end.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Madam President, now on Senate business, it has been a very, very busy week on and off the Senate floor. There is so much going on in the country that it may have overshadowed the fact that it has been an extremely busy week and much is being accomplished this week.

On the floor, we confirmed more of President Biden’s appointees to important positions across the government. And today, we will vote to advance Bradley Garcia to serve as a circuit court judge for the DC Circuit, one of the most important Federal courts in the country, teeing up his nomination for Monday when the Senate returns.

Off the floor, our committees are hard at work holding hearings and advancing important nominees and legislation. The Commerce Committee yesterday moved the Railway Safety Act, sponsored by Senators BROWN and VANCE of Ohio, out of committee and with bipartisan support. I thank the Senators from Ohio and Senators CASEY around FETTERMAN from Pennsylvania and other cosponsors for their work on this bill after the derailment in East Palestine.

I look forward to working with them to bring it to the floor for a vote. Today, the HELP Committee is holding a hearing on our bipartisan cannabis legislation, the SAFE Banking Act. We made a lot of good bipartisan progress on SAFE Banking last Congress, and the work is continuing. And there is also a markup today in the HELP Committee on legislation for PBM reform, which could lead to lower costs of insulin for non-Medicare Americans.

It has been a very busy week in the Senate on very important issues that affect us all: rail safety, SAFE Banking, making growing and selling marijuana safe, and PBM reform, which can lead to reduction of insulin costs for non-Medicare people. We will keep moving ahead with our work to support the American people and reward the trust they placed in us.

ANNIVERSARY OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK, SHOOTING

Madam President, finally, on the shooting in Buffalo a year ago, this weekend, the hearts of every single American will be with the “City of Good Neighbors,” Buffalo, NY. At 2:30 in the afternoon on Saturday, May 14, of last year, in a predominantly Black neighborhood on Buffalo’s east side, 10 lives were cut short from the worst shooting in Buffalo history—10 beautiful Americans. We will never get them back. They were parents, they were sons and daughters, friends, security guards, a policeman—all taken away from us in just minutes.

I am going to read their names: Ruth Whitfield, Roberta Drury, Aaron Salter, Jr., Heyward Patterson, Pearl Young, Geraldine Talley, Celestine Chaney, “Kat” Massey, Margus Morrisson, Andre Mackneil.

God bless their memories.

I don't know what could possess someone to bring violence to a place like that. But I do know that the Buffalo shooting was a manifestation of the original sin of this Nation, the legacy of slavery and the centuries of racial hatred that continue to poison our society.

It is also one of the worst examples in recent memory of another terrible epidemic in this Nation, the epidemic of gun violence. We have made important progress in the area of gun violence. Last year, in the wake of what happened in Buffalo and Uvalde, the Senate came together in a way that it hadn't for decades, beating back the dark forces of the NRA and passing the first gun safety bill in more than a quarter century. Some of the friends and relatives of those who passed away in Buffalo were instrumental in importing us to pass this legislation, and I thank them for it, for lighting that candle.

But we have a long way to go and a lot of work to do before our job is done. Gun violence is a shameful blemish on this Nation. We cannot allow ourselves to tolerate it. Indifference on this subject has been a death sentence for too many Americans.

Finally, Madam President, today the Senate will meet for a special caucus to talk about the next steps on gun violence. While nobody pretends progress will come easily, we have a moral obligation to keep pushing, keep fighting, keep working to rid this Nation of gun violence.

May God bless Buffalo and bless all the families impacted by the tragedy 1 year ago.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the Biden administration's reckless policies have created chaos on our southern border, and further mistakes from the Democrats are taking things from very bad to even worse.

For more than 2 years now, President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have proven they are either incapable, unwilling, or uninterested in defending and maintaining our borders. Illegal crossings at our southern border have exploded under this administration—2.38 million in fiscal year 2022 alone. And that is just the subset of people whom the authorities actually found and stopped. It doesn't count the ones who got away.

The vast majority of these crossers are single adults—not families, not children but unaccompanied grownups.

Customs and Border Protection stopped 67 known terrorist suspects at the southern border ports of entry last year alone, but they found 98 attempting to cross the border elsewhere—more than six times as many as the previous year. As of March, authorities had already seized nearly three times

as much fentanyl this fiscal year as they had by this time last year.

All of these terrible numbers have come with a stopgap pandemic policy called title 42 actually in place. Every month of the Biden Presidency, anywhere from 20 to 75 percent of the illegal crossers have been turned right around and expelled, rather than apprehended and processed in the typical way. But the Biden administration has failed so badly that even with this stopgap in place, our border facilities have still been overwhelmed and overrun.

Now, as the Democrats finally give up the COVID state of emergency, title 42 is going away. That wouldn't pose a crisis for an administration that was willing to get tough on its own and enforce existing immigration law, but Democrats don't seem to be willing to do that—just the opposite.

President Biden's team has designed a bizarre Rube Goldberg system that amounts to a special concierge service to help even more illegal immigrants come here more easily. It is a whole parallel system with processing centers in foreign countries—not to make people come in our front door but to help even more people surge in through the back door. Now I understand there is even an official U.S. Government smartphone app to help illegal immigrants along the journey—your taxpayer dollars hard at work. Our colleague, the senior Senator from Missouri, has correctly summarized the Democrats' plan as “Ticketmaster for illegal immigrants”—“Ticketmaster for illegal immigrants.” Remember, things are already at an unacceptable level before this new craziness.

According to one public report, the authorities are already considering—listen to this—“street releases of migrants [into] communities across [the] border if NGO shelters and CBP facilities do not have the capacity to hold them . . . releases of migrants at bus stops, gas stations, supermarkets, etc., in communities across the border.”

Now, this week, some of our Democratic colleagues are feigning great angst and indignation over title 42's demise. They claim to be outraged that President Biden doesn't have a better plan. But every Senator had a chance just last year to vote to keep funding title 42 measures. Senate Republicans gave our Democratic colleagues that opportunity, and every single Democrat voted in lockstep against it. Every Senate Democrat voted in unison to let title 42 lapse with no better solution in place. So the country reaps what Democrats sowed.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. President, on another matter, the National Defense Authorization Act is a must-pass piece of legislation, but Senate Democrats have developed a bad habit of letting our national security actually languish.

Last year, the 2023 NDAA spent 5 months in limbo. Even at the eleventh hour, the Democratic leader refused to

bring the Senate's own bill to the floor. It took an informal conference between our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee and their House counterparts just to get this must-pass bill over the finish line.

Our Democratic friends like to invoke America's competition with China whenever they are seeking to justify huge outlays of domestic spending, but they push the nuts and bolts of actually defending America to the back burner. Case in point: Chairman REED just announced the Armed Services Committee will wait an entire extra month before beginning consideration of this year's NDAA. You can bet China isn't waiting around and twiddling its thumbs, but apparently Leader SCHUMER's Senate will do just that.

What would the Democratic majority have us do instead? Our colleagues are making a push for a grab bag of left-of-center domestic priorities they call another China bill.

Let's remember the last so-called China bill that we just passed last year. The Commerce Secretary and other Biden administration officials told us with great alarm that reshoring microchip production was a hugely urgent national security priority. This was last year. Now, that is a genuine bipartisan concern, and many of us Republicans actually agreed. But since then, the administration's stated urgency has all but disappeared.

President Biden's approach to implementing the law has been atrocious—atrocious. They are violating congressional intent and trying to attach extra strings to the microchip money to end run liberal social policy through the private sector.

The Biden Commerce Department has tried to say that the semiconductor companies can't get grants unless they tilt their hiring to benefit Big Labor, unless they provide all kinds of free employment benefits to the satisfaction of Washington bureaucrats—you get the picture. It reminds me of a couple of months ago when Transportation Secretary Buttigieg asserted that one important problem with building American infrastructure is the racial and demographic composition of the construction crews. For goodness' sake.

So Washington Democrats have spent trillions of dollars—trillions—on a never-ending wish list of leftwing domestic priorities, heaping historic inflation on the American economy, but not a penny of their partisan bills built up our hard power.

If my colleagues were truly serious about competing with China, first of all, they would prioritize the NDAA, not let it languish, and second, Democrats would join Republicans in pushing for the strong, commonsense policies that will actually help us build and make things.

So let's prioritize real, robust permitting reform—the Capito-Barrasso bills. Let's green-light domestic mining for our own critical minerals and

reduce our dependence on Chinese supply chains. Let's unleash America's abundant domestic energy reserves. Let's combat China's rampant espionage and theft of high-tech research and intellectual property.

If our Democratic colleagues really want us to outcompete China, then let's put first things first and stop using this issue as a Trojan horse for unrelated liberal demands.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The Republican whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, at a press conference on Tuesday, President Biden was asked if the United States was ready for the surge of people expected to come across the border after title 42 COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. His answer?

It is going to be chaotic for a while.

It is going to be chaotic for a while.

Well, that, unfortunately, could describe the situation at the border during his entire Presidency. The Biden administration has been defined by chaos at the border for 2 long years and counting—2 years of recordbreaking numbers of individuals attempting to cross our southern border illegally; more than 5 million attempted illegal crossings in total, an average of 6,300-some individuals per day—6,300 individuals per day. To put that number in perspective, during the last administration, the average number of illegal crossings per day was approximately 1,800.

All of these numbers just refer to individuals who were actually apprehended. There have been well over 1 million known “got-aways” during the Biden administration—individuals the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend. In fact, one in five border crossers is a “got-away,” meaning that huge numbers of people are entering our country illegally, without our knowing who they are or what their purpose is in coming here.

The fact that we have seen 80 individuals on the terrorist watch list attempt to enter our country illegally via the southern border since just October is a powerful reminder that not everyone trying to enter our country illegally is simply looking for a better life. And it is profoundly troubling that so many unknown individuals are evading the Border Patrol and making their way into our country. It is a problem that has been compounded as scores of Border Patrol agents have been pulled off the frontlines to provide humanitarian assistance.

So we have had 2 years—2 years—of chaos at our southern border, 2 years of chaos that has exacted a tremendous cost. Our border communities are overwhelmed. Our Border Patrol agents are overwhelmed. And the chaos at our border is unquestioningly facilitating illegal cross-border activity, including the smuggling of deadly drugs like fentanyl into our country.

We didn't get here by accident. President Biden hasn't just happened to

have presided over a recordbreaking influx of illegal immigration at the southern border. No, sir. The chaos we have been experiencing is a direct result of the President's policies.

From his campaign on, President Biden was focused on distancing himself from the immigration policies of his predecessor and satisfying the open borders caucus that makes up a huge part of today's Democratic Party.

On his very first day in office, President Biden rescinded the declaration of a national emergency at our southern border. He halted construction of the border wall. He revoked a Trump administration order that called for the government to faithfully execute our immigration laws. His Department of Homeland Security issued guidelines pausing deportations except under certain conditions. And that was all on his first day.

Needless to say, the effect of all of this was to declare to the world that U.S. borders were effectively open, and the President's policies since that day have done little to correct that impression, which brings us to today.

Today, the Biden administration is ending the use of pandemic-era title 42 authorities, which have enabled U.S. Customs and Border Protection to quickly turn back at least some illegal immigrants at the border. Title 42 has played an essential role in preventing the crisis at our border from becoming a full-blown catastrophe, and with its end, the flood of illegal immigrants coming across our border is expected to become a torrent.

I mentioned that during the Biden administration, we have seen an average of 6,300 migrants a day attempting to illegally cross our southern border. Well, get this: The administration is expecting that number to possibly double once title 42 is lifted, to as many as 13,000 illegal crossings per day—13,000 per day. If border communities and the Border Patrol were overwhelmed before, it is difficult to even conceive how things will be for them now.

The Biden administration is busy putting eleventh hour policy changes in place in an attempt to stem the expected surge, but how much of it will be too little, too late remains to be seen.

The President's prediction that things at the border will be chaotic for a while does not exactly inspire confidence that the administration is on top of this situation nor did the NBC article yesterday morning noting that the Biden administration is preparing to release the migrants into the United States with “no way to track them”—“no way to track them”—as a way to deal with the overcrowding at the border.

We're already breaking and we haven't hit the starting line.

That is a quote from a Department of Homeland Security official in that story.

We're already breaking and we haven't hit the starting line.

So, as I said, the Biden administration is not exactly inspiring confidence, especially since the President continues to reject commonsense measures that could actually help keep numbers down, like reinstating the Migrant Protection Protocols, often referred to as “Remain in Mexico,” which will require illegal immigrants to stay in Mexico while their asylum cases are adjudicated.

We have already seen an early surge in anticipation of title 42 ending, with the Border Patrol's apprehending more than 11,000 individuals at our southern border on Tuesday. And I am deeply concerned about the border communities and the Border Patrol agents who will have to deal with what the lifting of title 42 brings—and not just about border communities because, while border communities have to deal with the greatest immediate challenges, the consequences of unchecked illegal immigration at our southern border are felt all over the country.

New York City has seen a flood of illegal immigrants as a result of President Biden's border crisis, and New York City Mayor Eric Adams recently stated that his city is “being destroyed by the migrant crisis.” It seems that the Biden border crisis is even too much for the sanctuary cities that helped stoke it.

Our current fentanyl crisis is also a good reminder that illegal activity at our southern border affects every State in the Nation. I have talked to sheriffs in South Dakota—about as far from our southern border as you can get—who are dealing with fentanyl that has been trafficked across the border from Mexico; and as I said earlier, that trafficking is undoubtedly being facilitated by the chaos at our southern border.

Mr. President, this has been a grim speech, but it is a grim situation. It has been 2 years of crisis at the southern border under the Biden administration, and we are well on our way to catastrophe. President Biden has the power to do something about this, but after 2 years of ineffective or, simply, absent leadership from the President, my hopes that he will take the steps necessary to secure our border aren't high. We will see what the coming days will bring.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

S.J. RES. 23

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, later today, we will be voting on legislation I introduced with 20 of our colleagues, S.J. Res. 23. This resolution rescinds the Biden administration's 2022 rule that rolled back a commonsense and necessary definition of “habitat” under the Endangered Species Act from the previous administration.

When Congress passed the Endangered Species Act, it granted the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce, through the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, respectively, the authority to

designate areas as “critical habitat.” Section 7 of the Act prohibits the “destruction or adverse modification” of these critical habitat designations.

There is no doubt that habitat loss is a contributing factor to species’ declines, so protecting habitat that is necessary to the survival of species is appropriate. The problem that has arisen, however, is that these designations have, on occasion, been weaponized to the detriment of landowners, the American public, and the very species we are trying to protect.

Two-thirds of all endangered species are located on private lands. For these species to be recovered, private landowners must be part of the solution and not treated as the enemy. Unfortunately, through aggressive critical habitat designations, as well-intentioned as they might be, private landowners are penalized and harmed instead of incentivized to help with species recovery.

A recent study that examined more than 13,000 real estate transactions for land within or near critical habitat for two listed species in California found that a designation “resulted in a large and statistically significant decrease in land value,” specifically 48 percent for the red-legged frog and at least 78 percent for the Bay checkerspot butterfly.

This is true across the country. Let me tell you a story from Louisiana.

In 2001, the Fish and Wildlife Service listed the dusky gopher frog as an endangered species. After litigation by the Center for Biological Diversity, in 2010, the Service proposed to designate critical habitat for the species and included 1,544 acres on a Louisiana site owned by Weyerhaeuser Company and a group of family landowners. The Service included the site even though the frog was last seen there in 1965.

Additionally, the site would require substantial modification to support a sustainable population. According to the Service’s own report, designation of the site could cost the landowners nearly \$34 million in lost development value. Weyerhaeuser sued the Fish and Wildlife Service over the designation, arguing, among other things, that the site could not be critical habitat because the frog, which did not exist at the site, could not survive there without the site’s being transformed from a closed canopy timber plantation to an open canopy, longleaf pine forest. In other words, their land could not be critical habitat for the frog because it was not habitat at all.

In a unanimous 8 to 0 decision in 2018, the Supreme Court agreed. It said the ESA “does not authorize the Secretary to designate an area as critical habitat unless it is also habitat for the species.”

Now, the problem is that the term “habitat” itself is not defined within the Endangered Species Act. Prompted by that unanimous Weyerhaeuser Supreme Court case, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalized a rule in 2020

that defined the word “habitat” for the purposes of designating “critical habitat” under the ESA.

The definition is simple: Habitat is an area that “currently or periodically contains the resources and conditions necessary to support one or more life process of a species.”

It seems pretty reasonable.

In 2022, the Biden administration caved to radical groups that wanted to return to free-for-all designations and finalized a rule to rescind this very reasonable, commonsense definition.

So we are now operating under an ad hoc system that creates decreased property values and predatory legal challenges for American families and businesses. In fact, it incentivizes landowners to make sure that their land could never be habitat for threatened or endangered species.

With the Trump-era rule rescinded, there is no regulation to bind Federal Agencies in determining the habitat of an endangered species from which critical habitat can be designated. Without the certainty of what “habitat” actually means, the development of any type can be blocked, including necessary infrastructure projects that the majority of this body recently spent hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars to support.

It is for this reason that a huge group of outside groups endorsed this resolution, including the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, the American Farm Bureau, the National Water Resources Association, the National Association of Counties, the Public Lands Council, the National Association of Home Builders, and many others.

In closing, the only way to recover endangered species is to enlist the help of private landowners in our efforts. Overly broad critical habitat designations do just the opposite. My friends across the aisle have argued these designations are necessary for species recovery. The facts simply don’t back this up. Among the 60 species still listed from the ESA because of recovery as of July 2020, 51 of them never even had critical habitat designations.

By lowering private landowner opposition to conservation efforts, which will happen if we pass this rule, our Nation can help recover threatened and endangered species while simultaneously supporting our private landowners and public land users in their worthy goals of providing food, energy, jobs, and homes necessary for the survival of our own species.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes in support of this resolution.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 23

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the joint resolutions are considered read a third time en bloc.

The joint resolutions were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and were read the third time, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third

time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Leg.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—49

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 23) was passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 23

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat” (87 Fed. Reg. 37757 (June 24, 2022)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

(Mr. SCHATZ assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. MERKLEY assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. REED assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. LUJÁN assumed the Chair.)

(Mrs. SHAHEEN assumed the Chair.)

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 24

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been requested.

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Leg.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—49

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 24) was passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 24

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat” (87 Fed. Reg. 73488 (November 30, 2022)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Bradley N. Garcia, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:16 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 1:45 p.m. when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I yield back all time.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair

lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 4, Bradley N. Garcia, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Bradley N. Garcia, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted “nay” and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted “nay.”

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 124 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—5

Budd	Hoeven	Moran
Cruz	Marshall	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as the whole Nation knows by now, title 42, the COVID-19 public health laws used by the Border Patrol to expel people at the southern border, will expire at midnight tonight.

At our border communities, in the 1,200 miles of our border with Mexico and Texas, they are bracing for a tsunami of humanity. As we know, over the last couple of years, title 42 has been one of the tools in the Border Patrol's toolbox to prevent the Biden border crisis from becoming the Biden border catastrophe or calamity.

To give you a sense of the impact of title 42, which will go away tonight, since President Biden took office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has logged more than 5 million illegal border crossings—5 million. Because of title 42, the United States hasn't been required to detain, identify, and process every single person who crossed the border illegally. In fact, nearly half of those 5 million were removed under title 42, a total of almost 2.4 million people.

Consider the countless stories we have heard over the last 2 years about overcrowded detention facilities. I have seen them myself. We have all seen them on television or in the print media. We have seen these shelters bursting at the seams. That was the case when Border Patrol was detaining only roughly half of the individuals who illegally crossed the southern border because they were able to use title 42.

Starting tomorrow, agents will have to apprehend every single person under DHS's—Department of Homeland Security's—traditional title 8 authority. The problem is that law enforcement doesn't have the space to hold those individuals, not even close.

Last spring, Secretary Mayorkas, the Secretary of Homeland Security, said, Customs and Border Protection detention facilities could hold approximately 18,000 people. That sounds like a large number, until you begin to look at the number of people who are crossing the border every day.

This week, we have already seen an average of about 10,000 border crossings a day. And he says we can detain 18,000. And you are getting 10,000 a day?

Well, once title 42 is lifted, that number will climb even higher. Detention facilities, which are already overcapacity, will become even more crowded. And once they are fully maxed out, the Biden administration will simply release people into the United States, using what they call parole.

Now, parole—we are perhaps familiar with parole in the criminal context—but parole in the immigration context means that they will be released into the interior of the United States, whether or not they can satisfy the legal requirement to be granted asylum, and they will be told to go to an Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in the interior of the United States—in Chicago, in New York, here in Washington, DC, or wherever they may end up.

Unfortunately, immigration court backlogs because of the vast numbers of people coming in. If you show up in New York, and you have been paroled in the United States, assuming you even show up, which many don't, you could wait as many as 10 years to begin the process of being heard in immigration court.

And here is the real unfairness. Consider the people—although it is a small minority, maybe 15 percent or so of these migrants who claim asylum will have a valid claim. They have to wait in line with the 85 or more percent who we know will not have a valid plan. How unfair is it to those people to leave them in legal limbo because of the uncontrolled numbers coming across the border?

Well, anyone who thinks this is somehow a scare tactic or a made-up story is in for a rude awakening. Over the last several weeks, as the title 42 end date has crept closer, we have seen migrants gathering in larger and larger numbers along the border in Mexico. It is currently estimated that more than 100,000 migrants are already waiting. With this deadline just around the corner, the Secretary of Homeland Security traveled to Brownsville, TX, last Friday to talk about what is to come.

Brownsville, TX, which is at the very tip of the Rio Grande Valley, right across from Mexico, is one of three Texas cities to declare a state of emergency already, anticipating the end of title 42. Laredo and El Paso were the other two because they are preparing, as best they can, for an unprecedented surge of migrants.

Over the last couple of weeks, more than 15,000 migrants have arrived in Brownsville. Law enforcement and city officials have been overwhelmed by the arrival of so many people, and they are bracing for an even larger surge on Friday.

With this as a backdrop, Secretary Mayorkas made an absolutely dumbfounding statement last week—one of many that he has made in the past. He said: The border is not open; it has not been open; and it will not be open subsequent to May 11.

It is beyond my comprehension how someone can see what we are seeing on our TV screens or in the media and then to have a public official like the Secretary of Homeland Security tell us a lie repeatedly about the border not being open.

I don't know what he calls 5 million people coming across the border. Well,

about half of them have been expelled, so let's say, roughly, 2.5 million after you consider those who were repatriated as a result of title 42. He said this in Brownsville, which is a city that has absorbed less than 15,000 migrants in less than 2 weeks.

You know, in some of the newspapers they have a Pinocchio test where they will give you one Pinocchio, two Pinocchios, three Pinocchios, four Pinocchios, based on how outrageous the lie is. And I don't think you can count up enough Pinocchios to award Secretary Mayorkas for his outright falsehood that he continues to spew, sitting in the critical position to do something about this.

The border has clearly been open, and President Biden and his administration have laid out the welcome mat. And that is why there has been absolutely no deterrence. You know, law enforcement, including Border Patrol, doesn't just enforce the law. They, by enforcing the law and by people knowing that they are enforcing the law, hope to deter other people from violating the law.

But when people see an open border with no enforcement, there is no deterrence. And so people do what we can expect they will continue to do, and that is to continue to come.

Well, at midnight tonight, title 42 expires. Secretary Mayorkas must really think that the American people are stupid or dumb. But they are not. They are smart. They can see what is going on. They know he is not telling the truth. And for some reason, President Biden continues to keep him on the payroll. You would think, at some point, somebody should get fired for this disaster, which is about ready to get worse. There needs to be some sort of accountability.

If you did something like this in the private sector, what do you think would happen to you? You would be held accountable. But apparently not in the Biden administration. You can lie to the American people. You can fail to do your job until it gets so bad that presumably something has to give.

All of us can see photos and videos of the chaos at the southern border. We see it on our social media feeds and on the nightly news. We understand what is happening, and we know who is responsible.

So the administration is being dishonest when they say the border is not open. And they have made it painfully obvious that nothing is going to change until they are forced to do so.

After a couple of years—I have been writing to the Secretary of Homeland Security for at least the last 2 years, saying: When title 42 ends, as we know it will at some point, what is your plan? What is your plan?

Well, on the eve of this looming crisis and catastrophe, after the end of title 42, the administration has rolled out something they call the circumvention of lawful pathways rule.

The problem is, the Constitution does not give the executive branch—the President of the United States—the power to write immigration laws or to stand up new pathways for legal status. If young people who were given Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals have learned one thing, it is that the President does not have the authority to unilaterally change immigration laws. That is something he has to do in conjunction with the Congress.

But the Biden administration seems eager to repeat history with this rule, which funnels migrants into new, unconstitutional, so-called lawful pathways that were unilaterally created by the executive branch.

You know, there has got to be a little office somewhere—I haven't found it yet here in Washington DC—that generates these names for legislation or new rules and regulations, which actually are the opposite of what they do. That was true with the Inflation Reduction Act, which didn't reduce inflation. And it is true of this so-called circumvention of Lawful Pathways Act. It is not lawful. It is not constitutional for the President to do it by himself.

Unfortunately, that is just one of many problems with this rule. The broad goal, plainly, is to ensure a more orderly asylum process by reducing the number of border crossings between ports of entry and encouraging migrants to seek asylum at ports. Well, if that were actually what was going to happen, that would be improvement. Those who fail to present themselves at a port of entry would, theoretically, be ineligible for asylum. And it purports to regulate the flow of asylum seekers into land ports of entry so they don't become dangerously overcrowded.

As I said, at face value, these seem like constructive ideas, but this rule is brimming with flaws and exceptions and loopholes that were explicitly designed to ensure migrants will be released into the United States en masse.

I learned as a law student: What the front page giveth, the back page can taketh away.

While the Biden administration may want to put on this happy face that, yes, we learned our lesson, we are changing the rules, we are going to restrict the pathways by which people can seek asylum in the United States, the truth is they have no commitment to an orderly, lawful, and humane system of immigration.

The Biden plan includes broad exemptions for migrants who show up at a port of entry without an appointment and are illiterate—or at least claim to be. It provides an exception for migrants who can't access the DHS scheduling system or who experience significant technical issues with the notoriously glitchy CBP One app. And the Department all but admits in the fine print that these migrants will be paroled.

Remember what I said about parole. It is just releasing these migrants into the United States and quickly being

given employment authorization documents.

The exceptions swallow the rule by outlining broad exceptions that can't be objectively evaluated and are easily gamed. If they can't be gamed, they will be gamed.

The Biden administration has provided the cartels with a road map or a playbook. The administration is saying: Instruct migrants to use one of these excuses. Coach them to use one of these excuses, and they will be eligible for asylum, and they will be released into the interior of the United States.

Migrants can make the dangerous journey to the border, show up at a port of entry without an appointment, say the magic words, and still be paroled into the United States.

As the administration has made clear, it plans to "expeditiously process" migrants who arrive at the southwest border. With title 42 set to expire and 100,000 immigrants gathering across the border, this is President Biden's plan. It is called expedited catch-and-release.

The circumvention of lawful pathways rule is dangerous and unconstitutional. I am in the process of introducing a Congressional Review Act resolution to disapprove of it. This rule would rapidly increase the number of migrants being paroled in the United States while doing nothing—zero—to deter migrants with weak asylum claims.

Immigration groups on the left and the right, interestingly, oppose this rule. Some of our colleagues in the Democratic caucus have expressed that they are deeply disappointed with the administration and that it has chosen to move forward in publishing this proposed rule. That is from a Democratic Member of the Senate.

I urge Senator SCHUMER, the majority leader, who sets the schedule around here, to allow us to vote on my resolution as soon as possible.

The White House has claimed that this is the only option available to address a looming catastrophe, but that is false too. In the nineties, President Clinton signed a law establishing something called expedited removal. In short, it allows Border Patrol to detain and quickly remove people who cannot prove their legal requirement in order to stay. Expedited removals have been utilized by Republicans and Democrats over the years. It is a part of that powerful deterrent that we need to reestablish.

So those who have no legitimate claim to legal status will make that dangerous journey, having paid thousands of dollars to a coyote or cartel to get here. If a person is likely to be removed from the United States within a few days of crossing, fewer and fewer of them will even attempt to make the dangerous journey in the first place.

That is the power of expedited removal. It sends a clear message that America's immigration laws will be en-

forced, something that has not happened during President Biden's watch.

President Biden has the authority today to conduct expedited removals. He has had that authority since day one but refuses to fully utilize it.

I have heard the Press Secretary for the President say: Well, it is up to Congress to deal with this.

Well, Congress has already dealt with this, and President Clinton signed it into law.

It is because President Biden has unilaterally surrendered to the cartels that continue to make billions of dollars and whose poison kills tens of thousands of Americans each year because it continues to flow across the border. President Biden has the tools he needs today. So don't believe this: Well, it is their fault.

It is the blame game, which is an Olympic sport here in Washington, DC—trying to blame somebody else, denying personal responsibility.

But this one sits at the feet of the President of the United States. Rather than stand up new facilities or hire more personnel to make the expedited removal process function, the Biden administration has, instead, chosen to release people into the interior of the country at an unprecedented pace.

Where the expedited removal serves as a deterrent, President Biden's wide-scale catch-and-release is a magnet. People are being released to wait immigration court dates that are years down the road—if they show up, and many of them won't. Some migrants aren't scheduled to appear before an immigration judge until 2032—9 years from now. Believe me, when that happens, word travels fast, and more people are sure to follow suit. Why wouldn't they?

President Biden has effectively said: Keep coming. We are going to wave you on through the turnstile at the border, maybe never to be heard from again and never to appear in front of an immigration judge. How unfair is it to those who do have legitimate claims to have to wait in line for 9 or 10 years with the vast majority of people who we know will not qualify?

Well, this is what we have seen since President Biden took office and decided to undo everything the previous President had done. And the pace is going to do nothing but accelerate once title 42 goes away at midnight tonight.

This administration needs to get serious about expedited removals, about using the tools that are already available. It needs to make sure that those with invalid claims are quickly removed from the United States and, yes, people with valid claims need to be welcomed for following the lawful process.

That is what I mean when I say we need a legal, humane, and orderly immigration system. Legal immigration has been one of the greatest things our country has ever embraced. Virtually all of us, or at least our ancestors, came from somewhere else. And we

have always tended to attract people who are leaving dire circumstances—perhaps economic, perhaps otherwise—in their home country, who want to come to the United States to pursue their dreams.

I believe that is the secret sauce that has made our country what it is today—the powerhouse that it is today, economically and otherwise. But it is lawful immigration. It is orderly immigration. It is humane immigration. It is not the chaos and the criminality that we see at the border today.

Sometimes I ask myself: How bad does this have to get before the politicians in Washington, DC, wake up and decide to do something?

I hope we are at that point. I hope it doesn't have to get worse because it can get worse if we simply do nothing.

But the first step is for the President to use the tools available to him already signed into law. In order to do that, they need to increase detention space so frontline personnel will have the capacity to actually carry out these expedited removals.

The Biden administration also needs to stop waving or paroling people into the country to wait for an appointment with immigration and customs enforcement that is years in the future. Again, that is for the ones that show up.

These are just a few of the ways that the President can deal with this crisis today. Those options have been available since the day he took office. He just refuses to use them and tries to shift the blame to others.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, the most consequential question now before Congress—the one that most impacts the most people we all represent—is whether the United States of America will do what it has always done: pay its bills in full and on time.

It was Alexander Hamilton who established the precedent that has become an enduring principle: America pays its bills.

But in order to preserve that principle, Congress must raise the debt limit. It is important to remind ourselves that raising the debt ceiling does not allow any additional spending, nor does it include new obligations for our taxpayers. It allows Congress to continue to pay for the spending that has already been approved by this and prior Congresses.

The debt ceiling is an anomaly in the United States. Other countries recognize the obvious. When a legislative body approves spending—whether it is for the defense of the nation, the healthcare of its citizens, the support for its farmers—it is then that the legislative body incurs the obligation. It is really no different than when a family takes out a mortgage or a car loan. When that bill becomes due each month, you pay the mortgage and you pay the car loan. Otherwise, things end

very badly for that family, as they will for our country if we allow the United States to default on its debt.

The debt limit debate in the past was accompanied by political grandstanding from both parties. The party out of power used it to criticize the economic record of the incumbent party. But grandstanding was always set aside, and the President and the majority party in Congress—Republican or Democratic—accepted the burden of raising the debt ceiling to make sure the country did not default.

This time, the House's default threat is different. It is far more dangerous and far more extreme, even than in 2011.

Let me explain.

A default looms as early as June 1, and congressional leaders met this week with President Biden.

The President and all of the leaders pledged that default was not an option—all except one leader. Speaker MCCARTHY continues to champion the House bill that will lead us to default unless the Congress and the President capitulate to House Republicans' very extreme budgetary demands. Their budget would cut veteran benefits, furlough thousands of Border Patrol agents even as title 42 expires, and it would repeal key parts of the Inflation Reduction Act and the thousands of jobs—many of which, by the way, are in Republican districts—that it has created.

The Speaker's demands that President Biden relinquish his primary legislative achievement, the IRA, really would be comparable to the Democrats demanding when Donald Trump was President that, as a condition of not defaulting, he repeal what he regarded as his signature legislative accomplishment: his tax cuts—which, by the way, were vehemently opposed by Democrats.

Speaker MCCARTHY's posture reflects the posture of his conference and the reality within his own caucus. He won't take default off the table because he can't. The most extreme Members of his caucus have extracted numerous concessions to lend their support, and it took 15 votes for him to get elected to the speakership. What we are seeing now is the result: They will default unless they get their way.

Former President Trump, who as President raised the debt ceiling multiple times, is still a leading voice for many of the Republicans in the caucus. Last night on CNN, at a townhall meeting, he encouraged default, adding fuel to the fire and even more peril for our country.

I think we all know, in all candor, that the default threat would be catastrophic, and we are being propelled over the brink.

All responsible people know that a default—No. 1, it would destroy America's reputation and jeopardize the value of the dollar as the world's reserve currency. No. 2, it would really delight our Russian and Chinese adver-

saries, who would promote our default for what it is—a sign of internal weakness, economic chaos, and disunity. A default in all likelihood would plunge our fragile economy into a recession, hurting Americans across the entire country regardless of what their political persuasion was. In a very cruel irony, according to Moody's, a default could increase our deficit by as much as \$850 billion, not reduce it as default advocates claim.

We can't allow default. We can't allow self-inflicted harm to befall Americans with the Speaker's very reckless gambit.

I thank Majority Leader SCHUMER, Minority Leader MCCONNELL, Minority Leader JEFFRIES, and President Biden for taking default off the table.

Speaker MCCARTHY, before it is too late, do the same.

I am willing, as I believe the vast majority of our colleagues are, to engage in a serious budget discussion to bring down America's debt, but what I am not willing to do—not now, not ever—is abandon America's historic commitment to paying its bills. I am not willing to inflict the damage to our economy and the pain on our people a catastrophic default would impose, nor is President Biden.

While leadership talks continue, all of us must be mindful of the real peril we face, and we must take the precautionary step of reviewing the 14th Amendment and its requirement. Section 4 of the 14th Amendment states:

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law . . . shall not be questioned.

The Constitution is saying what we all know: A debt incurred is a debt that must be paid.

Every obligation tied to our debt is a result of a law that this or a previous Congress has passed. To renege on the obligation that law required, whether to our veterans, our seniors, our farmers, or the military, is for Congress to tell the President to break that law and disobey the Constitution.

We cannot do this. We must not do this. We must, as America has always done, pay our bills in full and on time.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The senior Senator from Maryland.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this week is Public Service Recognition Week—a week we have set aside each year since 1985 to recognize and honor public servants. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep, heartfelt gratitude to America's 20 million Federal, State, county, and local public servants. From astronauts to astrophysicists, caseworkers to court clerks, detectives to doctors, soldiers to superintendents, teachers to transit workers, America's public servants comprise one of our Nation's most critical and often maligned assets.

Men and women serve in harm's way to defend our Nation. Other public

servants support them. Public servants teach our children, deliver the mail, administer our elections, keep our streets and communities safe and clean, guide air traffic, protect our natural resources and food and drug supplies, respond to natural disasters and other emergencies, conduct pioneering basic research, provide healthcare, interpret and enforce our laws, ensure that seniors and veterans receive the benefits they have earned, and represent our Nation's interests in foreign posts. I could go on and on. The work that public servants perform affects each and every one of us on a daily basis, making our lives so much better.

The public sector workforce—particularly at the Federal level—tends to be older, better educated, and more experienced than the private sector workforce. So many public servants could earn higher salaries in private sector jobs, but their motivation is more than pecuniary gain; it is a sense of duty and a love of their community and country that compel them.

President Biden issued a proclamation this week that says:

At a time when public servants are facing threats and hostility simply for doing their jobs, their continued willingness to serve is even more meaningful and important. We have an obligation to support them and to recognize and value their commitment and sacrifice. Our Nation's future depends on ensuring our public servants have good jobs with competitive pay and benefits, along with the resources they need to accomplish their work. It also depends on the next generation of smart, dedicated people answering the call of public service and joining their ranks, helping deliver the promise of America to more of our citizens.

I couldn't agree with the President more.

Just 7 percent of America's Federal workers are under the age of 30. I join President Biden in urging young Americans to consider careers in public service. We need your talents, your energy, your ideas, and your idealism to ensure that America remains prosperous, secure, and a beacon of liberty for all humanity.

Each year, in conjunction with Public Service Recognition Week, the non-profit Partnership for Public Service announces the finalists for the prestigious Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals. The awards are named after the partnership's founder and benefactor and highlight excellence in our Federal workforce.

I am proud that Maryland is home to 12 finalists.

They are, in the field of science, technology, and environment, Dr. Adam Phillippy, Dr. Sergey Koren, and Dr. Arang Rhie, Investigator, Associate Investigator, and Staff Scientist respectively at the National Institutes of Health, National Human Genome Research Institute, and the Telomere to Telomere Consortium, which Dr. Phillippy cofounded in 2018, having cracked the last 8 percent of humans' genetic code.

Their research into understanding the most difficult parts of our DNA has

enabled scientists to discover more than 2 new million variants in our genetic makeup, many of which can cause serious health problems. We will make leaps and bounds in understanding Down syndrome, autism, and cancer, and devising effective gene therapies for a host of diseases.

Dr. Phillippy put it this way:

It is really easy to get up and go to work in the morning because our work is making such a difference.

What a dedicated public servant.

In management excellence, Megan Meacham, Allison Hutchings, and Sarah O'Donnell, Director, Deputy Director, and Team Lead respectively at the Department of Health and Human Services' Rural Strategic Initiatives Division under the Health Resources and Services Administration, created the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program to provide grant funding for a wide array of innovative and effective opioid use prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

The program, which they established 5 years ago, has served more than 2 million people each year in more than 1,800 rural counties across 47 States and 2 territories. As Megan Meacham has stated, "We are here to help and passionate to serve. Even when we hit a roadblock, we find a way around it."

We know the challenges of opioid addiction. Our public servants are answering the challenge.

In management excellence, Gloria Morgan Shepherd, Executive Director, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, is one of three DOT senior managers being honored for helping to craft and implement the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

We were proud to pass that bill. It wasn't so easy to implement it. Dedicated public servants at the Department of Transportation are making sure our legislation carries out its intended purpose. Thanks to their work, DOT initiated 1,887 transportation projects last year that were awarded nearly \$10 billion in discretionary funds on top of \$82.3 billion in formula funding that will help modernize the Nation's highways, bridges, shipping ports, railroads, and airports.

Gloria Morgan Shepherd and her colleagues implemented 76 new or expanded grant programs and initiated bridge repair programs, a national electric vehicle charging network, and a host of safety initiatives. That is what we intended. Our public servants at DOT are carrying that out.

In management excellence, Rear Admiral Nancy Hann, Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Commissioned Corps and Director of NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, has implemented policies to curb sexual harassment, assault, and bullying among employees aboard NOAA's marine fleet and aircraft, creating a safer workplace and changing the organization's culture.

Admiral Hann, who has been with NOAA for 26 years, said:

It is really important for everyone to have a voice and to feel comfortable physically, emotionally, and mentally in the workplace. I have the responsibility to be the voice of the people who don't feel like they have a voice or are too scared. I take that responsibility very seriously.

We are all better off because of Admiral Hann's work.

The Paul A. Volcker Career Achievement Award: Dr. Eric J. "Rocky" Feuer, Chief, Statistical Research and Applications Branch, Surveillance Research Program, Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, has developed new methods to estimate the chances of individuals being diagnosed with cancer at different times during their lives.

Over the past four decades, he has designed a sophisticated system using statistical analysis to understand national cancer trends better, leading to significant prevention, screening, and treatment options that have benefited millions of Americans.

In 2000, he created the Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network, allowing statisticians and scientists to address critical cancer-related questions collaboratively. He has stated that the statistical analysis he has engaged in over the course of his career is "backbencher type of work," but added it has helped "move people to action" and improve healthcare.

Yes, we are dealing with cancer challenges in our communities, and people like Dr. Feuer are making a huge difference.

Safety, security, and international affairs: Lisa Hsiao, Assistant Director, Consumer Protection Branch, Department of Justice, has protected the public from harmful or misleading trade practices by businesses across a wide range of industries, including Altria, R.J. Reynolds, Facebook, and Dish Network, securing some of the largest fines in U.S. history and requiring the disclosure of important safety and privacy information.

As Dr. Lisa Hsiao has said, "I'm proud that through these cases we have created law that can be built upon. As a lawyer, it's pretty rare to be able to make precedent that both protects the public and effects good public policy."

Protecting consumers, protecting the public, that is what public servants do.

Management excellence: Robert Gorman, Senior Trial Attorney, Department of Transportation, is one of three DOT officials in the Office of Aviation Consumer Protection who has led an aggressive campaign to require airlines to compensate air travelers for airfare and other related costs for canceled or significantly delayed flights due to circumstances within the airlines' control. The campaign has produced a record \$8.4 million in fines and more than \$1 billion in passenger refunds.

Robert Gorman and his colleagues looked for patterns to determine if an

airline were repeatedly being unresponsive or noncompliant with respect to consumer complaints, leading the Aviation Consumer Protection Office to issue two regulatory notices, launch investigations, bring enforcement actions, and in some instances, reach settlements for travelers to be reimbursed.

Thanks to Robert Gorman and his colleagues, the skies are finally friendlier for fliers.

Science, Technology, and the Environment: Dr. Sarah Nelson, Director of Defense Programs Office of Experimental Sciences, National Nuclear Security Administration, Department of Energy, played a leading role in overseeing scientists who, for the first time in history, produced a fusion reaction that produced more energy than it required, a breakthrough with enormous implications for abundant clean energy and national defense. When harnessed and expanded to utility scale, fusion energy will produce reliable electricity without releasing greenhouse gases or producing radioactive waste.

Dr. Nelson started as an intern at the NNSA's Lawrence Livermore research laboratory.

She said:

It was a tremendously influential experience for me, but I had no idea that I'd be sitting in this chair 20 years later when such a scientific breakthrough would be accomplished. If we are able to use this technology someday to enable clean energy, [it would be a game-changer].

She is right on that.

So we can debate the proper role and size of our government, but I hope we can all agree that we want the best and brightest to serve. These individuals and their fellow honorees represent the best our Federal workforce has to offer. But we should be grateful for all public servants who go to work each day determined to make a positive difference for their fellow Americans, and we should be grateful all year long.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ANDREW CHAPOTON

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I thank the Presiding Officer for that heartfelt welcome here on the Senate floor.

I know the Presiding Officer is excited, and I know the pages are excited. Heck, half of America is excited because, once again, it is Thursday afternoon, and I am back on the floor giving probably my favorite speech of the week, the "Alaskan of the Week." As many of you know, it is an opportunity for me as I love to come down to the Senate floor and brag about somebody in my State who makes it such a great State. Usually, it is somebody who is doing something good for their local community, maybe for the State, maybe for the country, maybe for the world.

Boy, we have had so many famous Alaskans of the Week, but this one—

this one, my colleagues—is really special. It is about real special heroism that we see in Alaska a lot. It is about a young man named Andrew Chapoton. I am going to talk a lot about Andrew—he is an Army soldier up in Alaska—and how his bravery and heroism saved some lives in a way that is just remarkable. But I always like to begin my speech by talking a little bit about what is going on in Alaska.

I try to get home with Julie, my wife.

Hi, Julie.

She is up in the Gallery. Am I allowed to do that? I am doing it anyway.

Anyway, pretty much every weekend we have been home. Boy, over the last couple of weekends, I was out on an epic—epic—Kodiak hunting trip. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to partake in one of our State's most cherished traditions. It was an experience I won't forget. I will never forget it.

Kristin Wilson, if you are watching, I know you love bears, and I love bears too. She is a big fan of the "Alaskan of the Week."

But I also like to talk about what is going on with the weather.

It is still pretty cold in a lot of places, but the Sun is higher in the sky. It is actually getting really high. The days are getting longer and longer. Today, in Anchorage, the Sun rose at 5:30 a.m., and it will set tonight at around 10:30 p.m., gaining more than 5 minutes since yesterday. So sunlight is really increasing rapidly. Birds are migrating by the tens of thousands. The excitement of spring is in the air. Winter is finally retreating. We love winter in Alaska, but, boy, we had a long, cold winter in most places.

So, if you are watching, by the way, in the Gallery or on TV, come up to Alaska. It will be the trip of a lifetime. I guarantee you it will be the trip of a lifetime.

Now let's get to our Alaskan of the Week, SFC Andrew Chapoton, and the heroic actions he took last May—about a year ago—that earned him the U.S. Army Soldier's Medal. That is the highest honor a soldier can receive for an act of heroism in a noncombat situation.

Andrew was born and raised in the township of Clinton, MI, but he knew that he was always going to join the military. Being in the military, from his perspective and his family's perspective, was a good, honorable thing to do. Of course, he is right. His father fought in Vietnam, and his grandfather fought in World War II. Both of his sisters are in the Army. So he enlisted when he got out of high school and did a number of deployments—three tours to Iraq, a deployment to Haiti—and then was stationed in Alaska from 2015 to 2018 as part of the 4th Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division. It is what we call in Alaska the 4-25. I am a marine, but the 4-25 sure is one of my favorite units in the entire U.S. military, but that is a story for another day. I love the 4-25.

Andrew and his wife love Alaska—the hiking, the camping.

He said:

Everything [is] available right outside my front door.

So they were determined to come back to Alaska. They bought a house in beautiful Eagle River, outside of Anchorage. They did come back. In 2021, he came back to Alaska where we now have the storied U.S. 11th Airborne Division. A lot of people don't know that. We stood up an airborne division in Alaska just last year, so now we have the 82nd Airborne Division on the east coast and the 11th Airborne Division in Alaska. Andrew and his wife, now with two children and another one on the way, love Alaska.

So what did Andrew do to win the Army Soldier's Medal? Here is how the Army described it in the summary of that medal:

Sergeant First Class Andrew Chapoton voluntarily risked his own life in the heroic pursuit of saving others at a deadly car wreck near Seward, Alaska. His extraordinary act of valor exemplified the highest standards of selfless service and character as he repeatedly put himself in mortal danger to save others trapped in a horrific . . . car wreck. SFC Chapoton dove into the burning vehicles again and again to save three trapped occupants, without [any] regard for his own life [or his own safety].

So that is the summary.

Here is the longer version of why this great American, great Alaskan, is today's Alaskan of the Week.

Last May, Andrew and his wife had an out-of-town visitor who wanted to go whale watching. OK. That is something we do in Alaska. It is amazing. It is a great thing to do in our State. So one of the great places to whale watch is out of Seward, which is a few hours south of Anchorage. He almost didn't go as he had done that tour often, but in his words, he caved and said: Let's go do it.

So they all went. Their friend, his spouse, and their two kids got in the car and headed to Seward. They had a great time. By the way, it is another great thing to do in Alaska—whale watching. They saw a lot of whales, and they were celebrating the trip on the way back.

Then something tragic—horrible—happened. On the Seward Highway, two cars collided—a Jeep and a Dodge Dakota—almost right in front of his car. He had to swerve to miss them. It was a nasty, horrible crash. Debris went flying; smoke was billowing from both cars; and gasoline was dripping out of these cars. But Andrew didn't continue to drive. He pulled over on the shoulder, jumped out of his car, and without thinking, in his words, "as cliché and corny as it sounds, 18 years of training kicked in, and I ran toward the scene of the accident." That is what Andrew said. As a result, he saved the lives literally of three people.

Now, he doesn't even have a memory of how he got from his car to the accident—training, bravery, heroism—but he does remember approaching the first

car, the Dakota. He was flagging people down and yelling for a medic. There were three people in the Dakota, but none of them were moving, and the car was bursting into flames. He tried to smash the driver's door open. He had to move the camping equipment that had fallen on the driver, and he was able to get her safely out of the car.

At this point, the car was engulfed in flames, but he went back in and got another person out of the car and to safety, which was so difficult because the car door had been smashed and crushed. Unfortunately—and we know this is hard for Andrew. I hope he is watching, by the way, and his family—he went back again but could not save the third person. The door was also crushed, and he couldn't open it. He couldn't find a pulse. He says it haunts him to this day.

But, again, Andrew's instincts and training kicked in, and he transitioned to getting the driver out of the other burning car, the burning Jeep. After he got that passenger out, he performed Combat Lifesaver triage and lifesaving medical care for these three very seriously wounded Americans.

This story of heroism doesn't end there.

Both cars, by now, had turned into raging infernos. Flaming liquid was flowing down the road and toward one of the injured passengers. With the help of another Good Samaritan, Andrew moved one of the gravely injured passengers away from the impending explosion of this car. Then he shielded her body when the car did explode. Debris and shrapnel were flying everywhere. Even after the fire department arrived, Andrew continued to take the lead in performing lifesaving medical treatment.

Eventually, a Life Flight helicopter arrived to take the seriously injured individuals to the hospital. Andrew stayed and gave his statement to the troopers. He handed his keys to his wife, got back in his car, and drove back home several miles—a couple of hours—to Anchorage. It was a quiet ride.

He said:

I used up every single ounce of adrenalin that was in my 38-year-old body.

His children saw much of what happened, and they are proud of their father, and Andrew is proud and so deserving to receive the Army Soldier's Medal. But he did say he would trade that in a thousand times over if only all the passengers had survived.

These are the kind of people who live in Alaska—brave, selfless, and heroic. And these are the kind of people—by the way, America—who make up our military. Not every American citizen would have done what Andrew just did. As a matter of fact, I would say most people probably wouldn't—people who risk their lives, their own lives, whether it is protecting Americans at home or people abroad, so that others could live. That is what our military members do.

This is how the Army summed up this heroic action:

SFC Chapoton's ability to perform these heroic acts under extreme pressure while simultaneously taking control of the scene [of this horrific crash] is a testament to his [U.S.] Army values. [Fundamentally] understanding the extreme personal risk to his own life, SFC Chapoton selflessly endangered himself again and again to save American lives. He risked his own safety to help avert a catastrophic outcome. Without his selfless courage in the face of grave danger, more lives would have been lost.

So thank you, Andrew, for your bravery, your heroism, your example, not just to your friends and family or to Alaskans but to all Americans and all veterans. Thank you for protecting our Nation. Thank you for volunteering to serve. Thank you for making your home in Alaska. Thank you for your heroic actions on that day. We want to congratulate you for being awarded the U.S. Army Soldier's Medal, one of the highest honors a soldier can achieve and, certainly, Andrew, one of the highest honors you can achieve in the U.S. Senate: being our Alaskan of the Week. Great job.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I do the wrap-up and lay down some stuff we are doing next week, I would like to talk about the week we just had.

As Democrats here in the Senate work to continue to avoid default, the No. 1 issue affecting our country has also been a very productive week in the Senate. So much has happened around the country over the past few days that it may have overshadowed just how busy things have been in the Senate this week and the kind of productive week that we have had on many important issues that affect the American people. I am very proud of what we were able to accomplish.

On the floor, with the return of Senator FEINSTEIN, the Senate today advanced Bradley Garcia to serve as circuit court judge for the DC Circuit—one of the most important Federal courts in the country—and Members should be ready to vote on confirmation come Monday. That is probably the second-most important court in the country, and we are appointing a very good person as circuit court judge there.

Off the floor, the Judiciary Committee was busy as well. The Judiciary Committee just reported out six more judicial nominees for lifetime appointments to the Federal bench. Judges were a top priority last Congress, and they remain a top priority in this Congress. We are hoping to move forward on many more judges.

Also, yesterday, the Commerce Committee, under the able leadership of MARIA CANTWELL, also reported out the Railway Safety Act—sponsored by Senators BROWN and VANCE of Ohio—with bipartisan support. This is significant.

After the derailment of East Palestine, the need for the rail safety reform became clear as day, and Americans are demanding that the Senate take action.

The Railway Safety Act is a major step forward for avoiding accidents similar to the one in East Palestine and improving rail safety across the country. It is going to make all our railroads safer. We have all seen so many of these derailments, often because the railroads weren't doing what they were supposed to. This act is a big step forward in requiring them to do so. I look forward to working with both sides to bring the Railway Safety Act to the floor.

And, today, the Senate Banking Committee also held a hearing, a big step on our bipartisan SAFE Banking Act that we have worked on together, Mr. President.

The SAFE Banking Act would ensure cannabis businesses have equal access to critical banking infrastructure in States that have legalized cannabis. We have all heard the tales of small businesses, and even larger ones, walking around with a huge amount of cash because they can't do banking. SAFE Banking would change that and allow them to bank as other businesses because it is legal in many States.

And I am working to ensure we include criminal justice provisions in SAFE Banking Plus—most importantly, the expungement of criminal records for certain low-level marijuana offenses.

We have made a lot of good bipartisan progress on SAFE Banking last Congress. And after today's hearing, we hope there will be a markup on this bill in the near future. We are really moving forward in a record way on a very important issue.

Finally, last, but certainly not least, the HELP Committee also advanced PBM and generic drug-pricing reform. It will reform the PBM system, which we know is one of the reasons the cost of drugs is so high. Hopefully, with the reform, the cost of prescription drugs like insulin for non-Medicare Americans will come down. We reduced insulin to \$35 for those on Medicare, but we need to work on reducing insulin costs for everybody, and this bill is a major step forward in that direction.

So it has been a busy week—significant progress on many issues: judicial nominees; rail safety; SAFE Banking reform; and PBM reform, which can lower insulin costs for millions of Americans. It has been a good, strong week. And I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for moving forward.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: all nominations placed on the Secretary's Desk in the Coast Guard; 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 COAST GUARD

*PN440-1 COAST GUARD nominations (314) beginning ALAINA M. ACCUMANNO, and ending KRISTEN E. ZELMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. OE-23. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 21-52 of July 30, 2021.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER
(For James A. Hursch, Director)
Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. OE-23

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec 36(b)(5)(a), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Israel.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 21-52.

Date: July 30, 2021.

Implementing Agency: Navy.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing (FMF).

(iii) Description: On July 30, 2021, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 21-52 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of up to eighteen (18) CH-53K Heavy Lift Helicopters; up to sixty (60) T408-GE-400 Engines (54 installed, 6 spares); and up to thirty-six (36) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability/ Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM). Also included is communication equipment; GAU-21 .50 caliber Machine Guns; Mission Planning System; facilities study, design and construction; spare and repair parts; support and test equipment; publications and technical documentation; aircrew and maintenance training; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$3.4 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$2.4 billion of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of the following non-MDE items: ARC-210 RT-2036(C) Radio Transmitters (RT); Advanced Data Transfer Systems (ADTS); post-production line modifications; and Containerized Flight Training Devices (CFTD) with initial Integrated Logistics Support (ILS), spares and support equipment. The estimated total cost of the new items is \$75 million. The estimated total case value will remain \$3.4 billion and the MDE cost will remain \$2.4 billion.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will improve Israel's capability to communicate securely across a wide spectrum with voice and data, and to conduct secure mission planning integrated across platforms and premier operational planning tools.

(v) Justification: The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The ARC-210 RT-2036(C) Radio Transmitter (RT) is networked communications airborne radio, which provides the latest and most capable software defined radio receiver-transmitter. The RT-2036(C) provides VHF/UHF open and secure voice and data communications, enabling interconnected software and network management systems. The RT also features the latest SATURN waveform technology for proven next-generation frequency-agile communications.

The Advanced Data Transfer System (ADTS) provides a next generation Video Recorder system that consolidates data transfer and recording devices, while leveraging Department of Defense technology and Department buys. ADTS provides modern data transfer devices that interface with both off and on aircraft mission planning applications and data. The system provides Moving Map, video recording integration, sensor data transfer, security (encryption and decryption), and storage with aircraft mission safety and weapon systems.

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

(vii) Date Delivered to Congress: May 10, 2023.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0F-23. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 22-60 of November 9, 2022.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0F-23

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 26(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Lithuania.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 22-06; Date: November 9, 2022; Implementing Agency: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds

(iii) Description: On November 9, 2022, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 22-60 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of eight (8) M 142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) Launchers; thirty-six (36) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS); thirty-six (36) M31A2 GMLRS Unitary High Explosive (HE) Missile Pods; thirty-six (36) XM403 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Missile Pods with IMPS; thirty-six (36) XM404 Extended Range GMLRS (ER GMLRS) Unitary Pods with IMPS; and eighteen (18) M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) Missile Pods. Also included are M28A2 Low Cost Reduced Range Practice Rocket (LCRRPR) pods; International Field Artillery Tactical Data System (IFATDS); battle management system Vehicle Integration Kits; ruggedized laptops; training equipment publications for HIMARS and munitions; and

other related elements of program and logistics support. The total estimated cost was \$495 million. Major Defense Equipment (MOE) constituted \$440 million of this total.

This transmittal reports MOE that was previously reported as non-MOE: twenty-five (25) International Field Artillery Tactical Data Systems (IFATDS). The overall MOE value will remain \$440 million. The total case value will remain \$495 million.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will contribute to Lithuania's military goals of updating its capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Lithuania intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces and expand its capability to strengthen its homeland defense and deter regional threats.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally that is an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: IFATDS is a multi-service (U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps) automated, expert decision support system used for command, control, communications, integration, and synchronization of fires on ground targets during all phases of military conflict. IFATDS provides the automated tools that significantly augment the capability of fire support coordinators and fire support asset commanders.

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 9, 2023.

ISRAEL

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, today, May 14, 2023, I want to recognize our great friend and ally, Israel, on the 75th anniversary of its independence. Israel's everlasting commitment to freedom and democracy serves as a beacon of light to freedom-loving people around the world. I am proud to support the expansion and solidifying of the Abraham Accords, to encourage normalized relations with Israel, economic prosperity, and safety for all citizens in the region. The United States and Israel share a unique bilateral relationship, and I look forward to many more years of a flourishing friendship between our two countries.

HEAD START

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the work of the Head Start providers and programs across the United States as the National Head Start Association gathers in Phoenix, AZ, for its 50th annual conference.

Since 1965, more than 37 million Americans have relied on Head Start to provide high-quality early childhood education programming to families in need. Head Start programs operate in all 50 States through a variety of models, serving families from before birth to age 5 in Early Head Start and Head Start. But it is not just children who reap the benefits of a Head Start program. Parents and families are an integral part of Head Start, whether by

volunteering in a classroom, participating in educational programming, or even embarking on a career in early childhood education through Head Start, which is happening in Arizona.

Earlier this year, I was lucky enough to meet with an Arizona Head Start parent in my office, along with staff and administrators from our State. Being a new grandfather made it even more meaningful to me to hear the appreciation in the voice of the parent as she described the economic and educational opportunities Head Start was creating for her family. It also made it harder to hear that challenges in finding and retaining teachers and staff mean that classrooms are closing and hundreds of thousands of children are stuck on waiting lists.

That is why I am committed to growing Senate support for Head Start. I am proud that the most recent appropriations bill included nearly \$12 billion for Head Start, representing a \$960 million increase from the prior year. With this funding, Head Start staff can get paid closer to what they deserve, and more families can gain access to the early childhood education that we know makes a long-term difference. But there is certainly more to do, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to help more children and families succeed.

To the Head Start providers, staff, and families throughout this country: We are with you. Thank you for the work you do every day.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING VAN HEMERT'S DUTCH OVEN BAKERY

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize Van Hemert's Dutch Oven Bakery of Boone, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Van Hemert's Dutch Oven Bakery was founded by husband and wife duo Denny and Terri Van Hemert in 1983. The bakery's motto is, "A Little Dutch in the Heart of Iowa," and the Van Hemert's have accomplished that. Operating as a full-line scratch bakery, Van Hemert's Dutch Oven Bakery is famous for their Dutch letters, which are made by creating a light pastry shell and filling it with homemade almond paste. Although they craft a wide range of letters, they claim that the Dutch letter "S" is their most popular. They also offer other Dutch pastries on their menu including almond horns, Dutch windmills, and creme horns. In addition to Dutch pastries, they also have pies, muffins, donuts, cakes, and seasonal items on the menu.

Another unique aspect of the bakery is that their menu is more than just

pastries and sweets. They have goods for all occasions, including homemade bread, a breakfast and lunch menu, and a "Koffie Haus" with a wide range of caffeinated beverages.

Van Hemert's Dutch Oven Bakery has been recognized for their hard work. They have locations in Boone and Ames, IA, and were named by the Iowa State Daily in 2016 and 2017 as the student choice best bakery. They have even been recognized nationally, placing fifth in the Dawn Food's America's Sweetest Bakery competition in 2017.

Van Hemert's Dutch Oven Bakery's commitment to providing quality pastries in central Iowa is clear. I want to congratulate the Van Hemert family and the entire team at Van Hemert's Dutch Oven Bakery for their continued dedication to providing Dutch sweets and treats to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa. ●

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 ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13611 OF MAY 16, 2012, WITH RESPECT TO YEMEN—PM 12

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:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Yemen declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, is to continue in effect beyond May 16, 2023.

The actions and policies of certain former members of the Government of Yemen and others in threatening Yemen's peace, security, and stability continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national

emergency declared in Executive Order 13611 with respect to Yemen.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 11, 2023.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1221. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2022 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1222. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on Investigation, Enforcement, and Implementation of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act Requirements" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 243. A bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities (Rept. No. 118-23).

S. 310. A bill to establish an advisory group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-24).

S. 679. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, amended, or otherwise made ineffective (Rept. No. 118-25).

S. 717. A bill to improve plain writing and public experience, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-26).

S. 794. A bill to require a pilot program on the participation of non-asset-based third-party logistics providers in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (Rept. No. 118-27).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BROWN for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Solomon Jeffrey Greene, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

*Ron Borzekowski, of Maryland, to be Director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury, for a term of six years.

*David Uejio, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

*Jared Bernstein, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Charnelle Bjelkengren, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Marian F. Gaston, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

S. Kato Crews, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Jeremy C. Daniel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Brendan Abell Hurson, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Darrel James Papillion, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

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

(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. SCHATZ:

S. 1550. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include fees paid by airline passengers for goods and services offered during the course of a flight as amounts paid for taxable transportation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1551. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish an Office of Consumer Protection in the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1552. A bill to establish the Coastal Management Fellowship and the Digital Coast Fellowship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 1553. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing permits and leases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BENNET, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 1554. A bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1555. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to support solar projects under the Rural Energy for America Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1556. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to authorize the payment of a basic allowance for housing for certain members of the uniformed services assigned to naval vessels undergoing maintenance, and to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize an increase in the number of Navy deployed resiliency counselors available to such members; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1557. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1558. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1559. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the corporate alternative minimum tax; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1560. A bill to require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1561. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow qualified distributions from qualified tuition programs for certain aviation maintenance and commercial pilot courses; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1562. A bill to ensure that Federal laws that enable Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to access firearms apply equally to Tribal law enforcement agencies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1563. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the fiduciary duty of plan administrators to select and maintain investments based solely on pecuniary factors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1564. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish, or otherwise ensure the provision of, a training program on artificial intelligence

for Federal management officials and supervisors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1565. A bill to require Executive agencies to submit to Congress a study of the impacts of expanded telework and remote work by agency employees during the COVID-19 pandemic and a plan for the agency's future use of telework and remote work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1566. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to identify certain aircraft shelters for aviation assets in the Indo-Pacific region and submit a plan to make improvements to such shelters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1567. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to address the teacher and school leader shortage in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1568. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 and the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to make breakfasts and lunches free for all children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SCHMITT, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1569. A bill to protect law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DAINES, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 1570. A bill to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 1571. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 1572. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to address transaction account guarantees, and for other purposes;

to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1573. A bill to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1574. A bill to establish the Mental Health Excellence in Schools Program to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1575. A bill to authorize additional district judgeships for the district of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KING, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1576. A bill to provide for advancements in carbon removal research, quantification, and commercialization, including by harnessing natural processes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 1577. A bill to require the appointment or designation of emerging technology leads in certain Federal agencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 1578. A bill to require reports on the adoption of cryptocurrency as legal tender in El Salvador; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 1579. A bill to improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Transportation to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and to other units of local government and Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 1580. A bill to improve the process for awarding grants under certain programs of the Department of Agriculture to certain counties in which the majority of land is owned or managed by the Federal Government and to other units of local government and Tribal governments in those counties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1581. A bill to remove college cost as a barrier to every student having access to a well-prepared and diverse educator workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1582. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand

the national organic certification cost-share program into a comprehensive organic program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAMHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1583. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress classified dissent cables relating to the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1584. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable tax credit for certain teachers as a supplement to State efforts to provide teachers with a livable wage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1585. A bill to allow Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired service weapons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. CASEY, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1586. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a national graduate nurse education program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1587. A bill to provide incentives for States to recover fraudulently paid Federal and State unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1588. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the forgiveness or offset of an overpayment of retired pay paid to a joint account for a period after the death of the retired member of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1589. A bill to provide for transparency of funds appropriated for purposes of implementing part E of title XI of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1590. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend increased dependency and indemnity compensation paid to surviving spouses of veterans who die from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, regardless of how long the veterans had such disease prior to death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S.J. Res. 26. A joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BUDD:

S.J. Res. 27. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs of the Department of Labor relating to "Rescission of Implementing Legal Requirements Regarding the Equal Opportunity Clause's Religious Exemption Rule"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 207. A resolution marking the 60th anniversary of the Polaris Sales Agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TESTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 208. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 12, 2023, as "National Warrior Call Day" and recognizing the important of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, especially peer-to-peer connection; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 209. A resolution recognizing the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. Res. 210. A resolution congratulating the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers women's basketball team for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball National Championship; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 211. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 212. A resolution commemorating 50 years of women serving as naval aviators in the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 26, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 203

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 203, a bill to amend section 923 of title 18, United States Code, to require an electronic, searchable database of the importation, production, shipment, receipt, sale, or other disposition of firearms.

S. 247

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 247, a bill to support State, Tribal, and local efforts to remove access to firearms from individuals who are a danger to themselves or others pursuant to court orders for this purpose.

S. 288

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 288, a bill to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors 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. 378

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 378, a bill to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to appropriately limit attorney's fees.

S. 466

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 466, a bill to provide for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to study and report on a Federal research agenda to advance the understanding of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.

S. 597

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 597, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 626

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) 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. 639

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 639, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 662

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 662, a bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to create a new national program to support mid-career workers, including workers from underrepresented populations, in reentering the STEM workforce, by providing funding to small- and medium-sized STEM businesses so the businesses can offer paid internships or other returnships that lead to positions above entry level.

S. 668

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 668, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins to honor and memorialize the tragedy of the Sultana steamboat explosion of 1865.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify the treatment of revenue from timber sale contracts and certain payments made by counties to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior under good neighbor agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 708

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 708, a bill to improve outcomes for Medicaid beneficiaries with major depressive disorder or other mental health conditions.

S. 767

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) 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. 1079

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1079, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide additional assistance to rural water, wastewater, and waste disposal systems, and for other purposes.

S. 1170

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1170, a bill to reauthorize and update the Project Safe Childhood program, and for other purposes.

S. 1199

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1199, a bill to combat the sexual exploitation of children by supporting victims and promoting accountability and transparency by the tech industry.

S. 1264

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1264, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen the drug pricing reforms in the Inflation Reduction Act.

S. 1491

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1491, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 1529

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1529, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for greater protection of roosters, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 188

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as

cosponsors of S. Res. 188, a resolution celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1567. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to address the teacher and school leader shortage in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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. 1567

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 “Retaining Educators Takes Added Investment Now Act” or the “RETAIN Act”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to create a refundable tax credit for early childhood educators, teachers, early childhood education program directors, school leaders, and school-based mental health services providers in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education settings that rewards retention based on the time spent serving high-need students.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The shortage of experienced, qualified early childhood educators and elementary school and secondary school teachers is a national problem that compromises the academic outcomes and long-term success of students.

(2) The shortage is the result of many factors including low pay, frequent turnover in school leadership, poor teaching conditions, and inadequate teacher supports.

(3) The shortage is worse in high-poverty areas where the factors contributing to the shortage are particularly acute and have an increased negative impact on teachers of color remaining in the field.

(4) A child’s access to high-quality early childhood education is critical to supporting positive outcomes, and early childhood educators—

(A) play an important role in setting the foundation for future learning, and

(B) promote the development of vital skills, habits, and mindsets that children need to be successful in school and in life.

(5) In 2021, the national median pay of early childhood educators was a mere \$30,210, with many early childhood educators relying on government assistance programs such as Medicaid, the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), or the temporary assistance for needy families program established under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), and struggling to provide for their own families.

(6) Studies have demonstrated that well-qualified, experienced teachers are the single most important school-based element contributing to a child’s academic achievement and success.

(7) In the 2021–2022 academic year, the average teacher salary in public elementary schools and secondary schools was only \$66,397, a 2 percent increase from the previous academic year. When adjusted for inflation, the average teacher salary has declined by 6.4 percent over the past decade.

(8) On average, public elementary school and secondary school teachers were paid 23.5 percent less than other college graduates working in non-teaching fields, and many teachers struggle with large amounts of student loan debt.

(9) In 2021, the average teacher salary for a first-year teacher in a public elementary school or secondary school was \$41,770.

(10) An experienced, well-qualified education workforce must also be reflective of the diversity of the student body across race, ethnicity, and disability.

(11) Higher pay for teachers can result in a more diverse teacher workforce, and minority students often perform better on standardized tests, have improved attendance, and are suspended less frequently when they have at least one same-race teacher.

(12) Experienced, well-qualified school leaders and school-based mental health service providers are essential for providing strong educational opportunities and services for students and promoting teacher retention through improved professional supports and teaching conditions.

(13) Between February 2020 and May 2022, at least 300,000 teachers at public elementary schools and secondary schools left the field, a nearly 3 percent decline in the teacher workforce.

SEC. 4. REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT FOR TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER RETENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after section 36B the following new section:

“SEC. 36C. TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER RETENTION CREDIT.

“(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual who is employed in a position described in paragraph (2) during a school year ending with or within the taxable year, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this subtitle for the taxable year an amount equal to the applicable amount (as determined under subsection (b)).

“(2) ELIGIBLE POSITIONS.—The positions described in this paragraph shall consist of the following:

“(A) An eligible early childhood educator.

“(B) An eligible early childhood education program director.

“(C) An eligible early childhood education provider.

“(D) An eligible teacher.

“(E) An eligible paraprofessional.

“(F) An eligible school-based mental health services provider.

“(G) An eligible school leader.

“(b) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the applicable amount shall be an amount determined based on the number of school years for which the individual has been continuously employed in any position described in subsection (a)(2), as follows:

“(A) Subject to paragraph (2), for the first year of employment, \$5,800.

“(B) For the second continuous year of employment, \$5,800.

“(C) For the third and fourth continuous year of employment, \$7,000.

“(D) For the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth continuous year of employment, \$8,700.

“(E) For the tenth continuous year of employment, \$11,600.

“(F) For the eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth continuous year of employment, \$8,700.

“(G) For the sixteenth continuous year of employment, \$7,000.

“(H) For the seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth continuous year of employment, \$5,800.

“(2) FIRST YEAR.—For purposes of the first year of employment ending with or within a taxable year, an individual must have been so employed for a period of not less than 4 months before the first day of such taxable year.

“(3) LIMITATION BASED ON TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOL YEARS.—In the case of any individual who has been employed in any position described in subsection (a)(2) for a total of more than 20 school years, the applicable amount shall be reduced to zero.

“(c) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxable year beginning after 2024, each of the dollar amounts in subsection (b)(1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for such calendar year by substituting ‘calendar year 2023’ for ‘calendar year 2016’ in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

“(2) ROUNDING.—If any increase determined under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of \$100, such increase shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100.

“(d) SUPPLEMENTING, NOT SUPPLANTING, STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATION FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A State educational agency or local educational agency shall not reduce or adjust any compensation, or any assistance provided through a loan forgiveness program, to an employee of the State educational agency or local educational agency who serves in any position described in subsection (a)(2) due to the individual’s eligibility for the credit under this section.

“(2) METHODOLOGY.—Upon request by the Secretary of Education, a State educational agency or local educational agency shall reasonably demonstrate that the methodology used to allocate amounts for compensation and for loan forgiveness to the employees described in paragraph (1) at qualifying schools or qualifying early childhood education programs ensures that employees at each qualifying school or qualifying early childhood education program in the State or served by the local educational agency, respectively, receive the same amount of State or local funds for compensation and loan forgiveness that the qualifying school or qualifying early childhood education program would receive if the credit under this section had not been enacted.

“(e) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide the Secretary with such information as is necessary for purposes of determining whether an early childhood education program or an elementary school or secondary school satisfies the requirements for a qualifying early childhood education program or a qualifying school, respectively.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms ‘elementary school’, ‘local educational agency’, ‘secondary school’, and ‘State educational agency’ have the meanings given the terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

“(2) ELIGIBLE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR.—The term ‘eligible early childhood education program director’ means an employee or officer of a qualifying

early childhood education program who is responsible for the daily instructional leadership and managerial operations of such program.

“(3) **ELIGIBLE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROVIDER.**—The term ‘eligible early childhood education provider’ means an individual—

“(A) who—

“(i) has an associate’s degree or higher degree in early childhood education or a related field, or

“(ii) is enrolled during the taxable year in a program leading to such an associate’s or higher degree and is making satisfactory progress toward such degree, and

“(B) who is responsible for the daily instructional leadership and managerial operations of a qualifying early childhood education program in a home-based setting.

“(4) **ELIGIBLE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR.**—The term ‘eligible early childhood educator’ means an individual—

“(A) who—

“(i) has an associate’s degree or higher degree in early childhood education or a related field, or

“(ii) is enrolled during the taxable year in a program leading to such an associate’s or higher degree and is making satisfactory progress toward such degree,

“(B) who has credentials or a license under State law for early childhood education, as applicable, and

“(C) whose primary responsibility is for the learning and development of children in a qualifying early childhood education program during the taxable year.

“(5) **ELIGIBLE PARAPROFESSIONAL.**—The term ‘eligible paraprofessional’ means an individual—

“(A) who is a paraprofessional, as defined in section 3201 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7011),

“(B) who meets the applicable State professional standards and qualifications pursuant to section 1111(g)(2)(M) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 6311(g)(2)(M)),

“(C) whose primary responsibilities involve working or assisting in a classroom setting, and

“(D) who is employed in a qualifying school or a qualifying early childhood education program.

“(6) **ELIGIBLE SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDER.**—The term ‘eligible school-based mental health services provider’ means an individual—

“(A) described in section 4102(6) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7112(6)), and

“(B) who is employed in a qualifying school or a qualifying early childhood education program.

“(7) **ELIGIBLE SCHOOL LEADER.**—The term ‘eligible school leader’ means a principal, assistant principal, or other individual who is—

“(A) an employee or officer of a qualifying school, and

“(B) responsible for the daily instructional leadership and managerial operations in the qualifying school.

“(8) **ELIGIBLE TEACHER.**—The term ‘eligible teacher’ means an individual who—

“(A) is an elementary school or secondary school teacher who, as determined by the State or local educational agency, is a teacher of record who provides direct classroom teaching (or classroom-type teaching in a nonclassroom setting) to students in a qualifying school, and

“(B)(i) meets applicable State certification and licensure requirements, including any requirements for certification obtained through alternative routes to certification, in the State in which such school is located

and in the subject area in which the individual is the teacher of record, or

“(ii) is enrolled during the taxable year in a program leading to State certification and licensure as described in clause (i) and is making satisfactory progress toward such certification and licensure requirements.

“(9) **QUALIFYING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘qualifying early childhood education program’ means an early childhood education program, as defined in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003), that, regardless of setting—

“(i) serves children who receive services for which financial assistance is provided in accordance with the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9857 et seq.), the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.), or the child and adult care food program established under section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), and

“(ii) participates in a State tiered and transparent system for measuring program quality.

“(B) **SPECIAL RULE.**—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), an early childhood education program that does not satisfy the requirements of subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be deemed to be a qualifying early childhood education program until September 30, 2023, if the program—

“(i) satisfies all requirements of subparagraph (A) except for clause (ii) of such subparagraph, and

“(ii)(I) meets the Head Start program performance standards described in section 641A(a) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9836a(a)), if applicable, or

“(II) is accredited by a national accreditor of early learning programs as of the date of enactment of the Retaining Educators Takes Added Investment Now Act.

“(10) **QUALIFYING SCHOOL.**—The term ‘qualifying school’ means—

“(A) a public elementary school or secondary school that—

“(i) is in the school district of a local educational agency that is eligible for assistance under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.), or

“(ii) is served or operated by an educational service agency that is eligible for such assistance, or

“(B) an elementary school or secondary school that is funded by the Bureau of Indian Education and that is in the school district of a local educational agency that is eligible for such assistance.”

(b) **W-2 REPORTING OF CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS AT QUALIFYING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS OR QUALIFYING SCHOOLS.**—Section 6051(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (16), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (17) and inserting “, and”, and by inserting after paragraph (17) the following new paragraph:

“(18) in the case of an employee who is employed in a position described in subsection (a)(2) of section 36C, the number of school years for which such employee has been continuously employed in any such position.”

(c) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) The table of sections for subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 36B the following:

“Sec. 36C. Teacher and school leader retention credit.”

(2) Section 6211(b)(4)(A) of such Code is amended by inserting “36C,” after “36B.”

(3) Paragraph (2) of section 1324(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting “36C,” after “36B.”

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

SEC. 5. DEVELOPING INTERAGENCY DATA SERIES.

The Secretary of Labor, in coordination with the Secretary of Treasury, the Secretary of Education, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall—

(1) develop and publish on the internet website of the Bureau of Labor Statistics a data series that captures—

(A) the average base salary of teachers in elementary schools and secondary schools, disaggregated by—

(i) employment in public elementary schools and secondary schools that receive assistance under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.),

(ii) employment in public elementary schools and secondary schools that do not receive such assistance, and

(iii) geographic region, and

(B) the average base salary of early childhood educators, disaggregated by highest level of degree attained, and

(2) update the data series under paragraph (1) on an annual basis.

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

S. 1571. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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. 1571

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 “Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. RESTORING STATE AUTHORITY TO WAIVE THE 35-MILE RULE FOR CERTAIN MEDICARE CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL DESIGNATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1820 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-4) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(i) in subclause (I), by striking “or” at the end;

(ii) in subclause (II), by inserting “or” at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(III) subject to subparagraph (G), is a hospital described in subparagraph (F) and is certified on or after the date of the enactment of the Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act of 2023 by the State as being a necessary provider of health care services to residents in the area;”;

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(F) **HOSPITAL DESCRIBED.**—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(i)(III), a hospital described in this subparagraph is a hospital that—

“(i) is a sole community hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii)), a medicare dependent, small rural hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(G)(iv)), a low-volume hospital that in 2021 receives a payment adjustment under section 1886(d)(12), a subsection

(d) hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(1)(B)) that has fewer than 50 beds, or, subject to the limitation under subparagraph (G)(i)(I), is a facility described in subparagraph (G)(ii);

“(ii) is located in a rural area, as defined in section 1886(d)(2)(D);

“(iii)(I) is located—

“(aa) in a county that has a percentage of individuals with income that is below 150 percent of the poverty line that is higher than the national or statewide average in 2021;

“(bb) in a health professional shortage area (as defined in section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act); or

“(II) has a percentage of inpatient days of individuals entitled to benefits under part A of this title, enrolled under part B of this title, or enrolled under a State plan under title XIX that is higher than the national or statewide average in 2020 or 2021;

“(iv) subject to subparagraph (G)(ii)(II), has attested to the Secretary two consecutive years of negative operating margins preceding the date of certification described in subparagraph (B)(i)(III); and

“(v) submits to the Secretary—

“(I) at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, an attestation outlining the good governance qualifications and strategic plan for multi-year financial solvency of the hospital; and

“(II) not later than 120 days after the date on which the Secretary issues final regulations pursuant to section 2(b) of the Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act of 2023, an application for certification of the facility as a critical access hospital.

“(G) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN DESIGNATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not under subsection (e) certify pursuant to a certification by a State under subparagraph (B)(i)(III)—

“(I) more than a total of 175 facilities as critical access hospitals, of which not more than 20 percent may be facilities described in clause (ii); and

“(II) within any one State, more than 10 facilities as critical access hospitals.

“(ii) FACILITY DESCRIBED.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—A facility described in this clause is a facility that as of the date of enactment of this subparagraph met the criteria for designation as a critical access hospital under subparagraph (B)(i)(I).

“(II) NONAPPLICATION OF CERTAIN CRITERIA.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(i)(III), the criteria described in subparagraph (F)(iv) shall not apply with respect to the designation of a facility described in subclause (I).”; and

(2) in subsection (e), by inserting “, subject to subsection (c)(2)(G),” after “The Secretary shall”.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue final regulations to carry out subsection (a).

(c) CLARIFICATION REGARDING FACILITIES THAT MEET DISTANCE OR OTHER CERTIFICATION CRITERIA.—Nothing in this section shall affect the application of criteria for designation as a critical access hospital described in subclause (I) or (II) section 1820(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-4(c)(2)(B)(i)).

(d) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this section referred to as the “Comptroller General”), in consultation with the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall conduct a study on the implementation of the amendments made by subsection (a). Such study shall include an analysis of—

(A) the characteristics of facilities designated as critical access hospitals pursuant to section 1820(c)(2)(B)(i)(III) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a);

(B) the financial status and outlook for such facilities based on their designation as a critical access hospital pursuant to such section;

(C) any increase in expenditures under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) as a result of such designation, relative to the expected baseline expenditures under the Medicare program if such facilities had not received such designation; and

(D) whether the authority to designate facilities as critical access hospitals pursuant to such section 1820(c)(2)(B)(i)(III) should be maintained as is, modified in scale or scope, or sunset.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

(e) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of on which the Comptroller General submits the report to Congress under subsection (d)(2), the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services shall establish a mechanism and provide guidance and technical assistance to facilities that have been designated as a critical access hospital pursuant to section 1820(c)(2)(B)(i)(III) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a), on how such facilities may consider transitioning to a different payment model under the Medicare program.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KING, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1576. A bill to provide for advancements in carbon removal research, quantification, and commercialization, including by harnessing natural processes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Carbon Removal and Emissions Storage Technologies Act, the CREST Act. I want to thank Senator CANTWELL for her partnership in working on this bill. Our bipartisan bill would direct the Department of Energy to research and evaluate the feasibility of innovative carbon removal and storage pathways. The name the “CREST Act” alludes to the fact that we have reached the “crest” of our emissions, and we must work to reduce them.

With more and more private and public sector commitments to reach net-zero emissions within certain timeframes, companies are scrambling to invest in quantifiable, durable, and verifiable carbon removal solutions. Microsoft, for example, has made a commitment to be carbon negative by 2030. Even though Microsoft plans to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by more than half, it will need to remove the rest of its carbon emissions. In order to do this, Microsoft plans to invest \$1 billion in carbon removal technologies, such as direct air capture, forestation, and carbon mineralization.

Despite the growing number of companies that are looking to offset their emissions, current cost estimates show that private sector investment alone will not be sufficient to research and deploy carbon removal pathways. I supported the Energy Act of 2020, which authorized the first comprehensive Federal carbon removal research and development program, and the bipartisan infrastructure bill, which invested \$3.6 billion in direct air capture. Although these investments have been significant, more work is needed in further research, increased testing, and enhanced public-private partnerships to help aid in scaling carbon removal technologies.

The CREST Act would expand the Department of Energy’s carbon removal research and development programs to include carbon removal pathways that can permanently sequester carbon dioxide or use carbon dioxide to produce biofuels or products. The key areas of focus for research and development in our legislation are biomass carbon removal and storage, geological removal, atmospheric and aquatic removal, carbon dioxide storage, and carbon dioxide removal quantification.

Our legislation also aims to accelerate the commercialization of innovative carbon solutions through a pilot program at the Department of Energy. This pilot program would be charged with accelerating the deployment of affordable and proven carbon removal technologies. This reverse-auction style pilot program would position the government to purchase innovative and promising technologies, subject to certain criteria, and reduce the costs of those technologies. This would allow companies that may not have as much purchasing power as Microsoft to participate in carbon removal to help offset emissions.

This pilot program could also support companies that are leading the way in carbon removal technology, like Running Tide in Maine, in bringing down the cost of its product. Running Tide captures carbon dioxide using kelp microforests, sun, ocean currents, and gravity. This new and exciting company grows floating kelp microforests attached to biodegradable buoys that sink as they break down. The carbon captured through the floating microforest is effectively removed for hundreds of years once it hits the ocean floor. Running Tide hopes to soon be selling “kelp carbon credits” to help offset private entities’ emissions. They are currently working to commercialize quickly. These innovative approaches are the kinds that our new pilot program could encourage.

Climate change is a significant environmental challenge that requires innovative and global solutions to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. While carbon removal is only a small part of the solution, it is critical that we promote innovation in this area. Our bipartisan bill has earned endorsements from Bipartisan Policy Center Action,

ClearPath Action, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, and many others. I urge my colleagues to join Senator CANTWELL and me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1583. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress classified dissent cables relating to the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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. 1583

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

SECTION 1. SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF DISSENT CABLES RELATING TO WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN.

(a) **SUBMISSION OF CLASSIFIED DISSENT CABLES TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress any classified Department of State cable or memo that expresses a dissenting recommendation or opinion with respect to the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan.

(b) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF UNCLASSIFIED DISSENT CABLES.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall make available to the public an unclassified version of any such cable or memo.

(c) **PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.**—The name and any other personally identifiable information of an author of a cable or memo referred to in subsection (a) shall be redacted before submission under that subsection or publication under subsection (b).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 207—MARKING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLARIS SALES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 207

Whereas, on December 21, 1962, President John F. Kennedy and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Harold Macmillan met in Nassau, Bahamas, and issued a joint statement (commonly referred to as the “Statement on Nuclear Defense Systems”), agree-

ing that the United States would make Polaris missiles available on a continuing basis to the United Kingdom for use in submarines;

Whereas, on April 6, 1963, Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Her Majesty’s Ambassador to the United States David Ormsby-Gore signed the Polaris Sales Agreement, reaffirming the Statement on Nuclear Defense Systems and agreeing that the United States Government shall provide and the Government of the United Kingdom shall purchase from the United States Government Polaris missiles, equipment, and supporting services;

Whereas the HMS *Resolution* launched the first Polaris missile of the United Kingdom on February 15, 1968, and, in 1969, commenced the first strategic deterrent patrol for the United Kingdom, initiating a continuous at-sea deterrent posture for the United Kingdom that remains in effect;

Whereas the Polaris Sales Agreement was amended to include the Trident II (D5) strategic weapon system on October 19, 1982, in Washington, D.C., through an exchange of notes between Secretary of State Jonathan Howe and Her Majesty’s Ambassador to the United States Oliver Wright; and

Whereas through an exchange of letters in 2008 between Secretary of Defense the Honorable Robert Gates and Secretary of State for Defence of the United Kingdom the Right Honorable Desmond Browne and under the auspices of the Polaris Sales Agreement, the United States Government and the Government of the United Kingdom agreed to continue cooperation to design a common missile compartment for the follow-on ballistic missile submarines of each nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) marks the 60th anniversary of the Polaris Sales Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the United States of America, done at Washington April 6, 1963;

(2) congratulates the Royal Navy for steadfastly maintaining a Continuous At-Sea Deterrent;

(3) recognizes the important contribution of the Continuous At-Sea Deterrent to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(4) reaffirms that the United Kingdom is a valued and special ally of the United States; and

(5) looks forward to continuing and strengthening the shared commitment of the United States and the United Kingdom to sustain submarine-based strategic deterrents well into the future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 208—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF NOVEMBER 12, 2023, AS “NATIONAL WARRIOR CALL DAY” AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT OF CONNECTING WARRIORS IN THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPORT STRUCTURES NECESSARY TO TRANSITION FROM THE BATTLEFIELD, ESPECIALLY PEER-TO-PEER CONNECTION

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. TESTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was re-

ferred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 208

Whereas establishing an annual “National Warrior Call Day” will draw attention to the members of the Armed Forces whose connection to one another is key to the veterans in the United States who may be dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support systems;

Whereas the number of suicides of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty was 519 in 2021;

Whereas, in 2020, there were 6,146 veteran suicide deaths, and the unadjusted rate of suicide in 2020 among veterans was 31.7 per 100,000;

Whereas, after adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2020 was 57 percent higher than non-veteran adults;

Whereas more veterans have died by suicide in the last 10 years than members of the Armed Forces who died from combat in Vietnam;

Whereas the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic can lead to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury;

Whereas invisible wounds linked to an underlying and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can mirror many mental health conditions, a problem that can be addressed through appropriate medical treatment;

Whereas additional research is needed to highlight the connection between traumatic brain injury as a root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

Whereas November 12, 2023, would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Warrior Call Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of November 12, 2023, as “National Warrior Call Day”;

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States, especially members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty and veterans, to call a warrior, have an honest conversation, and connect them with support, understanding that making a warrior call could save a life; and

(3) implores all individuals in the United States to recommit themselves to engaging with members of the Armed Forces through “National Warrior Call Day” and other constructive efforts that result in solutions and treatment for the invisible scars that members of the Armed Forces carry.

SENATE RESOLUTION 209—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH AS AN IMPORTANT TIME TO CELEBRATE THE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN AMERICANS, NATIVE HAWAIIANS, AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS TO THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ,

Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 209

Whereas the people of the United States join together each May to pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States;

Whereas the history of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States is inextricably tied to the story of the United States;

Whereas the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, the Asian American population grew faster than any other racial or ethnic group over the last decade, surging nearly 55.5 percent between 2010 and 2020, and during that same time period, the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population grew by 30.8 percent;

Whereas there are approximately 24,000,000 residents of the United States who identify as Asian and approximately 1,600,000 residents of the United States who identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, making up more than 7 percent of the total population of the United States;

Whereas the month of May was selected for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month and requests the President to issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas 2023 marks several important milestones for the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, including—

(1) the 125th anniversary of *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, 169 U.S. 649 (1898), a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States that determined that the 14th Amendment grants birthright citizenship to all persons born in the United States, regardless of the national origin of their parents;

(2) the 80th anniversary of the Act entitled “An Act to repeal the Chinese Exclusion Acts, to establish quotas, and for other purposes”, approved December 17, 1943 (commonly known as the “Magnuson Act of 1943”) (57 Stat. 600, chapter 344), which formally repealed the Act entitled “An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese”, approved May 6, 1882 (commonly known as the “Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882”) (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126);

(3) the 35th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (50 U.S.C. 4211 et seq.), which granted reparations to Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II; and

(4) the 30th anniversary of the enactment of Public Law 103-150 (107 Stat. 1510), which acknowledged the 100th anniversary of the January 17, 1893, overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii and offered an apology to Native Hawaiians on behalf of the United States;

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions to the United States at all levels of the Federal Government and in the Armed Forces, including—

(1) Daniel K. Inouye, a Medal of Honor and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient who, as President pro tempore of the Senate, was the then-highest-ranking Asian American government official in the history of the United States;

(2) Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American elected to Congress;

(3) Patsy T. Mink, the first woman of color and Asian American woman elected to Congress;

(4) Hiram L. Fong, the first Asian American Senator;

(5) Daniel K. Akaka, the first Senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry;

(6) Norman Y. Mineta, the first Asian American member of a Presidential cabinet;

(7) Elaine L. Chao, the first Asian American woman member of a Presidential cabinet; and

(8) Kamala D. Harris, the first woman and the first Asian American to hold the Office of the Vice President;

Whereas the 118th Congress includes 21 Members of Asian or Pacific Islander descent;

Whereas, in 2023, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, a bicameral caucus of Members of Congress advocating on behalf of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, is composed of 72 Members, and other congressional caucuses work on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander issues also;

Whereas, in 2023, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders are serving in State and Territorial legislatures across the United States in record numbers, including in—

(1) the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming; and

(2) the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

Whereas Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders represent more than 6 percent of Federal judges and 7 percent of Federal employees, including hundreds of staffers of Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander descent who serve as staff in the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Whereas, since March 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in reports of anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including—

(1) a 339-percent increase in anti-Asian hate crimes in 2021, and a 124-percent increase in 2020;

(2) according to Stop AAPI Hate, over 11,000 hate incidents reported since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic through March 2022, and countless others that have not been reported;

(3) on March 16, 2021, the murder of 8 people, including 6 Asian women, at 3 separate Asian-owned businesses in the Atlanta, Georgia, region; and

(4) on May 15, 2022, the shooting of 5 people in Laguna Hills, California, in which the Taiwanese congregation at Geneva Presbyterian Church was targeted;

Whereas the incidence of hate crimes against Asian Americans continues to be

above levels observed before the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas discrimination against Asian Americans, especially in moments of crisis, is not a new phenomenon, and violence against Asian Americans has occurred throughout United States history, including—

(1) the enactment of the Act entitled “An Act supplementary to the Acts in relation to Immigration”, approved March 3, 1875 (commonly referred to as the “Page Act of 1875”) (18 Stat. 477, chapter 141), which restricted entry of Chinese, Japanese, and other Asian women to the United States and effectively prohibited the immigration of Chinese women, preventing the formation of Chinese families in the United States and limiting the number of native-born Chinese citizens;

(2) the enactment of the Act entitled “An Act to execute certain treaty stipulations relating to Chinese”, approved May 6, 1882 (commonly known as the “Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882”) (22 Stat. 58, chapter 126), which was the first law to explicitly exclude an entire ethnic group from immigrating to the United States;

(3) the issuance of Executive Order 9066 in 1942, which authorized the forced relocation and incarceration of approximately 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II, the majority of whom were citizens of the United States;

(4) the murder of Vincent Chin;

(5) on January 17, 1989, the Cleveland Elementary School shooting in which a gunman used an AK-47 to kill 5 children, 4 of whom were of Southeast Asian descent;

(6) the rise in discrimination and violence against Muslim, Sikh, Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Americans following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; and

(7) on August 5, 2012, the mass shooting at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, in which a white supremacist fatally shot 6 people and wounded 4 others;

Whereas, in response to the uptick in anti-Asian hate crimes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (Public Law 117-13; 135 Stat. 265), which was signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden on May 20, 2021;

Whereas, in celebration of the contributions of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders in the United States, Congress passed the Commission To Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act (Public Law 117-140; 136 Stat. 1259) to establish a commission to study the creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture, which was signed into law by President Biden on June 13, 2022;

Whereas, as part of the American Women Quarters Program, the United States Mint has issued, or will issue, commemorative quarters honoring the contributions of—

(1) Chinese American film star Anna May Wong;

(2) Native Hawaiian composer and cultural advocate Edith Kanaka’ole; and

(3) Congresswoman Patsy Mink;

Whereas there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the Federal Government and continue to advance in the political landscape of the United States; and

Whereas celebrating Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, and history of, and to understand the challenges faced by, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significance of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month as an important time to celebrate the significant contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the history of the United States; and

(2) recognizes that Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities enhance the rich diversity of and strengthen the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 210—CONGRATULATING THE LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY FIGHTING TIGERS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2023 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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

S. RES. 210

Whereas, on Sunday, April 2, 2023, the Louisiana State University (referred to in this preamble as “LSU”) Fighting Tigers women's basketball team won the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as “NCAA”) Division I Women's Basketball National Championship (referred to in this preamble as the “national championship”), defeating the University of Iowa Hawkeyes by a score of 102 to 85;

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers won their first NCAA national championship in LSU history, with 9 freshman or transfer players playing in their first season for the team;

Whereas during the national championship game—

(1) the LSU Fighting Tigers scored 102 points, becoming the first team to score more than 100 points in a national championship game;

(2) Jasmine Carson scored 21 points in the first 20 minutes to open up a 17 point lead;

(3) Alexis Morris, the only starter for the LSU Fighting Tigers returning from the 2021–2022 season, scored 21 points and a game-high 9 assists; and

(4) LaDazhia Williams scored 20 points, along with 5 rebounds and 3 steals;

Whereas head coach Kim Mulkey became the third coach with 4 or more national championships in NCAA Division I women's college basketball history, and the first to win a championship as a head coach of multiple programs;

Whereas associate head coach Bob Starkey, assistant coach Daphne Mitchell, and assistant coach Gary Redus II deserve recognition for their historic accomplishment;

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers finished the season with 34 wins and 2 losses, with 15 wins and 1 loss in the Southeastern Conference (referred to in this preamble as “SEC”);

Whereas 4 LSU Fighting Tigers players earned All-SEC Season honors, including—

(1) Angel Reese, First Team All-SEC and SEC All-Defensive Team;

(2) Alexis Morris, First Team All-SEC;

(3) Sa'Myah Smith, SEC All-Freshman Team; and

(4) Flau'Jae Johnson, SEC All-Freshman Team, and was named SEC Freshmen of the Year; and

Whereas Angel Reese was named most outstanding player of the NCAA Division I

Women's Basketball Tournament Final Four and set the record for most double-doubles in a single season, with 34: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers for winning the 2023 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball National Championship;

(2) recognizes the many achievements of the coaches, players, and staff of the Louisiana State University women's basketball team;

(3) recognizes the fans and the entire State of Louisiana for their dedication and support; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the head coach of the Louisiana State University women's basketball team, Kim Mulkey;

(B) the president of Louisiana State University, William F. Tate IV; and

(C) the athletic director of Louisiana State University, Scott Woodward.

SENATE RESOLUTION 211—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CARPER, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 211

Whereas the week of May 7 through May 13, 2023, has been designated as “Public Service Recognition Week” to honor employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments and members of the uniformed services;

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

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

Whereas public servants provide crucial customer service in their local communities to millions of individuals throughout the United States;

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

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

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

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

Whereas the United States benefits daily from the knowledge and skills of the highly

trained individuals who work in public service;

Whereas public servants—

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

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

(3) fight crime and fires;

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

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

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

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

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

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

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

(11) teach and work in schools and libraries;

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

(13) improve and secure transportation systems;

(14) promote economic stability and growth; and

(15) assist veterans of the Armed Forces;

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

(1) make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States; and

(2) are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security;

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

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

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

(1) are committed to doing their jobs regardless of the circumstances; and

(2) contribute greatly to the security of the United States and the world;

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

Whereas public servants—

(1) have much to offer, as demonstrated by their expertise and innovative ideas; and

(2) serve as examples by passing on institutional knowledge to train the next generation of public servants;

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

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

Whereas public servants have decisively and resolutely responded to conflicts around

the globe, including the evolving crisis in Ukraine, through creative diplomatic approaches; and

Whereas the week of May 7 through May 13, 2023, marks the 39th anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of May 7 through May 13, 2023, as "Public Service Recognition Week";

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

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

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

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

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

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

SENATE RESOLUTION 212—COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF WOMEN SERVING AS NAVAL AVIATORS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 212

Whereas, while women had officially served in various capacities in the Navy since 1908, prior to 1973, women had been prevented from serving as naval aviators;

Whereas, in October 1972, the Navy announced a program to open flight training to women;

Whereas, on January 10, 1973, Secretary of the Navy John Warner presented flight training orders to Judith Neuffer, the first woman to be selected for flight training in the Navy;

Whereas 7 additional women were selected for training as naval aviators, and the group consisted of 4 women who already served as Navy officers and 4 civilians;

Whereas, on March 2, 1973, the first 4 women already serving as Navy officers began flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Pensacola, Florida;

Whereas the 4 civilian women selected for flight training were commissioned in May 1973, and reported to training at Naval Air Station Pensacola on June 4, 1973;

Whereas, on February 22, 1974, Barbara Allen became the first female naval aviator to earn her Wings of Gold;

Whereas, out of the 8 women to be selected for flight training, 6 women, nicknamed the "First Six" (referred to in this preamble as the "First Six"), would go on to earn their Wings of Gold;

Whereas the First Six comprised Judith Neuffer, Barbara Allen, Rosemary Conatser, Jane Skiles, Joellen Drag, and Ann Marie Scott;

Whereas Naval Air Station Pensacola is the "Cradle of Naval Aviation" and serves as the training ground for every naval aviator;

Whereas Naval Air Station Pensacola has played a valuable role in the historic mile-

stone of women training to be naval aviators; and

Whereas the First Six became the first women to hold various naval aviation positions in the Navy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the invaluable contributions that the first 6 women to earn their Wings of Gold (referred to in this resolution as the "First Six") made to naval aviation in the United States;

(2) applauds the steadfast leadership and courage of the First Six that opened doors for women to serve in every level of naval aviation in the United States today;

(3) recognizes 50 years of women serving as naval aviators in the United States and the roles that Naval Air Station Pensacola and the Pensacola, Florida community have played in this milestone and in naval aviation history in the United States; and

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Pensacola, Captain Terrence M. Shashaty.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I have seven requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 9:45 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 in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 11, 2023.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE A KING KAMEHAMEHA DAY LEI DRAPING CEREMONY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 35, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 35) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate a King Kamehameha Day Lei Draping Ceremony.

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

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

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

CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND LEADERS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR MAKING ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 195.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 195) congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and leaders of charter schools across the United States for making ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 24th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 7 through May 13, 2023.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 195) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 4, 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions: S. Res. 210, S. Res. 211, and S. Res. 212.

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

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

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, May 15; 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 Garcia nomination postcloture; that all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; further, that if any nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator STABENOW. And, knowing her, I am sure they will be excellent remarks.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY CARWELL

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I thank our leader for all of his wonderful work, all the time.

I rise today to pay tribute to a phenomenal member of my staff, a leader who has played a key role in so many things I have been able to accomplish here in the Senate.

Emily Carwell is leaving the upper Chamber for a new leadership change

across the Rotunda—dare I say, the lower Chamber—after more than 8 years in my office. And, honestly, it feels like Emily has been with me forever. To speak in Senate terms, Emily has been my legislative director for 2,383 votes.

It is actually quite fitting that she is returning to the House, though, because it is where she started, sort of. When I first interviewed her, I loved her right away: her Midwestern sensibilities, her enthusiasm, her eagerness to work for the people of Michigan. Anyone who has met Emily knows exactly what I mean. As somewhat of an afterthought, I asked her: You were in the House, right? You have House experience, right?

She said yes.

It turns out that her House experience was an unpaid fellowship. But—do you know what?—it didn't even matter. She joined my office as a legislative assistant. She hit the ground running, and she simply has not stopped.

She organized the first-ever bipartisan delegation to tour all of our Michigan military installations, which was very significant for us to do.

And, as legislative director, Emily has played a key role in so many areas that I couldn't even list them all. But I have to say, at the top of the list is our work on mental health.

Her passion and tenacity are a major reason why we were able to get certified community behavioral health clinics signed into law, the largest Medicaid expansion since the Affordable Care Act. And it was a wonderful bipartisan effort. And you can bet I will keep her number on speed dial as these clinics are expanded across the country.

Emily has also served as policy director of our Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, a job she has excelled at. And, Mr. President, as vice chair of the DPCC, I know you know that well.

She has led amazing efforts to modernize the committee, including launching the "DPCC FloorWatch" app to bring us into the 21st century, which features everything from floor alerts to amendments, to floor and committee hearing videos.

If you had to describe Emily in one word—although there are so many words, but if you had to describe her in one word—"relentless" would be a good choice. During vote-aramas, when everyone else was collapsed at their desks in the middle of the night, Emily was still typing away on amendments to make sure our caucus members had the information they needed. And she was tireless during the earliest days of the pandemic, when we had to figure out how to run a Senate office remotely while helping the people of Michigan in every way we could.

She has been a wonderful partner on codels, and we have traveled the world together. I will never forget the time when we were in Jordan at a refugee camp, meeting with Syrian refugees.

Emily speaks fluent Arabic. So she was able to connect with these people who had been through so much in such a special, incredible way. I was listening, but I wasn't able to speak to them in their language. And it was very powerful.

On a lighter note, Emily, I know about the time when you neglected to tell me that you were accidentally given the hotel suite I was supposed to get, and I got a smaller room. I just want you to know now that I know that.

Just as important as the work she has done is the positive energy she has brought to the office. Emily has a way of bringing people together, whether it is for an office happy hour around her desk, an impromptu lunch outing, or Costco pizzas in the conference room.

Her family is very important to her, and I am so glad her sister is here with us today. And she treats her coworkers like she treats her own family. Just one example: hand-delivering a tin of two kinds of homemade cookies to the home of a coworker who was sick.

Emily is an amazing team player, skills she likely learned on the basketball court. She played on her college team, and she has also played against U.S. Senators who are at least twice her size. And all I am going to say is you will have to ask Senator TESTER how that game went.

Emily, thank you so much for everything—for your hard work, your talent, your dedication, your service to the people of Michigan and our country. And, most importantly, I am so grateful for your friendship. You will always be a part of my family. I have no doubt that you will excel in your new position, and the House is so lucky to get you back—this time, in a paid position.

And I am also very happy that you will be only 7 minutes away. We actually timed it. So Godspeed and, again, all the best, always.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m., Monday, May 15, 2023.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:49 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 15, 2023, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 11, 2023:

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALAINA M. ACCUMANNO AND ENDING WITH KRISTEN E. ZELMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 14, 2023.