Senate

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
President pro tempore,
To the Senate:

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

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

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

REC�NATURE OF THE MAJORİTY LEADER

The Acting President pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate was supposed to spend this week finalizing another bipartisan rescue package for the American people. Millions of laid-off workers needed more Federal assistance to weather the storm. Small businesses needed more support to make payroll. Schools and families need more funding, tools, and certainty with reopening dates fast approaching. Doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers need more backup as they hold the line against this disease. We all need more gas for the race toward more testing, better treatments, and the vaccine that will finish this fight. So last week I canceled the first week of our August State work period in the hope that the Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader would put aside their ideological demands with no relation to this pandemic and finally let Congress legislate.

Unfortunately, the Democrats have continued to let working families down. They are still rejecting any more relief for anyone unless they get a flood of demands with no relationship to COVID–19.

It has been more than 2 weeks since Senate Republicans put out a trillion-dollar plan to help America reopen, recover, and stay on offense against this virus. Republicans did the same thing that worked back in March. We set up the same process that built the unanimous CARES Act in a matter of days. We laid out a strong marker built by our chairmen and our committees, fitted to real, fact-based needs of our Nation and then invited the Democrats to negotiate.

We want another round of direct cash payments for American families. We want to send $1,055 billion to help schools and universities safely reopen and billions more to help working parents with childcare. We want to create new incentives for retaining and rehiring America’s workers and for businesses to improve workplace safety. We want to create the smart legal protections that small businesses and university presidents are pleading for, so they can reopen safely for students and workers without paying a ransom to the trial lawyers.

These are the strong policies we proposed because these are the policies our
Nation actually needs. We want to take second runs at the best and most successful parts of the bipartisan CARES Act while adding in bold new steps for this new phase of our Nation’s battle.

But as I said right from the outset, Republicans have been at the table for weeks. We just need serious proposals that are fitted to actual needs. People who have serious policy proposals that are fitted to actual needs cannot budge off a trillion here and add a trillion there.

Democrats are here. We are ready to compromise any day. They have refused Republicans’ offer to pass everything that we can agree upon. The administration has said: Let’s pass things we can agree on right now.

The Republicans don’t think that a disputed issue should hold up the most urgent aid for working families, but the answer so far from the Democratic leadership is no. The partisan games continue, so the Nation’s pain continues as well.

Laid-off workers and kids and parents and doctors and nurses are waiting for help. Republicans have been at the table for weeks. We just need seriousness on the other side. American families’ livelihoods are at stake. American lives are at stake. Democrats must rerun their political calculations and finally—finally—let Congress act.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, here we go again. Another day has passed. Nothing has happened—no incremental progress, no compromise. To some it might be just one day, but for too many Americans, another day fighting for your health or how you will pay your rent or how you will feed your kids is a brutal and terrifying thing.

What is one more day to an average American? It might be a day closer to the rent being due without having money to pay it. It might be another day with insufficient unemployment benefits while bills pile up. It might be another day closer to possibly needing SNAP assistance or help from a food bank.

One more day could mean constrained testing supplies don’t pick up as many cases of COVID–19, so the carriers can isolate and protect others. One day today means for one of my staffers—it was move-in day for his oldest daughter at college, but because she couldn’t get her test result back quickly enough, that experience, which is an exciting one for a young person, could not happen.

These are not simple legislative days while we follow a negotiation strategy. These are days when Americans are struggling and suffering, and we are not responding.

Democrats are here. We are ready to compromise any day. In fact, we have already offered to meet the White House halfway on the size of the relief effort. Our meet-in-the-middle offer was rebuffed Friday, and it was re-rebuffed Friday, and it was re-rebuffed Friday. Not responding.

I have heard the majority leader today and on other days characterize the Heroes Act in his remarks as a Democratic wish list. So what I would like to do is walk through the Democratic and Republican proposals side by side. At every step I hope listeners will ask themselves: Which of these agendas is oriented to helping Americans through hard times?

The Democratic proposal includes this: continuing expanded unemployment benefits for the duration of this
crisis; cash assistance for struggling families to avoid eviction and foreclosure rather than just delaying bills and piling up debt; sufficient funding and flexibility for State and local governments so that we don’t have a second wave when those governments are forced to cut their budgets, and so they don’t have to cut vital programs and lay off first responders during a global health pandemic; sufficient childcare funding both to help workers and to allow childcare providers to reopen so that we can get back to work; providing K–12 schools with the funding they need regardless of how they choose to reopen so that they can effectively educate students; ensuring every American can have access to free treatment for coronavirus; helping families keep food on the table by giving an increase in the SNAP benefit plus additional funding for nutrition programs; continuing support for America’s small businesses and for the integrity of our elections during a period of uncertainty and fear. Those are the proposals that are contained in the Heroes Act.

The Republican proposals, combining both the HEALS Act—the Senate GOP proposal—and President Trump’s Executive orders, include this: $1.75 billion to keep the FBI headquarters in DC so as to prevent potential hotel competition for the Trump International Hotel; expedite corporate tax writeoffs for business lunches—another top priority for the White House; sharp cuts to unemployment benefits for workers who are suffering and out of work; broad immunity for large corporations even if they are not taking any actions to protect their workers; the effective elimination of State rules, including a rule in Virginia designed to facilitate the safe reopening of businesses and the economy; undermining important protections for the enforcement of existing civil rights and disability laws; punishing public schools that choose to follow public health guidance but still want to provide their students with an education by reopening virtually; pushing a tax credit program that would make donations to private school scholarships already deductible as charitable contributions—that would make those now preferred over any other charitable contribution, likely draining money away from other charitable programs providing critical funding, as well; and finally, stopping payroll tax contributions into the Social Security trust fund, creating huge uncertainty for employers and employees but also threatening to undermine the fiscal future of Social Security retirement benefits.

These are elements of the Republican HEALS Act and President Trump’s Executive orders.

Equally important is what is not in any of the Republican proposals—either that offered in the Senate or implemented by the President’s Executive orders. Food aid for hungry kids and families? Nothing. Rental assistance? Nothing. Mortgage assistance? Nothing. Aid to the States and localities where Americans live and work? Nothing. Funding to ensure the integrity of the upcoming elections? Nothing.

So I would ask anyone, which of these proposals is more likely to help Americans who are experiencing hard times? If anyone is in doubt—and I don’t think any are—about what kinds of hard times people are in, yesterday I shared some stories from Virginians who have added last name Senators. Here are a few more of the constituents who have reached out to me.

The owner of a small business with 18 employees in Northern Virginia wrote me: “My business is struggling, my employees are suffering, and we need further assistance.” He went on to describe how his business was completely shut down in the crisis. Even now that they are open, they are operating at less than half their normal revenue for the foreseeable future. Their PPP and EIDL loan funds—they were glad to get them—have run out, and they need Congress to act to prevent the business from shuttering and those 18 jobs from disappearing permanently.

A woman from Henrico County, which is right outside of Richmond, wrote:

As I watch the news, it gets harder and harder. We do not know how to help... My son had COVID, he is still struggling with health issues and cannot work.

A woman in Springfield, here in Fairfax County, has been waiting for information that she needs mailed to her so she can get access to unemployment benefits, but the delays in the Postal Service have left her without the benefits she earned and is entitled to. She is a single mother of five and said: “At this point, I am struggling to feed my family.”

A woman from Dumfries in Prince William County said:

I’m asking for help with the aid for the unemployed workers like myself that Covid has affected. We are a family of 4 and I have lost my unemployment that we depended on for groceries. My husband’s salary covers the bills but I worked for groceries and any extras. As of now I may be able to get $190 a week from the state if they are able to process my claim. Please, I’m asking for bipartisan support on an unemployment package that will help families like mine to make it through this pandemic.

Finally, a woman from Alexandria—just across the Potomac—wrote:

I would like to request consideration for more emergency funding for daycare and preschool facilities. My 14 month old little girl attends daycare 5 days per week. Her daycare is wonderful, but it’s at risk of closing in the very near future because it only has 1/3 of the minimum number of enrollees that it needs to be able to afford to stay open. I’m an essential worker in healthcare, specifically in pediatric care, and my husband is an essential Department of Defense employee. If we have to stay home with my daughter, I can’t take care of the children of others, and I’m honestly very worried about the prospects of eventually finding a new job, as healthcare facilities are also suffering a large reduction of daily patients. I ask this from the bottom of my heart. Please provide funding for our daycare and preschool facilities, so they can be here for us through and after the pandemic, so parents in Virginia will be able to continue work now or return to work when it is safe.

It is not about politics. It is not about credit. It is about coming through for Americans when they need it. It is the case that, yesterday, Democratic leaders reached out again to the White House and repeated what they had been saying to the Senate last week in the middle. Let’s meet halfway between the Republican proposals laid out in the HEALS Act and the President’s Executive orders and the Democratic proposal passed by a sizeable majority in the House nearly 3 months ago.

That is what Americans want—negotiate, compromise, meet in the middle, and find common ground, just as we did in the CARES Act. The White House responded, something akin to the Democratic proposal to meet halfway. They said that is not going to happen.

We need to get serious. Days continue to tick by as families face hard decisions. Democrats are here, and we are ready. The White House must stop its “no compromise” position to meet the needs of American families. Let’s buckle down, make a deal, and get this done. The American people can’t afford to wait any longer.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:53 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:43 p.m., when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, after the Senate adjourns today, we will have our regular pro forma meetings through the end of the State work period.

If the Speaker of the House and the minority leader of the Senate decide to finally let another rescue package move forward for workers and for families, it would take bipartisan consent to meet for legislative business sooner than scheduled. As has been the case,
Senators would receive at least 24-hours’ notice before any unanticipated votes. The American people need more help. The coronavirus is not finished with our country. So Congress cannot afford to be finished helping our people. The Republicans have been waiting and trying to pass bipartisan relief, literally, for weeks. I hope our Democratic colleagues will let the Senate act sometime soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 771.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brett H. Ludwig, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Brett H. Ludwig, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.


LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 772.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christy Criswell Wiegand, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Christy Criswell Wiegand, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.


LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 646.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Thomas T. Cullen, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Thomas T. Cullen, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.


LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 358.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.
The motion was agreed to. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Diane Gujarati, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Diane Gujarati, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, John Thune, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Tom Cotton, Chuck Grassley, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Todd Young, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consider the nomination.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael N. Nemelka, of Utah, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Investment, Services, Labor, Environment, Africa, China, and the Western Hemisphere), with the rank of Ambassador.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 819.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Alina I. Marshall, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; and Christian N. Weiler, of Louisiana, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Diane Gujarati, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

The following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 819.

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

The clerk will report the nominations.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Alina I. Marshall, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years; and Christian N. Weiler, of Louisiana, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

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

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 3. An act to establish a fair price negotiation program, protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare Part D enrollees, and for other purposes.

H.R. 51. An act to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

H.R. 1425. An act to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to provide for a Medicare Affordability Fund to provide certain reinsurance payments to lower premiums in the individual health insurance market.

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–5278. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order that takes additional steps to address the threat posed by mobile applications, in particular the mobile application TikTok, with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5280. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order that takes additional steps to address the threat posed by mobile applications, in particular the mobile application WeChat, with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5281. A communication from the Chair- man and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting pursuant to law a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order that takes additional steps to address the threat posed by mobile applications, in particular the mobile application TikTok, with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5282. A communication from the Chair- man and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting pursuant to law a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order that takes additional steps to address the threat posed by mobile applications, in particular the mobile application TikTok, with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5283. A communication from the Chair- man and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting pursuant to law a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order that takes additional steps to address the threat posed by mobile applications, in particular the mobile application WeChat, with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019, to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a
Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Canada and Singapore; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5282. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Canada, Mexico, and Saudi Arabia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5283. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.187 (Rev 2), Guidance for Impacts of Fossil Fuel Power Plant Cogeneration, Tests, and Experiments” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5284. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Guide 1000–508, ‘Nuclear Power Plant — Power Test Reactor—Test 6, Dose Estimate’” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2020; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5285. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Indexing Adjustments for Certain Provisions Under Section 368 of the Internal Revenue Code” (Rev. Proc. 2020–36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5286. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Paid Parental Leave” (RIN2060–A996) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 12, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5287. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Robert D. McMurry, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5288. A communication from the Counsel for Regulations, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Preserving Community and Neighborhood Choice” (RIN2501–AD96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5289. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Definition of ‘Principal Place of Business’; Filing Fees for Notices of Certain Investments in the United States by Foreign Persons Involving Real Estate in the United States” (RIN1500–A065) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5290. A communication from the Director of Federal Home Loan Banks, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Rule—Prohibitions and Restrictions on Proprietary Trading and Certain Interests Antithetical to Law, the Report of a Rule Entitled ‘Preserving Community and Neighborhood Choice’” (RIN3064–AF17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 13, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5291. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Trust Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Automatic Enrollment Program” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 11, 2020; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without restriction:

S. 10. A bill to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–257).

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2453. A bill to assist in the conservation of the North Atlantic right whale by supporting and providing financial resources for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects of persons with expertise required for the conservation of North Atlantic right whales, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–258).

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:


By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 2909, a bill to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration (Rept. No. 116–290).

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. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CARPENTER):

S. 4357. A bill to maintain prompt and reliable postal services during the COVID–19 health emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 4528. A bill to strengthen the United States’ ties with Latin American and Caribbean countries by improving diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation, to counter efforts by the People’s Republic of China to undermine United States’ interests and values in the region, to promote economic development and competitiveness in the Latin America and Caribbean region; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 4529. A bill to improve access by Indian Tribes to support from the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support program (K–12) and the Library Services and Technology Assistance program (LSTA); and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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

S. 4530. A bill to establish a Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program within the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 689. A resolution condemning the People’s Republic of China’s use of military aggression to change the status quo at the Line of Actual Control between India and China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. Res. 681. A resolution recognizing the Chinese railroad workers who worked on the Transcontinental Railroad from 1865 to 1869 and the important contributions of those railroad workers to the growth of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUHRO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. Res. 682. A resolution recognizing the devastating explosion that rocked the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020, and expressing solidarity with the Lebanese people; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HOOKER, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 683. A resolution designating the first week of August 2020 as “World Breastfeeding Week”, and designating August 2020 as “National Breastfeeding Month”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Con. Res. 43. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should do everything in his power to expedite resolution and repayment of the defaulted sovereign debt of the People’s Republic of China held by 20,000 families in the United States represented by the American Holders Foundation, LLC; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 145. At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mrs. LOEFPFFER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 145, a bill to expand opportunity through greater choice in education, and for other purposes.

S. 393. At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 393, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices and judges of the courts of the United States.

S. 593. At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 to protect civil rights and otherwise prevent
meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide for same day registration.

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSALLY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 692, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the women in the United States who joined the workforce during World War II, providing the aircraft, vehicles, weaponry, ammunition, and other materials to win the war, that were referred to as “Rosie the Riveter”, in recognition of their contributions to the United States and the inspiration they have provided to ensuing generations.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to establish within the Smithsonian Institution the National Museum of the American Latino, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Oregon (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. McSALLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3832, a bill to establish a new Directorate of Technology in the redesignated National Science and Technology Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, and innovation, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4012, a bill to establish a $120,000,000,000 Restaurant Revitalization Fund to provide structured relief to food service or drinking establishments through December 31, 2020, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4129, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate advance refunding bonds.

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORETZI) were added as cosponsors of S. 4258, a bill to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives.

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, his name and the names of the Senator from Oregon (Ms. WINKELLY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4303, a bill to improve State short-term compensation programs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4310, a bill to prohibit in-person instructional requirements during the COVID-19 emergency.

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4421, a bill to provide temporary licensing reciprocity for telehealth and interstate health care treatment.

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4474, a bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to prohibit the export of certain unmanned aircraft systems.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 4493, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to establish an Inspector General of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 672, a resolution designating September 2020 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2616 intended to be proposed to S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):
S. 4530. A bill to establish a Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program within the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program Authorization Act, which I introduced today with Senator HARRIS, Representatives JOSH HARDER, JOHN GARAMENDI, JERRY MCMENY, GRACE NAPOLITANO, T.J. YORK, and RUDI BERTA—all Democrats from California—and DIANA DEGETTE and JOE NEGUSE—both Democrats from Colorado—have introduced identical companion legislation in the House.

Airborne snow observatory, ASO, technology is a snow monitoring tool that provides precise measurement of depth and water content for every square meter of snow in a watershed. The technology measures snow depth and water content using an airplane-mounted light detection, LiDAR, instrument coupled with an imaging spectrometer. When combined with conventional snow surveys, ASO provides a near-perfect picture of snow water content.

By next perfect, I mean that ASO estimates snowpack and runoff forecast with 96 to 99 percent accuracy. This is much better than current practices, which only measure snowpack and runoff with 50 to 90 percent accuracy.

These accuracies are achieved by comparing LiDAR measurements of bare ground topography in the summer with multiple measurements of snow depth during the winter. The greatest accuracies are based on once-a-month flights in watersheds earlier in the winter, and twice-monthly flights during the spring runoff period.

The much more precise measurements of snowpack that ASO provides will help the Department of the Interior improve snowpack monitoring to save 150,000 acre-feet of water within the Tuolumne River watershed.

Because they knew precisely how much snow was in the upper watersheds of the Tuolumne, Turlock was able to avoid a release of 150,000 acre-feet of water from Don Pedro Reservoir that otherwise would have been required for flood control.

Without ASO technology, Turlock would have had to assume for flood purposes that the melting snow in the upper Tuolumne watershed was at the high end of a wide range of guesses, using conventional snowpack technology. With the possibility of a big snowfall, Turlock would have had to release the extra 150,000 acre feet of water.

With water in California often costing $1000 per acre foot or more, errors in water-storage management can cost hundreds of millions of dollars in unnecessary releases from reservoirs and extra groundwater pumping.

Additional ASO flights to better measure snowpack often have a high return on investment, by one estimate as much as $1000 per acre foot for water supply benefits, and 80:1 for all benefits, including hydro, recharge, flood control, and ecosystem benefits.

After several years developing and refining the deployment of snowpack measurement technology, in December 2019, NASA concluded management of the ASO program and transferred it to the private sector. While consistent with NASA’s traditional approach to developing new technologies, this transfer reduces the certainty for Federal support of a program with significant public benefits, including improved water conservation, supply and delivery forecasts across the West.

The bill establishes a snow pack forecasting program at the Bureau of Reclamation within the Department of the Interior.

The Senate shall implement the program in two phases:

No. 1, the first step is to coordinate with other Federal agencies on how they will work together to improve analyses of snowpack depth. This interagency process will result in a report due to Congress by October 21, 2021.

No. 2, following the completion of the report, the Bureau shall cost-share with States, other Federal agencies and other partners on increased LiDAR flights and other activities in particular watersheds.

This program is expected to benefit many Western States, including but not limited to Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains; the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico; and the Colorado River tributaries in Utah and Arizona, and the Pacific Northwest.

Fifteen million dollars would be authorized for the program from fiscal years 2022 to 2026.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 680—CONDEMNING THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA’S USE OF MILITARY AGRASSION TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO AT THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA

Mr. CORYN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was printed, other Federal agencies on the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 680

Whereas, since a truce ended the 1962 war between India and the People’s Republic of China, the countries have been divided by a Line of Actual Control, and New Mexico; and the Colorado River tributaries in Utah and Arizona, and the Pacific Northwest.

Fifteen million dollars would be authorized for the program from fiscal years 2022 to 2026.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 680—CONDEMNING THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA’S USE OF MILITARY AGRASSION TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO AT THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA

Mr. CORYN (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was printed, other Federal agencies on the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 680

Whereas, since a truce ended the 1962 war between India and the People’s Republic of China, the countries have been divided by a Line of Actual Control, and New Mexico; and the Colorado River tributaries in Utah and Arizona, and the Pacific Northwest.

Fifteen million dollars would be authorized for the program from fiscal years 2022 to 2026.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill.

Whereas the United States has committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and views China’s actions along the Line of Actual Control, in the Indian Ocean, and in the Western Pacific as a threat to the stability and security of the international community;

Whereas the Government of India has taken steps to secure its telecommunications infrastructure from Chinese security threats;

Whereas it mutually benefits the United States and India to strengthen their Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership through increased defense interoperability, intelligence sharing, access to military installations, and trade;

Whereas the United States and India have signed three foundational military agreements, the General Security of Military Information Agreement, the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Understanding, and the Communications, Compatibility, and Security Agreement, and are working to sign the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement; and

Whereas it is in the mutual interest of the United States and India to reinforce their defense and intelligence relationships both bilaterally, as well as multilaterally through the Quadilateral Dialogue with Japan and Australia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Congress—

(1) condemns the People’s Republic of China’s use of military force to change the status quo at the Line of Actual Control, as well as its refusal to demarcate that Line in accordance with past bilateral agreements with India;

(2) supports a diplomatic solution that rapidly restores the April 2020 status quo at the Line of Actual Control;

(3) commends India for taking steps to secure its telecommunications infrastructure
from Chinese security threats and encourages multilateral engagement in these efforts, including through the Blue Dot Network;

(4) commits to deepening defense, intelligence, and economic ties with India in line with fulfilling the potential of the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership; and

(5) supports expanded bilateral and multilateral partnerships, such as the Quadrilateral Dialogue, to promote a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

SENATE RESOLUTION 681—RECOGNIZING THE CHINESE RAILROAD WORKERS FOR THEIR WORK ON THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD FROM 1865 TO 1869 AND THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THOSE RAILROAD WORKERS TO THE GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. Res. 681

Whereas the Transcontinental Railroad was 1 of the most remarkable engineering feats of the American community that exists throughout the United States and the world; and

Whereas construction of the nearly 2,000-mile Transcontinental Railroad spanned 6 years;

Whereas the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad facilitated commerce and reduced cross-country travel time from 6 months to 1 week;

Whereas nearly 12,000 Chinese immigrants (referred to in this preamble as the “Chinese railroad workers”) were employed in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad, constituting more than 80 percent of the workforce of the Central Pacific Railroad Company;

Whereas the Chinese railroad workers were—

(1) considered indispensable by the foremen on the project; and

(2) respected for their work ethic and discipline;

Whereas the Chinese railroad workers—

(1) given the most difficult and dangerous jobs; and

(2) paid lower wages than other railroad workers;

Whereas nearly 1,200 Chinese railroad workers died from work accidents, avalanches, and explosions while working in the Sierra Nevada Mountains;

Whereas, in honor of the courage shown by the Chinese railroad workers in organizing for fair wages and safe working conditions, the Department of Labor inducted the Chinese railroad workers into the Labor Hall of Honor in 2014;

Whereas the fight of the Chinese railroad workers against discrimination set an example for millions of Asian Americans who later came to the United States;

Whereas the descendants of the Chinese railroad workers and the wider Asian-American community view the sacrifices of the Chinese railroad workers as integral to the creation of the vibrant and growing Asian-American community that exists throughout the United States; and

Whereas the legacy of the Chinese railroad workers continues to have a profound and positive impact on life in the United States by advancing the ideals of equal opportunity and the dignity of work for everyone; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that—

(A) the Chinese immigrants who worked on the Transcontinental Railroad from 1865 to 1869 (referred to in this resolving clause as the “Chinese railroad workers”); and

(B) the contributions of the Chinese railroad workers to the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad and the growth of the United States;

(2) honors the Chinese railroad workers who lost their lives working in the Sierra Nevada Mountains; and

(3) acknowledges the risks faced by the Chinese railroad workers in completing the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad while enduring discrimination and unequal pay and treatment.

SENATE RESOLUTION 682—RECOGNIZING THE DEVASTATING EXPLOSION THAT ROCKED THE PORT OF BEIRUT ON AUGUST 4, 2020, AND EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH THE LEBANESE PEOPLE

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 682

Whereas, on August 4, 2020, 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate detonated at the Port of Beirut, killing more than 200 people and injuring thousands more;

Whereas the dangerous and highly explosive material was unsecured at the Port of Beirut since 2014, despite repeated warnings over the threat the stockpile posed to the Port of Beirut, the surrounding area, and the Port of Beirut since 2014, despite repeated warnings over the threat the stockpile posed to the Port of Beirut, the surrounding area, and the people; and

Whereas the blast destroyed vast swaths of infrastructure across Beirut and displaced up to 300,000 people;

Whereas the blast destroyed or damaged the entire port of Beirut, through which Lebanon imports the bulk of its food, including the destruction of approximately 120,000 metric tons of desperate food stocks, according to the United Nations;

Whereas, prior to the blast, nearly 1,000,000 people in the Beirut metropolitan area including more than 500,000 children, did not have the means to buy basic essentials, including food;

Whereas Lebanon already struggles to support the largest per-capita population of refugees in the world, including nearly 1,000,000 Syrian refugees currently registered with the United Nations; and

Whereas the governor of Beirut predicted that the full cost of recovery and relief could be between $3,000,000,000 and $5,000,000,000;

Whereas several Beirut hospitals, already struggling to procure medical equipment and pay medical staff amid the spread of COVID-19, have sustained too much blast damage to admit new patients;

Whereas the blasts coincides with a period of protracted political crisis in Lebanon; and

Whereas, after months of political deadlock, Lebanon formed a government in January of this year with the backing of Hezbollah, a United States-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO), and its allies;

Whereas endemic corruption and Hezbollah’s mismanagement has led Lebanon to the brink of economic collapse, including an 80 percent currency devaluation since 2019, one of the highest rates of public debt, food insecurity, and hyperinflation;

Whereas the United States Government has longstanding concerns about Hezbollah’s use of and influence over the Beirut port as a transit and storage point for its terrorist enterprises;

Whereas the people of Lebanon across the political spectrum have renewed demands for a meaningful change in Lebanon’s political leadership, government accountability, and transparency;

Whereas, following the explosion and public outcry from the Lebanese people, Prime Minister Hassan Diab announced on August 10, 2020, that he and his government would step down;

Whereas international donors, including the United States, have pledged $3,000,000,000 in aid to Lebanon at a virtual summit hosted by French President Emanuel Macron;

Whereas the United States, through the United States Agency for International Development, announced on August 7, 2020, that it would provide more than $15,000,000 in humanitarian assistance to the people of Lebanon following the explosions at the Port of Beirut, and that these funds would support life-saving medical responses and relief for the immediate needs of people facing this tragedy, including food aid for 50,000 people for three months and medical and pharmaceutical support for up to 60,000 people for three months; and

Whereas a stable Lebanon with a credible, transparent government free from Iranian and Hezbollah interference is in the broader national security interests of the United States and United States partners and allies; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends its heartfelt condolences to, and stands with, the people of Lebanon;

(2) supports United States Government efforts to provide emergency humanitarian relief in concert with other governments and international partners;

(3) affirms that United States assistance, led by the United States Agency for International Development, should be delivered directly to the Lebanese people through properly vetted channels, organizations, and individuals;

(4) calls on the Government of Lebanon to conduct a credible, impartial, and transparent investigation into the cause of, and responsibility for, the explosion, and include impartial international experts as part of the investigation team;

(5) calls on the investigation team to evaluate and determine the root causes of instability and economic mismanagement that have impacted the people of Lebanon; and

(6) further calls on the Government of Lebanon to restore faith and confidence by prioritizing policies and programs that advance the interests of the people of Lebanon.

SENATE RESOLUTION 683—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF AUGUST 2020 AS “WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK”, AND DESIGNATING AUGUST 2020 AS “NATIONAL BREASTFEEDING MONTH”

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BERNIE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:
Whereas the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action has designated the first week of August as ‘‘World Breastfeeding Week,’’ the United States Breastfeeding Committee has designated August as ‘‘National Breastfeeding Month’’; 

Whereas National Breastfeeding Month focuses on how data and measurements can be used to build and reinforce the connections between breastfeeding and a broad spectrum of other health topics and initiatives; 

Whereas August is National Breastfeeding Week and National Breastfeeding Month provide important opportunities to address barriers to breastfeeding faced by families across the United States and around the world; 

Whereas breastfeeding is a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for life-long health and wellness; 

Whereas the evidence of the value of breastfeeding to the health of women and children is scientific, solid, and continually reaffirmed by new research; 

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes an annual Breastfeeding Report Card, which has found that, among the nation of infants who were ever breastfed in the United States is increasing, the United States continues to miss targets for exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months of life; 

Whereas there are substantial racial and ethnic disparities in access to breastfeeding support, resulting in reduced breastfeeding rates and an associated increase in risk for a variety of negative health outcomes; 

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, the National Immunization Survey reports that 86.6 percent of White infants have ever been breastfed, while— 

(1) 74 percent of Black infants have ever been breastfed; and 

(2) 76.5 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native infants have ever been breastfed; 

Whereas the Healthy People initiative of the Department of Health and Human Services has consistently identified breastfeeding as a national health priority; 

Whereas the majority of new parents want to breastfeed their baby and community, health care, and employment settings; 

Whereas, while some parents may choose not to be able to breastfeed, all parents can benefit from access to education on infant nutrition and wellness; 

Whereas protecting and supporting breastfeeding for parents who are able to breastfeed is essential to ensuring critical food security and immunologic protection for the youngest residents of the United States and the world; 

Whereas the consistent and well-documented health, economic, and environmental benefits of breastfeeding show that breastfeeding is an investment that will continue to produce measurable dividends many times over across the United States and for families, employers, and government entities; 

Resolved, That the Senate— 

(1) designates the first week of August 2020 as ‘‘World Breastfeeding Week’’; 

(2) designates August 2020 as ‘‘National Breastfeeding Month’’; 

(3) supports the goals of World Breastfeeding Week and National Breastfeeding Month; and 

(4) supports policies and funding to ensure that all parents who choose to breastfeed can access a full range of appropriate support from child care and health care institutions, health care insurers, employers, researchers, and government entities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 43—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO ACHIEVE RESOLUTION AND REPAYMENT OF THE DEFAULTED SOVEREIGN DEBT OF THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HELD BY 20,000 FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTED BY THE AMERICAN BONDHOLDERS FOUNDATION, LLC

Ms. MCSALLY (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 43

Whereas sovereign debt obligations (in this preamble referred to as ‘‘bonds’’) of the Government of the People’s Republic of China were offered and sold in United States capital markets; 

Whereas the bonds constitute full faith and credit sovereign obligations of the internationally recognized Government of the People’s Republic of China; 

Whereas the People’s Republic of China subsequently defaulted on those bonds; 

Whereas the bonds constitute an unpaid general obligation of the Government of the People’s Republic of China; 

Whereas, under the successor government doctrine of settled international law (relating to establishing the continuity of obligations among successor governments), the repayment obligation for the bonds is the obligation of the Government of the People’s Republic of China; 

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China continues to refuse to repay the bonds held by United States citizens; 

Whereas sovereign debt obligations (in this section, the term ‘‘bonds’’ is used to refer to the debts, which is a clear violation of United States law, international law, and the rules and regulations of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation); 

Whereas the Government of the People’s Republic of China honored repayment of the exact same bonds held by citizens of the United Kingdom while rejecting the claims of citizens of the United States; 

Whereas, since the normalization of bilateral relations between the United States and the People’s Republic of China in the 1970s, the United States has shown good will to the People’s Republic of China by focusing on an expansion of bilateral trade while deferring recognition of its human rights violations, to avoid offending the People’s Republic of China; 

Whereas, under standard legal principles, the People’s Republic of China’s defaulted sovereign gold debt has been accumulating compound interest for more than 62 years and is estimated to exceed the total amount of the United States national debt to the People’s Republic of China; 

Whereas, as representative of United States bondholders who own the People’s Republic of China’s defaulted sovereign gold bonds held by the American Bondholders Foundation, LLC, has proposed using the People’s Republic of China’s obligations as payment for the United States national debt to the People’s Republic of China; 

Whereas, the Government of the People’s Republic of China covered up the outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to as ‘‘COVID-19’’) during its early stages, resulting in a global pandemic and more than $2 trillion in financial damage to the United States; 

Whereas the United States Government pays its debts, and so should the Government of the People’s Republic of China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that the President should do everything in his power to achieve resolution and repayment of the defaulted sovereign debt of the People’s Republic of China held by 20,000 families in the United States who are represented by the American Bondholders Foundation, LLC, for the benefit of the bondholders and the people of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2551. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2499 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 178, to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2551. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2499 proposed by Mr. MCCONNELL to the bill S. 178, to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.

(a) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Transportation shall use any amounts made available to the Secretary for grant programs for covered projects, and not otherwise obligated, to provide additional funds to covered projects.

(b) Amount.—In providing additional funds for a covered project under subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation shall provide an amount equal to not less than 10 percent of the total project cost.

(c) Federal Share.—Amounts made available for a covered project under subsection (a) shall not be counted toward the Federal share of the project.

(d) MODIFICATIONS TO AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Transportation shall modify a grant agreement for a covered project as necessary to provide additional funds under subsection (a) in accordance with the amount determined under subsection (b).

(e) DEFINITION OF COVERED PROJECT.—In this section, the term ‘‘covered project’’ means a highway project, a public transportation project, a rural transportation project, or a tribal transportation project that— 

(1) during the period beginning on January 1, 2017, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act; 

(2) has been awarded a grant under a competitive grant program of the Secretary of Transportation; or
ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 THROUGH TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, August 14, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, August 18, at 12 p.m.; Friday, August 21, at 11:15 a.m.; Tuesday, August 25, at 2:30 p.m.; Friday, August 28, at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, September 1, at 7 a.m.; Friday, September 4, at 10 a.m.

I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, September 4, it next convene at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, and 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; further, that upon the closing of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume the Ludwing nomination; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXIII, the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3) to establish a fair price negotiation program to protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare part D enrollees, and for other purposes. A bill (H.R. 51) to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union. A bill (H.R. 1425) to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act To provide for a Improve Health Insurance Affordability Fund to provide for certain reinsurance payments to lower premiums in the individual health insurance market.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

APPOINTMENT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 81–754, as amended by Public Law 93–536 and further amended by Public Law 100–69, appoints the following Senator to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission: the Honorable DANIEL SULLIVAN of Alaska.

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

The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3) to establish a fair price negotiation program to protect the Medicare program from excessive price increases, and establish an out-of-pocket maximum for Medicare part D enrollees, and for other purposes. A bill (H.R. 51) to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union. A bill (H.R. 1425) to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act To provide for a Improve Health Insurance Affordability Fund to provide for certain reinsurance payments to lower premiums in the individual health insurance market.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

APPOINTMENT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 81–754, as amended by Public Law 93–536 and further amended by Public Law 100–69, appoints the following Senator to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission: the Honorable DANIEL SULLIVAN of Alaska.
To be lieutenant colonel

ANGELA M. NELSON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 661 AND 9034:

To be general

LT. GEN. DAVID W. ALLVIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 661:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JAMES C. DAWKINS, JR.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 661:

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate August 13, 2020:

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICES

RICHARD GIACOLONE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION DIRECTOR.

THE JUDICIARY

ALINA I. MARSHALL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

CHRISTIAN N. WEILER, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL N. NEMELKA, OF UTAH, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (INVESTMENT, SERVICES, LABOR, ENVIRONMENT, AFRICA, CHINA, AND THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE), WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on August 13, 2020 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

ARMY NOMINATION OF COL. BRADLEY D. MOSES, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 24, 2020.
Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5403–S5414

Measures Introduced: Four bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4527–4530, S. Res. 680–683, and S. Con. Res. 43.

Measures Reported:

S. 10, to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida. (S. Rept. No. 116–257)

S. 2453, to assist in the conservation of the North Atlantic right whale by supporting and providing financial resources for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects of persons with expertise required for the conservation of North Atlantic right whales, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 116–257)

S. 2782, to improve provisions of law relating to sexual harassment and assault prevention at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (S. Rept. No. 116–258)

Report to accompany S. 2909, to extend the authority of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to enter into leases of non-excess property of the Administration. (S. Rept. No. 116–260)

Appointments:

National Historical Publications and Records Commission: The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 81–754, as amended by Public Law 93–536 and further amended by Public Law 100–365, appointed the following Senator to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission: Senator Sullivan.

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, August 14, 2020, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 12 p.m.; Friday, August 21, 2020, at 11:15 a.m.; Tuesday, August 25, 2020, at 2:30 p.m.; Friday, August 28, 2020, at 2 p.m.; Tuesday, September 1, 2020, at 7 a.m.; Friday, September 4, 2020, at 10 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, September 4, 2020, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Ludwig Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Brett H. Ludwig, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, August 13, 2020, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of Thursday, August 13, 2020, ripen at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Wiegand Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Christy Criswell Wiegand, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.
A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Brett H. Ludwig, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Jarbou Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Hala Y. Jarbou, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Christy Criswell Wiegand, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Cullen Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Thomas T. Cullen, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Hala Y. Jarbou, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Gujarati Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Diane Gujarati, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Thomas T. Cullen, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.
- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

- Michael N. Nemelka, of Utah, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Investment, Services, Labor, Environment, Africa, China, and the Western Hemisphere), with the rank of Ambassador.
- Richard Giacolone, of Virginia, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director.
- Alina I. Marshall, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.
- Christian N. Weiler, of Louisiana, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

- Robert Benedict Bowes, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2025.
- 2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
- 2 Army nominations in the rank of general.
- Routine lists in the Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

- 1 Army nomination in the rank of general.
Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

---

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 2 p.m. on Friday, August 14, 2020.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Friday, August 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 p.m., Friday, August 14

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 2 p.m.