The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SARBANES).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, March 23, 2021,
I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN P. SARBANES to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.
NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, in You we trust and pray Your blessing on this House and its Members. In these first days of spring, may we see the example of new life emerging from the bleakest of seasons, confident in Your care and sure of Your promises. As trees planted by streams of water, may we extend our roots: ourselves, our energy, and our desires to the refreshment of Your life-giving spirit.

And when the heat of our days increases, and the schedule becomes withering, restore us with a reinvigorated desire to serve You.

When the storms of debate and disagreements intensify, may we not throw ourselves into the path of the tempest, but live into the grace we receive from Your promises.

And when the drought of certainty and the famine of significance seem to deplete us of any vestige of hope, revive our faithfulness that we, in this season, may bear fruit for Your kingdom.

We offer this prayer in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 23, 2021,
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 23, 2021, at 9:37 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 128.
With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,
ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, March 19, 2021:

H.R. 1276, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes;

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED
The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title on Friday, March 19, 2021:

ADJOURNMENT
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Friday, March 26, 2021.
Thereupon (at 11 o’clock and 3 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, March 26, 2021, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:
EC–671. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency’s final rule — Oxalic Acid; Exemption
H.R. 2131. A bill to amend title XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of comprehensive tobacco cessation services under such titles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Mrs. BEITLER, and Ms. CHINCHILLI).

H.R. 2136. A bill to authorize a grant program for the development and implementation of public and affordable housing plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. RADERMAGEN, Mr. MANN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. CARWATTS, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BURK KAKIS, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H.R. 2137. A bill to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BACON, and Mr. KUPTZKY):

H.R. 2138. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for the membership of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. TRONE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. BACON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. ESPLAILLAT, and Mr. BOSTY):

H.R. 2139. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a National Transit Frontline Workforce Training Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself and Mr. KUSTOFSKY):

H.R. 2140. A bill to establish a demonstration program to provide payments on eligible loans for individuals who are eligible for the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARL (for himself, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. SCALISE):

H.R. 2141. A bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to require payments to Gulf producing States and their coastal political subdivisions to compensate for reductions in payments under the Act resulting from the moratorium on new oil and natural gas leases in offshore waters under Executive Order 14008 of January 27, 2021; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONACI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GREGALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JONES, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MATHU, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MENG, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NGUKE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SHERRY, Mr. SIEBS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VELOAZQUEZ, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. HUFFMAN);

H.R. 2142. A bill to require regulation of wastes associated with the exploration, development, or production of crude oil, natural gas, or geothermal energy under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. BARRAGAN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONACI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GREGALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JONES, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MATHU, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MENG, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NGUKE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SHERRY, Mr. SIEBS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VELOAZQUEZ, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 2143. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study with respect to the discharge of specified wastes associated with the exploration, development, or production of crude oil and gas operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. ACUNCINLOS, and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 2144. A bill to Title 49, United States Code, to establish a Southern New England Regional Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Ms. PALAZZO, Mr. VELA, and Mr. COCOTREZ):

H.R. 2145. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to prohibit debt collectors from collecting, or attempting to collect, on a debt of a consumer with respect to which the statute of limitations has expired, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CRIST (for himself and Mr. PALAZZO):

H.R. 2146. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for the membership of the Commandant of the Coast Guard on the Joint Chiefs of Staff; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CUELLAR (for himself, Mr. MCCARTHY):

H.R. 2147. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 2148. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to prescribe a motor vehicle safety standard requiring all motor vehicles be equipped with advanced drunk driving prevention technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BUSHE, Mr. KHRANNA, Mr. POCON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAUBRO, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. NGUKE, Ms. OMAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. DEFRANCO):

H.R. 2149. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the negotiation of lower covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and the establishment and application of a formulary by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under Medicare part D, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 2150. A bill to authorize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BALDNER, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 2151. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a Motorcyclist Advisory Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York (for himself, Mr. ZELDEN, Mr. GARBABINO, Mr. SUOZZI, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. MEKES, Ms. MENG, Ms. VELOAZQUEZ, Mr. TUFFRIES, Mr. CLARK of New York, Mr. MALAKAKIS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. OCARO-COTREZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. DELGAIDO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRINNEY, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. REED, Mr. KATKO, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. JACOBS of New York, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 2152. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 Manhattan Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the “Indiana Hunt-Mart Post Office Building”, to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 2153. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 2154. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for expanded coverage of services furnished by genetic counselors under part D of the program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 2155. A bill to plan, develop, and make recommendations to increase access to sexual assault examinations for survivors by holding hearings, evaluating the grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of...
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such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself and Ms. Kuster):

H.R. 2147. A bill to prohibit States and local educational agencies that ban books from receiving funds under the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURA, Ms. JACOBSON, Mr. JONES, Ms. Lee of California, Mr. NEUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. O'MARA, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLABO, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 2148. A bill to significantly lower prescription drug prices for patients in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median prices at which the drugs are available in other States, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mr. REVEL, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 2149. A bill to provide that certain rules and guidance related to waivers for State implementation under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Miss RICK of New York):

H.R. 2150. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MALTA (for himself and Miss RICE of New York):

H.R. 2151. A bill to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 2152. A bill to provide grants to States, localities, and Indian Tribes to reform their criminal justice system to encourage the replacement of the use of pay-ment of secured money bail as a condition of pretrial release in criminal cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself, Mr. WEKER of Texas, Mr. BARIN, Mr. WALTZ, Mrs. RICK of Oklahoma, Mr. OBERKLUTE, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. STEVERS, Mr. D. SCOTT of California, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. FRENSTA, Mr. LATUNER, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. NEJIBI):

H.R. 2153. A bill to prohibit basic scientific research and support technology innovation for the economic and national security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MALTA (for himself, Mr. ESHERO, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. NEUSE, Ms. WASSERMANN SCHULTZ, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CAPPETEN, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 2154. A bill to amend section 230(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 to prevent immunity for internet services for certain claims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MALTA:

H.R. 2155. A bill to require the Corps of Engineers to notify affected communities before releasing water contaminated with cyanobacteria from flood risk management projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 2156. A bill to modify the project for Central and Southern Florida to include public health considerations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 2157. A bill to require the Corps of Engineers to develop certain discharges of water at Lake Okeechobee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. O'KEEFE (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JONES, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. MCCULLUM, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. SCOTT of Michigan, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. TLABO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. RUPPERSGERGER):

H.R. 2158. A bill to provide emergency relief assistance under a modified Community Development Block Grant program for communities facing economic damage from civil unrest and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. O'KEEFE (for himself and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 2159. A bill to prohibit fleeing law enforcement officers enforcing immigration laws, from receiving funds under the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CONNor, Mr. NORTON, Mr. MORALES, Mr. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. GRILLO, Mr. MANGINO, Mr. Business, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. WELCH, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BEYER, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LYONCH, Ms. ESHERO, Ms. EVERETT, Mr. SHERES, Mr. NEUSE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. NADLER, Mr. JONES, Ms. MENG, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 2160. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require testing of underground sources of drinking water in connection with hydraulic fracturing operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. PEERY, Mr. MANN, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mr. HICE of Georgia):

H.R. 2161. A bill to limit the authority of a State or other related taxing jurisdiction to impose a tax on a resident who has relocated permanent residence to another State or its related taxing jurisdiction; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself, Mr. BILIKES, Mr. CAVALLO, Mr. M. WILSON, Mr. KIND, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2162. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the inclusion of certain audio-only diagnoses in the determination of risk adjustment for Medicare Advantage plans and PACE programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself and Mrs. MILLER-MERKES):

H.R. 2167. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of the time limitations for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SHERHILL (for herself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. WILLHIT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SHERES, Ms. TINNEY, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BLUETT ROCHESTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. O'HALLERAN):

H.R. 2168. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the payment of tele-health services under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. WENSTDROP, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mrs. GRUENDL):

H.R. 2169. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health insurance or health care coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide a exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol.

By other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Carterwright, Ms. Degette, Mr. Cortez, Mr. Norton, Ms. Knanna, Ms. Norton, Mr. Morell, Ms. Velazquez, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Manganano, Mr. Business, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Welch, Ms. Barragan, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Raskin, Mr. Beier, Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Escher, Ms. Everett, Mr. Sheres, Mr. Neuse, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Bonamici, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Jones, Ms. Meng, and Mr. Huffman):

H.R. 2161. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to require testing of underground sources of drinking water in connection with hydraulic fracturing operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.
By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:
H. R. 2169. A bill to prohibit certain business
interests from receiving assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. SOTO:
H. R. 2170. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to improve access to adult vaccines under Medicare; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. UPTON, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. WITT-MAN):
H. R. 2171. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide certain expenses associated with obtaining or maintaining recognized postsecondary credentials to be treated as qualified higher education expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NOR顿, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LAN-GEVIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CHU, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BUMENICK, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. ESCH, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. HAYES, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CAULFIELD, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Mr. KATKO):
H. R. 2172. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit law enforcement officers from sexual activity with persons in custody, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STANTON:
H. R. 2173. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to wastewater infrastructure workforce development; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. BUSTOS, Mr. LONG, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. GOTTHMIRER, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mrs. AXNE):
H. R. 2174. A bill to establish a rural post-
secondary and economic development grant program; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. STEWART:
H. R. 2175. A bill to prohibit certain heads of Federal agencies and Administrations from imposing a mask requirement on certain Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. VEITCH:
H. R. 2176. A bill to provide for the continu-
ued and uninterrupted production of domes-
tical minerals in the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in ad-
dition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for her-
sel, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. ESCH, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BUSH, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. BOWMAN, and Ms. WIL-
LIAMS of Georgia):
H. R. 2177. A bill to require a committee of the House to conduct oversight of transportation funding, and to reimburse the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. GRI-
JALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CHU, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. GARCÍA of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SCHWAB, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. ADAMS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. COUZO, Ms. MERRILL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Ms. JONES):
H. R. 2178. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to provide treatment for diabetes in minority communities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. GRI-
JALVA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CHU, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. GARCÍA of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SCHWAB, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. ADAMS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. COUZO, Ms. MERRILL, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Ms. JONES):
H. R. 2179. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize cost-shar-
ing with respect to coverage of insulin as a covered part D drug and associated medical supplies and to provide mail order access to insulin and such supplies under the Medicare program during the COVID-19 emergency pe-
riod; to the Committee on Energy and Com-
merce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be sub-
sequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. BAHN, Mr. GOODMAN of Texas, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. HUBBARD, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. POSEY, Mr. CATHWORTH, Mr. FALLON, Mr. ABBOTTSON, Ms. HERRELL, and Mr. SABOL):
H. R. 2180. A bill to relocate fencing around the Capitol Buildings and the United States Capitol Grounds, and the Secret Service of the U.S. Capitol Police, to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently deter-
mined by the Speaker, in each case for con-
sideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. BUSH, Mr. DOGGENTHAAL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. NEZUZE, Mr. OMAR, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):
H. R. 2181. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the importation of affordable and safe drugs from countries that are not members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WEXTON (for herself, Mr. BETER, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RICHARDSON, and Mrs. TRAHAN):
H. R. 2182. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide funding to States for extending broadband service to unserved areas in partnership with broadband service providers; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

By Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Ms. DELAURDO, Mrs. LAW-RENCE, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. LUSCINCOLL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. ELUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BUSH, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachu-
setts, Ms. CLARKER of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEUGLER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. DINGLE, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOLYE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. GARCÍA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GOMEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACKSON, Mr. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JACKSON of California, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KRATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. KIRK-
PATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAAMDORTH, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LEE of California, Mr. LEE of New Jersey, Mr. LEON FERNÁNDEZ, Mr. LEVY of California, Ms. LIEU, Ms. LOFUREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MADDEN of New York, Mr. S. PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MANNING, Ms. MATSU, Mrs. McBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCEINY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEUZE, Mr. NEWMAN, Mr. NEWSON of Florida, Ms. NICHOLS of California, Mr. ORR, Mr. PARRIS, Ms. PARKER of California, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROSS, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPIER, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SUOZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. TRAHAJ, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VASQUEZ, Mr. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VELASQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Miss RICE of New York):
By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. POSHY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. RICE of Georgia, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. VANEWHERE, Mrs. HARRSHIBERGER, Mr. PAINTER, Mr. CUTHBORN, Mr. DUNN, and Mr. NORMAN):  
H. Res. 266. A resolution expressing appreciation and recognition for President Trump and the Trump administration for the creation of Operation Warp Speed and the historic development of a COVID-19 vaccine; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.  
By Mr. BERGE (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. BAIRD):  
H. Res. 267. A resolution recognizing the duty of the House of Representatives to abandon Modern Monetary Theory and recognizing that the acceptance of Modern Monetary Theory would lead to higher deficits and higher inflation; to the Committee on Financial Services.  
By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. RYAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GARTZ, Mr. POSHY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. VALADAU, Mr. MAST, Mr. C. SCOTT, Rep. of Florida, Mr. DEJARLAIS, Mr. BERNOLTE, Mr. DUNN, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FEINSTRAS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. STEPANIK, Mr. CAWTHERN, Mr. WENSTROOP, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. BABIN):  
H. Res. 268. A resolution recognizing the patriotism and contributions of veterans service organizations; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.  
By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Ms. BONAMICI):  
H. Res. 269. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the weeks of March 28, 2021, through April 10, 2021, as National Young Audiences Arts for Learning Weeks; to the Committee on Education and Labor.  
By Ms. SANCHEZ (for herself, Mr. GALLEGHE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. MCGRATH, Mr. STEUBS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BUDD, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. PUTTERS, Ms. WILLIAM of Georgia, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. VELA, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. HIMES):  
H. Res. 270. Resolution expressing support for designation of a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.  

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT  
Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.  
By Mr. BERA:  
H.R. 2118  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.  
By Mrs. AXNE:  
H.R. 2121  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.  
By Ms. BARRAGÁN:  
H.R. 2122  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.  
By Mrs. BEATTY:  
H.R. 2123  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.  
By Mr. BLUMENAUER:  
H.R. 2124  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.  
By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:  
H.R. 2125  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.  
By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:  
H.R. 2126  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.  
By Mr. BOST:  
H.R. 2127  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.  

H.R. 2128  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18).  
By Mr. BROWN:  
H.R. 2129  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18).  
By Mrs. BUSTOS:  
H.R. 2130  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.  
By Mr. CARL:  
H.R. 2131  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, section 7, clause 1 of the Constitution.  
By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:  
H.R. 2132  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Native American tribes.)  
By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:  
H.R. 2133  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce among the various States, and with the Indian Tribes.)  
By Ms. CICILLINE:  
H.R. 2134  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, section 8, clause 3.  
By Mr. CRIST:  
H.R. 2136  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.  
By Mr. CUELLAR:  
H.R. 2137  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.  
By Mr. FOSTER:  
H.R. 2138  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.  
By Mr. FOSTER:  
H.R. 2139  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.  
By Mr. GALLAGHER:  
H.R. 2141  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.  
By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:  
H.R. 2142  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, clause 7.  
By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:  
H.R. 2143  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8.  
By Ms. JAYAPAL:  
H.R. 2145  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.  
By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:  
H.R. 2146  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)
By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 2147. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KHANNA:
H.R. 2148. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Ms. KUSTER:
H.R. 2149. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LANGEVIN:
H.R. 2150. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LATTA:
H.R. 2151. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States . . .

By Mr. LIEU:
H.R. 2152. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LUCAS:
H.R. 2153. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: ‘The Congress shall have Power . . . to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.’

By Mr. MALINOWSKI:
H.R. 2154. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3, 9, and 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. MAST:
H.R. 2155. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Necessary and Proper Clause in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MAST:
H.R. 2156. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Necessary and Proper Clause in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MAST:
H.R. 2157. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Necessary and Proper Clause in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. OMAR:
H.R. 2158. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PHILLIPS:
H.R. 2159. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws ‘which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution any “other” powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States.

By Mr. POCAN:
H.R. 2160. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. RASKIN:
H.R. 2161. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. ROSENDALE:
H.R. 2162. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RUIZ:
H.R. 2163. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Sections 8, 9, and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Ms. SCHATZ:
H.R. 2164. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 2165. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:
H.R. 2166. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. SEWELL:
H.R. 2166. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Ms. SHEPPARD:
H.R. 2167. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for executing the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. STEFANIK:
H.R. 2168. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. STEWART:
H.R. 2169. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. TOUCHEL:
H.R. 2170. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
According to Article I: Section 8, Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, see below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

By Ms. TUCKER:
H.R. 2171. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for executing the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. WATERS:
H.R. 2172. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. WATERS:
H.R. 2173. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:
H.R. 2180. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for executing the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. WEXTON:
H.R. 2182.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.J. Res. 33.

California.

DEUTCH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. M CNERNEY, Mr. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SCWORODKA, Mr. SCHULZ, Mr. TOYNO, Mr. WATT.

H.R. 137: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 13: Mr. CONE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1742: Mr. CRING, Mr. GETFORTH, Mr. WEINER, Mr. SANTOS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HAVILA, Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BARRAGAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 1378: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1381: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 540: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 1390: Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. PORTER, Mr. LAMB, Ms. BATTAGLIA, Mr. SOTO, Mr. NEGUINE, Ms. WASHERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CUELLAR, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1443: Mr. MEKES and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1437: Ms. CASTEN of Florida, Mr. CASTEN, and Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 1438: Mr. LAMM, Mr. CASTEN, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1443: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1455: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. SCHAWSKY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, and Ms. JACKS of California.

H.R. 1456: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1474: Mr. TONKO, Mr. COLE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. NOTTON, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GRILALVA, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SCALON, Ms. BURCHETT, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 1475: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 1476: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DANIEL K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DIANE E. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1477: Mr. LIEU, Ms. CHU, and Mr. DAVIES of California.

H.R. 1478: Mr. DE GUZMAN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. McKEOWN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ROY, Mr. MCCLINTOCK.

H.R. 1479: Mr. BERGOMAN.

H.R. 1483: Mr. CONNOLLY and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 1533: Mr. RODNEY Davis of Illinois and Mr. LUCAS.

H.R. 1612: Mr. B eB AIN.

H.R. 1617: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 1677: Mr. COMER, Mr. STEIL, Mr. MOORE of Utah, and Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 1791: Ms. SCHIERER.

H.R. 1792: Mr. ROZIER.

H.R. 1832: Mr. KIND, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. HUSON, Mr. FORSTER, Mr. ROUSHER, Mr. POSHY, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. CARL, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 1834: Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. ROSS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MCCGOVERN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. STEWART, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SKVELLA, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. McCAUf, Mr. GRIFF)</raw_text>
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Raphael G. Warnock, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who commands the morning to appear, we honor Your Holy Name.

Lord, guide our lawmakers to find delight in Your guidance. May Your wisdom provide them with food for reflection, morning, noon, and night. Renew their strength, as they seek for ways to reduce the violence in our land.

Lord, provide them with uncommon wisdom to bring greater respect for the preciousness of each person made in Your image. Give us all a greater reverence for the sanctity of every life.

Lord, provide us all with the power to be productive for You in every season of life, as You cause our plans to flourish.

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 (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

The Senate

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 Raphael G. Warnock, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Patrick J. Leahy,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.J. RES. 17
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, I understand that there is a joint resolution at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the joint resolution by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 17) removing the deadline for the ratification of the equal rights amendment.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the joint resolution on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the joint resolution will be placed on the calendar.

COLORADO SHOOTINGS
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, this morning the Nation grieves with the people of Boulder, CO, the site of another horrific mass shooting last night. A depraved gunman opened fire inside a local supermarket, killing 10 people, including a police officer. Many more are injured.

Our hearts go out to the people of Boulder and the families of those Americans who have lost their lives so unexpectedly.

Our thanks again go out to the brave first responders.

People kiss someone goodbye for the morning and send somebody off to school and they are never seen again—never seen again. It is just awful. And it has been less than 8 weeks since eight people were killed in another series of shootings in Georgia. We cannot seem to finish grieving one tragedy before another takes place.

It is a reminder that we must confront a devastating truth in the United States: An unrelenting epidemic of gun violence steals innocent lives with alarming regularity. Even amidst the pandemic, gun violence has not receded. In fact, confoundedly, it has grown even worse, and 2020 was one of the deadliest years for gun violence in two decades—a reminder that most gun violence doesn’t even make headlines but nonetheless causes immeasurable devastation to communities from one end of our country to the other.

So we have a lot of work to do. I have already committed to bringing universal background checks legislation to the floor of the Senate. There is a hearing today in the Senate Judiciary Committee under Chairman DURBIN’s leadership to examine several common-sense proposals to reduce gun violence.

Two summers ago, the Republican leader—then the majority leader—promised there would be a debate in the Senate on gun violence, but it never happened. It never happened.

This Senate will be different. The Senate is going to debate and address
the epidemic of gun violence in this country.

Today, our hearts are with the people of Colorado and with everyone whose lives have been touched by gun violence.

VIOLATION AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, as I mentioned, the shooting in Colorado comes only a week after another tragedy in the communities outside Atlanta, GA, where eight people were killed in a string of shootings, six of whom were women of Asian descent.

It is important to place the Atlanta area shootings in context. Over the past year, there has been a rising tide of violence against Asian Americans driven by fear, misinformation, and age-old prejudices against the Asian-American community, from shouted insults and racial slurs to outright assault.

A 61-year-old Filipino American was slashed in the face by a box cutter on the New York subway. An 84-year-old Thai American in San Francisco was shoved and violently led to his death. And now this attack in Georgia.

Every day, Asian Americans walk down the streets looking over their shoulders, wondering if they will be assaulted or even worse—even worse.

The poison of racism has always existed in America, but over the past 4 years it seems to have found new life. There is no question that the former President Donald Trump, through word and deed, fanned the flames of racial bias in our country. It is not a coincidence that it is worse now than it has been before. Donald Trump fanned those flames—fanned those flames, often with glee.

With respect to the Asian-American community, specifically, the former President engaged in rhetoric that blamed the Chinese people for the coronavirus—an absolutely despicable notion that has led to all sorts of verbal and physical assaults on Asian Americans. You could see him with his chin strutted out when he called it the “China virus.” So despicable. And he did it with almost a joy.

Here in America, we all know that an attack against any one group is an attack against all of us. So it is up to all of us now to stand up and speak out in support of the Asian-American community in America.

Over the weekend, I joined several vigils to stand with Americans of all ages, races, and faiths to support the Asian-American community. There was a large turnout, and our Asian brothers and sisters were so relieved that so many of us from the elected community were there. We should all be doing that in every part of the country.

Before the start of the Senate this morning, I started the process to make two pieces of legislation available for action by the full Senate.

First is a bill led by my friend Senator HIRONO of Hawaii, very similar to the same bill introduced by our New York Congress Member, Grace Meng, of Queens. This legislation by Senator HIRONO will address COVID-related hate crimes against Asian Americans head-on. It is rare for a point person at the Department of Justice to expedite the review of COVID-19-related hate crimes, provide support for State and local law enforcement agencies to respond to hate crimes, and work on solutions to the problem of racially discriminatory language that has been used to describe the pandemic.

Second is a bill led by my friend Senator DURBIN to counter the threat of domestic terrorism and violent White supremacy. This is a bill that passed the House of Representatives last year on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis. As far as legislation goes, it is as much of a no-brainer as it comes.

Every one of us—every one of us—has an obligation to speak out against these hate crimes. One of the best antidotes—there are many—but one of the best antidotes when hate occurs is to answer it forcefully, strongly, and repeatedly. It is not acceptable, and those who perpetrate it are shunned and then, if they have broken the law, punished.

Every one of us must do this. We must speak out. Here in the Senate, we have more than a responsibility to just speak out; we must take action. I hope we will have universal support for these pieces of legislation that I mentioned.

I yield the floor.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

FILIBUSTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, while House Democrats try to overturn a certified election result from last November, some Senate Democrats are agitating for the rules to ram through a partisan rewrite of all 50 States’ election laws—all 50 States’ election laws.

The 60-vote threshold is the reason huge pillars of domestic policy don’t oscillate back and forth every time a different party wins the majority. So let’s think of something like the Mexico City policy, the executive branch policy about funding overseas abortions. It has flipped back and forth every single time the White House has changed parties since the 1980s. Republican Presidents issue the memo; the Democratic Presidents retract it.

The legislative filibuster is what keeps the entire country from working that way. For a long time, Senators on both sides have recognized the Senate and the country are better off with some actual stability. Both sides have understood there are no permanent majorities in American politics, so a system that gives both sides a voice benefits, actually, everyone in the long term.

That is what 33 of our Democratic colleagues said just a few years ago, when they all signed a joint letter insisting that rules protecting debate on legislation be preserved.

That is what President Biden believed consistently throughout his long Senate tenure. About 15 years ago, then-Senator Biden said killing the filibuster would be, “an example of the arrogance of power.” That was President Biden. He restated his long-held position during the campaign just last year.

Here is what my colleague the Democratic leader said in 2017. Senator SCHUMER said:

The legislative filibuster . . . is the most important distinction between the Senate and the House. . . . Let’s find a way to further protect the 60-vote rule for legislation.

That was the Democratic leader in 2017.

And Democrats didn’t just spend the last 4 years supporting the filibuster; they spent 4 years using it. Senate Democrats used the filibuster to kill Senate ‘Tim Scott’s police reform bill in the wake of the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

We could have had Federal legislation on the books since last summer, putting more body cameras on police officers, requiring fuller incident reporting to the FBI, and finally making lynching a Federal crime. But other things. Democrats stopped it. They stopped it using the filibuster.

A few months before, they used the filibuster to briefly turn the bipartisan sprint toward the CARES Act into a partisan standoff. The press marveled that Senate Democrats had the gall to block relief—a tactic that helped tank the markets—in order to demand further changes.

But in early 2018, Senate Democrats used the filibuster to block government funding and force a brief government shutdown over, of all things, immigration. One of the Democratic leader’s first major acts as the leader of his conference was to wield the filibuster to shut down the entire Federal Government.

So, look, the Democratic side just spent 4 years defending and, of course, happily using the same Senate rule that many of our colleagues now are agitating to break Senate rules to ram things through. The reversal is not about principle. It has nothing whatsoever to do with principle. It is just raw power—raw power.
Three years ago, the assistant Democratic leader was asked about the Senate majority going “nuclear” and killing the legislative filibuster. Here’s what Senator DURBIN had to say:

I can tell you that would be the end of the Senate as it was originally devised and created going back to our Founding Fathers.

That was Senator DURBIN in 2018, just a few years ago. Now he argues the opposite.

Now, I understand our colleague has rotated through several different explanations for his reversal in just the last few days.

First, our colleague from Illinois indicated he changed his mind—changed his mind—because the Republicans, and I specifically, had used the filibuster so much in the intervening years. But, Mr. President, Republicans were in the majority the whole time. We were in the majority the whole time. It was the Democratic minority in the minority in 2018, 2019, and 2020—not Republicans. That argument makes no sense whatsoever.

A few days later, there was a new made-up rationale: It is just that the Senate rules are somehow a relic of racism and bigotry. That came just a month after the rules are somehow a relic of racism and bigotry. That came just a month after the Senate—61 out of 100 Senators—signed the letter all endorsing a racist relic?

Democrats who used the filibuster in 2018, 2019, and 2020—not Democrats who used the filibuster in 2018, 2019, and 2020—not Republicans. That argument makes no sense whatsoever.

So there is fake history swirling all around the discussion—fake history.

About a year ago, former President Obama launched a new, coordinated, and very obvious campaign to get liberals repeating the claim that the Senate rules are somehow a relic of racism and bigotry. That came just a month after Democrats had used the filibuster to kill Senator Tim Scott’s police reform bill just last year.

Did they use a racist relic when they delayed the CARES Act or blocked legislation to protect unborn babies who can feel pain?

Were Senators SCHUMER and DURBIN and their 33 colleagues who signed that letter all endorsing a racist relic?

Or is our colleague’s story that the filibuster was an offensive relic as recently as last summer but magically—imagine this—just magically, within a year, magically became an offensive relic the instant the Democrats came to power? All of a sudden, it is an offensive, racist relic when the Democrats came to power. Jaw-dropping hypocrisy. These backflips insult the intelligence of the American people.

The far left is desperate to change the subject to the 1960s because they want people to forget how Senate Democrats behaved just last year. This is not about the 1960s. It is not a racist relic.

Look, if some of my Democratic colleagues want to keep lobbying two of their colleagues to go back on their word, they should at least have the courage to be honest.

The far left wants Democrats to break the Senate rules for no other reason—no other reason—than they want more power. They want more power.

They were saying the “legislative filibuster” is “the most important distinction between the Senate and the House. Let’s find a way to further protect the 60–vote rule for legislation.”

So the Democratic leader was very supportive of this back in 2017, when they were using it extensively to try and stop or slow Republican legislation.

The assistant Democratic leader, the Democratic whip, Senator DURBIN from Illinois, said this in January 2018:

I can tell you that would be the end of the Senate as it was originally devised and created going back to our Founding Fathers.

“[G]oing back to our Founding Fathers,” referencing the legislative filibuster and how important it was historically here in the U.S. Senate.

Well, about that same time, 2017, 61 Senators out of 100 were in the U.S. Senate—61 out of 100 Senators—signed a letter in which they supported retention of the legislative filibuster. In fact, it goes on to say:

We are writing to urge you—

And this is to the Senate leaders at the time, Senators McCONNELL and SCHUMER—

to support our efforts to preserve existing rules, practices, and traditions as they pertain to the right of Members to engage in extended debate on legislation before the United States Senate. We have expressed a variety of opinions about the appropriateness of limiting debate when we are
considering judicial and executive branch nominations. Regardless of our past disagreements on that issue, we are united in our determination to preserve the ability of Members to engage in extended debate when bills are on the Senate floor.

Sixty-one Senators, including over 30 Democrats, on record as recently as 2017 in support of the legislative filibuster—over 30 Democratic Senators, including the Democratic leader and the Democratic whip.

Well, what has changed? Because now they have done an abrupt reversal, a complete 180. I mean, they are spinning around so fast, it makes your eyes glaze over. What an incredible versatility of conviction they have demonstrated on this issue.

And you think about the reason for it. What are they arguing? Well, they are saying the Republicans have been misusing the filibuster. That is a little bit ironic, given the fact that Republicans have been in the majority for the past 6 years. Republicans took the majority in January of 2015 and held it until January of 2021.

So the past 6 years it has been the Democrats who were in the minority. They would stand their ground, exercise the legislative filibuster, and they used it extensively. They used it extensively last year to block legislation, repeatedly, over and over and over again.

And Republicans, at the time, were under a lot of pressure to get rid of the legislative filibuster, and they did. And here we are, 2 or 3 years later, not because the Republicans had been misusing the filibuster, because the Republicans have been in the majority. We have been fending off the use of the filibuster by Democrats. They had no problems with the filibuster when they were using it as a tool at their disposal to block Republican initiatives.

The first CARES bill they filibustered multiple times, and it forced us to sit down with them and forge a compromise. In that case, it was 80-20. They needed 60 votes in the U.S. Senate. But now the shoe is on the other foot. They are in the majority, and they have got all these things they want to get done, all this pent-up agenda. And we argued that what is happening here is all the outside groups, all the leftwing groups that have all these things they want to get done, all of a sudden have concluded that notwithstanding their use of the filibuster to block legislation, they are in the minority and they have got power, we are going to do away with over 200 years of history—200 years of history that we put in place by the Founders to require the U.S. Senate to be different than the House of Representatives.

The House of Representatives does everything by simple majority. They have a Rules Committee. I served for a while on that Committee that prescribes, basically, what legislation can come to the floor, what amendments are made in order, how much time is allowed for debate on each amendment. Everything is very structured. It is very organized. It is all done by democratic rule—majority rule, simple majority rule.

The Senate was created to operate differently. By the Founders. And here we are having a debate about whether we are going to honor that tradition, that heritage, that legacy, that vision the Founders had when they came to how the U.S. Senate should operate.

And here we are, the legislative filibuster. The Democratic Senator suggested that we should get rid of the filibuster because it is “undemocratic.” Undemocratic. In other words, it prevents the majority from doing everything it wants to do. But, as I said on the floor last week, letting the majority do everything it wants to do is not what the Founders had in mind. The Founders recognized it wasn’t just kings who could be tyrants; they knew majorities could be tyrants, too, and that a majority, if unchecked, could trample the rights of the minority. So the Founders combined majority rule with both representation and constitutional protection for the minority.

They established safeguards—checks and balances—throughout our government. They put the check and ensure that the rights of the minority were protected, and one of those safeguards was the Senate.

In the House of Representatives, as I said, majority rule is emphasized, and that is the way the Founders meant it. They could have stuck with a single legislative body, but they didn’t. Why? Because they were worried about the possibility of tyrannical majorities in the House endangering the rights of the minority.

The author of Federalist No. 62 notes: A senate, as a second branch of the legislative assembly, distinct from, and dividing the power with, a first, must be in all cases a check on the power of the former. It doubles the security to the people, by requiring the concurrence of two distinct bodies in schemes of usurpation or perfidy. . . . Secondly, the necessity is less indicated by the propensity of all single and numerous assemblies to yield to the impulse of sudden and violent passions, and to be seduced by factious leaders into intestine and pernicious resolutions.

That is from Federalist No. 62.

So the Founders created the Senate as a check on the House of Representatives. They made the Senate smaller, with the intention of creating a more stable, more thoughtful, and more deliberative legislative body to check ill-considered or intemperate legislation and attempts to curtail minority rights.

As time has gone on, the legislative filibuster has become perhaps the key way the Senate protects minority rights. The filibuster ensures that the minority party has a voice in the Senate. It forces compromise. It forces bipartisanship.

Even in the now rare case when a majority party has a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate, the filibuster still
forces the majority party to take into account the views of its more moderate or middle-of-the-road Members, thus ensuring that more Americans are represented in legislation.

People tend to focus on the fact that the Senate—like the House—conforms from any one party’s most extreme legislation, but the truth is—the truth is—that the filibuster is probably the biggest reason that any bill in the Senate is ever bipartisan. Routine spending bills, farm bills, Defense authorization bills—the person many of these bills are ever bipartisan, outside of vided government, is because the filibuster forces the parties to compromise. Don’t believe me? Just look at how the House has handled these bills in recent years.

Democrats were eager to take advantage of the filibuster’s protection for minority rights when they were in the minority, but now that they are in the majority, they don’t want anything standing in the way. They don’t want to have to consider the Americans who didn’t vote for a Democratic agenda. They want to do whatever they want, whenever they want it.

Democracy is the road for minority rights would be troubling even if they had a substantial majority in the Senate. The voice of the minority deserves to be heard even when the minority is substantially outnumbered. But it is particularly flagrant that the Democrats are so determined to sweep away protections from minority rights when they barely—barely—have a majority in the Senate and certainly don’t have a mandate. In fact, Democrats don’t have a real majority at all; only a tech- nical one. The Senate is divided 50 to 50. The only reason Democrats have a deciding vote in the Senate is because the Vice President is a Democrat. In the House, Democrats’ majority narrowed substantially in the November election.

Now, as for the Presidency, while certain Democrats won the election, it is worth noting that the only candidate who could win the Democratic primary was a man historically regarded as a moderate. Even among Democrats, Democrats’ far-left liberal candidates did not fare so well.

If there was any mandate in the election, it was a mandate for moderation. It was a mandate for compromise, for pulling the country together. But Democrats are running away from unity and bipartisanship as fast as they can. They are determined to leverage their weak victory into the implementa- tion of a partisan, far-left agenda.

The PRO Act is the latest of the attempts to federalize election law and eliminate protections for election integrity. Democrats have discarded years of important bipartisan work on election security and integrity in order to permanently boost Demo- crats’ chances of winning majorities. The second, the so-called Equality Act, is an unprecedented attack on the First Amendment that would substantially restrict the rights of Americans to live by the law they choose. These are the bills that Democrats think should be shoved through by the narrowest of majorities.

There have been suggestions that eliminating the filibuster is the cure for partisanship and gridlock in the Senate. Well, it might be the cure for gridlock in the sense that the majority could steamroll through whatever it wanted, whenever it wanted, but you don’t cure partisanship by making it easier for the majority to be partisan. Eliminating the filibuster isn’t going to eliminate partisanship; it is going to heighten it. Take away the filibuster, and the majority party has zero reason—to take into account the views of the minority. The only way Democrats could handle the filibuster will do is ensure that one party has no voice at all in the U.S. Senate, no matter how many Americans that party represents.

A couple of weeks ago, we got a preview of what life would look like in a filibuster-less Senate when Democrats passed their so-called COVID bill under the simple-majority rules of reconcili- ation. There wasn’t a lot of gridlock since reconciliation allowed Senate Democrats to include a majority of Democrats in the Senate to vote for their bill, Republican ideas were not welcome at the table.

Democrats knew that they didn’t need Republicans to pass their legisla- tion, which empowered them to com- pletely reject Republican input in drafting the bill and to load the bill with Democratic priorities, from a big stimulus package to a liberalized State aid slush fund heavily weighed in favor of blue States, to the omission of long- standing Federal restrictions on using taxpayer dollars to pay for abortions. It was quite a contrast to the five bi- partisan COVID bills passed under the filibuster rule in a Republican-led Sen- ate, which were focused on fighting the virus rather than shoving through par- tisan priorities.

While their recent narrow majority has somewhat erased all memory of their minority status over the last few years, I encourage my Democratic col- leagues to remember just how much they valued the legislative filibuster during their time in the minority and how bitterly they regretted elimi- nating the judicial filibuster once President Trump became the bene- ficary.

While Democrats might like to think that their time in power will last forever, it is a truth of American politics that sooner or later, no matter how powerful your majority, you end up in the minority again. I encourage my colleagues to think about that time when they will be in the minority again and to ask themselves whether they really want to eliminate their voices and the voices of their constitu- ents in future policy battles.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Senator from Alabama.

PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE ACT

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, last week, I spoke about a deeply flawed and misguided piece of legisla- tion passed by the House—House bill H.R. 1 and now Senate bill, S. 1.

Today, I am going to talk about yet another bill from our colleagues in the House that would be terrible for my State of Alabama and for our country. It is called the Protecting the Right to Organize Act, better known as the PRO Act.

Like H.R. 1, the PRO Act represents a massive power grab by the Democrats here in Washington, DC, to override the will of the voters and State legisla- ture. It is the opposite of a majority in this country. Democrats want to force their ideas on States that refuse to adopt their progressive failed policies. Federal power grabs like these are un- constitutional and go against our en- tire notion of government.

The PRO Act would overrule the right-to-work laws across the country and force tens of millions of employees to join a union. Currently, 27 States have right-to-work laws on their books, including Alabama. More States could join us in the future. Right-to- work laws give workers freedom, and more importantly, they give them the freedom to choose whether to unionize or not.

Alabama’s right-to-work law has been a huge benefit for our State and for the people, helping to attract many businesses to our State. Take car manu- facturing, for example. Beginning with Mercedes, in 1993, automakers like Toyota, Honda, and Hyundai all have large presences in Alabama. Their investment in our State has created a growing automotive supplier network, supporting roughly 150 companies in our State. Altogether, we have around 40,000 Alabamians employed in the automotive sector alone. Those jobs go on to support thousands more family members, all thanks to Alabama’s right-to-work law.

The PRO Act would upend the eco- nomic growth we have seen in Alabama and in many States across the country. By forcing unionization on American workers, many industries would grind to a halt, and employers’ costs would skyrocket, which could lead to a loss of many, many jobs. According to the States Policy Network, the PRO Act would destroy 57 million American workers who call themselves freelancers, in addition to the millions of salaried workers who would lose their right-to-work protections.

Unions to some degree, have helped build our great country, but we need to give workers the ability to choose, not force them to be in a union. Right-to-
work laws give workers a choice. Choice creates competition, and competition breeds success. Forcible unionization creates a monopoly, which only leads to stagnation.

'President Biden' says he believes that 'every worker should have a free and fair choice to join a union,' but the PRO Act would tip the scales towards unionized labor even further. Among other things, the bill requires that workers' personal contact information be sent to unions; removes vote by secret ballot; strips workers of protection against harassment; and limits the information workers may receive during a union-organizing campaign. That doesn't sound free and fair to me; it sounds like they want to ensure a favorable outcome for the union bosses and give them the ability to punish workers who don't go along with them.

On a related note, I want to briefly mention the upcoming unionization vote for nearly 6,000 workers at Amazon’s Bessemer, Alabama, warehouse. Although Bessemer is just outside of Birmingham, there has been a lot of attention paid to this latey. We have had Hollywood actors, celebrities, Members of Congress, and even President Biden trying to help tip the scales toward the union's favorable outcome. Let me be clear. These hard-working Alabamians don't need Hollywood elites or Federal Government officials telling them what to do. We should all trust they will make the decision they think is right for them and their community. That is what right-to-work is all about—the right to choose. This is still a free country, after all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the crisis that is affecting our country right now, and it is the crisis at our southern border. Later this week, I will travel to Texas to inspect the situation firsthand.

My Republican colleagues and I will first say thank you to our law enforcement officers who are there on the frontlines. Their work is always important, and it is especially important at this time.

The President said on Sunday that he hopes to visit the border. He said he hopes to visit the border "at some point." Well, with all due respect, just the American people don't have time to wait. I invite the President to join us this Friday. Come with us. See the situation. Witness it firsthand.

Here are the facts. In the month of February, Federal agents apprehended more than 100,000 illegal immigrants crossing our southern border. That is more than double the number from last February. So in just 28 days—28 days of February—over 100,000 illegal immigrants crossed our border.

You know, illegal immigration numbers usually go down in the winter. It rises in the spring and peaks in the summer. We have every reason to expect that this is only going to get much worse in the months ahead. Even the Biden administration admits it. They admit that we are on pace this year to have more illegal immigrants than any year over the last 2 decades.

Why is this happening? Well, if you ask the migrants, they will tell you the answer. His name is Joe Biden. There are photographs of migrants near Tijuana wearing shirts that say: "Biden PLEASE LEAVE US ALONE.

They even use the Biden logo—his campaign logo—on their shirts.

So when did the surge of illegal immigrants start? Well, just after President Biden took office on January 20. Before the month was over, President Biden had already issued over seven Executive actions on immigration alone.

As I detailed on the floor a couple of weeks ago, President Biden has unveiled the most leftwing immigration agenda in the history of our Nation. During the campaign last year, President Biden promised lavish taxpayer benefits for illegal immigrants. So did Vice President Harris. When the moderators at the Democratic debates asked who supported free healthcare for illegal immigrants, President Biden raised his hand. Vice President Harris also endorsed free healthcare for illegal immigrants. President Biden promised not just amnesty but American citizenship for illegal immigrants, and 26 Democrat Senators have already signed onto the bill that he has just submitted.

President Biden said in February that he will even give the coronavirus vaccine to illegal immigrants. You come here illegally; you get a free vaccine against coronavirus and free healthcare. No wonder illegal immigrants are rushing to our borders.

But we all remember what happened 4 years ago after President Trump was elected. Before he even issued most of his immigration order, illegal immigration plummeted. It went down by 40 percent the first 4 months of his Presidency. It was called "The Trump Effect." It happened even before his policies went into effect. It was because he sent a clear message to the world. He said: Don't come here illegally or we will send you right back home. That message was heard around the world.

Now we are getting very different messages from this Biden White House. As a result, we have "The Biden Effect," which is the exact opposite of what "The Trump Effect" did. We are having historic increases in illegal immigration. They are promising free healthcare, free education, free vaccines, offers of citizenship for illegals.

Democrats just passed a bill that lets illegal immigrants get $1,400 checks. Senator COTTON and I tried to stop it. Every Democrat in the U.S. Senate voted to undo it. They are voted to give hard-earned taxpayer dollars to people who aren't even in the country legally.

The White House says publicly that they will not expel any illegal immigrants under the age of 18. That is what they have said publicly. The White House Press Secretary even mocked that idea. As a result, massive numbers of teens and children are crossing the border.

Secretary Mayorkas has told the whole world that if you are under 18, you get a free pass. He went on television last week and said: "We will not expel your child . . . We will care for that child and reunite that child with a responsible parent.

In that same interview, he said: "I hope [children] will not undertake that perilous journey" to our border.

But as long as liberal policies are in place, it is a guarantee. They will undertake the perilous journey. They will risk traveling at the hands of smugglers, cartels, and human traffickers to get here.

Now we have a system that is overwhelmed. Our border agents can't keep up. Immigration and Customs Enforcement just spent $86 million to rent hotel rooms—hotel rooms for families who illegally crossed the border; $86 million for hotel rooms for over 1,000 families.

It has been reported that more than 100 illegal immigrants who tested positive for the coronavirus have been released into Texas. They were told to quarantine after they traveled through the country to their destination in the United States. We don't know where they are now or how many people they infected along the way. It could be in Texas. It could be anywhere. It is very concerning to people all across the country, and yet the White House is still in denial.

In fact, last week, the White House Press Secretary had to correct herself. She accidentally used the word "crisis" when talking about the border. A reporter asked her if that meant the White House was finally acknowledging that it was a crisis. She said no. She said it was just a "challenge."

Joe Biden promised us he would always tell us the truth. Yet the Biden White House is trying to mislead the American people about one of the most important issues that is facing our country today. It is not working. The American public knows this is a crisis. Democrats may think that this is some political game. In reality, this is a humanitarian crisis. Thousands of children are being harmed because of this.

Liberals talk a lot about how much compassion and empathy they feel. The truth is, the policies that they have don't lead to compassionate outcomes. They lead to some very cruel outcomes. As Secretary Mayorkas admits, the journey north from Central America is a "perilous" one. It is not safe for children. Large numbers of children who make the journey are trafficked, and many are recruited by gangs. If this year is like previous years, thousands and thousands of children are going to be harmed because
they make the journey north. There is nothing passionate about the open border policy of this administration.

It didn’t have to happen. It should not have happened, and the blame rests squarely with President Biden and the open borders. In less than 2 months, President Biden has already shown himself the most open-borders President in our history as a Nation. It is no surprise that the whole world has noticed.

This crisis will not fix itself. We need to take action. Republicans have a series of commonsense solutions to improve this situation immediately. They include enforcing the law, securing the border, and restoring the policy called “Remain in Mexico.” Without these, the Biden border crisis is going to continue to undermine our Nation’s safety and its security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I and then, after me, Senators LEAHY and PETERS be allowed to complete our remarks in their entirety before the scheduled vote.

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

FILIBUSTER

Mr. SASSE. Mr. President, the debate about the legislative filibuster is not a debate about S. 1 or S. 101 or S. 901. Nor is this a debate about nothing less than the nature and durability of American self-government. Quite apart from the wrestling over which particular bill was filibustered 8 years ago or 4 years ago or 2 years ago or tomorrow, the decision about whether or not to eliminate the filibuster is the Senate’s most important policy debate in decades.

Eliminating the filibuster would obviously have all kinds of policy consequences, from rates and labor law to energy and infrastructure. But that is not why the debate is so important. This isn’t fundamentally a debate about this or that policy.

The debate about the filibuster is deeper than that because it is a debate about how and whether we debate at all. This matters a whole lot in a country this big, in a continental nation, because it is right at the heart of how peaceable self-government works at all. If that up, if we do that if it is just a matter of time before the filibuster goes away and all we really have is red-versus-blue jerseys anyway, if we just end the Senate’s rules as they have existed for 240 years, we will dramatically alter not just this institution but our entire form of self-govern-ment, and in the process we will dramatically escalate the fevered pitch of America’s recent arguing.

We shouldn’t ignore the deep and long-term significance of what storing the Senate’s rules on fire would mean simply because terms like “super-majority requirement” don’t fit really neatly into our modern, made-for-cable-TV, soap-opera variety of politics as entertainment, politics as sport, even politics as religion. “Super-majority requirements” are a whole bunch of syllables, and it just doesn’t make for great sound bites.

But make no mistake. If we set the Senate’s rules on fire, we are going to cause dramatic, horrible consequences in American civic life.

Almost every single Member of the newly minted Democratic majority in the Senate has resolved in recent weeks that the legislative filibuster needs to be abolished, or, in their most recent focus group term, to be “re-formed” out of existence.

This move would be directly contrary to both vertically and horizontally between this country and in this body. It would be directly contrary to the Founders’ explicit purposes for why this institution was created at all, and it would be directly contrary to the words of dozens and dozens of the majority Senators—their words just in the last 48 months.

This is no mere procedural change. If they go through with this, an already sick Senate would be committing institutional suicide. There really is no reason to a Senator if the Senate doesn’t exist to foster real debate that is bigger than simple majority power.

This nuclear trigger would all but destroy the principle of consensus-building that the Senate demands and, thereby, but that more than minor. Rights in this country would become subject to more and more fickle, more and more power hungry, and, inevitably, more and more abusive simple majorities.

America is built on a number of seemingly small, but actually quite grand, ideas. One of the very best of those ideas, one that is just elegantly simple—so simple that we regularly don’t pause to reflect on it together and then come to the simple idea that whenever possible, groups of different people should be allowed to make different rules for themselves. This is what our system of federalism is about. This is why we divide power both vertically and horizontally between legislative, executive, and judicial branches, and then also across the 50 States and versus the Federal Government.

It is not actually an extravagant thought. Consider, for example, a playground kind of instinctively understand that if you can’t get one giant game of kickball together, it is OK to let the play- ground divide up into a few different games of kickball and dodgeball. It is a grand American tradition that when you don’t have to agree, we don’t have to agree about everything. It is OK to allow some diversity. It is OK for not all workplace regulations to be exactly the same everywhere in the country.

As it happens, America is a really big country, a continental nation, and we regularly don’t agree. Californians don’t always agree with Nebraskans. Virginians don’t always agree with New Yorkers. People in regularly sunny Miami don’t always see the world exactly the same as folks in regularly wintry Boston do. Ohio State fans don’t have to wear the blue and gold of Michigan.

It is a big country full of disagreements, and so our principle is, regularly, that wherever we can protect and respect differences, we should. We don’t force folks to wear the jerseys of the teams they don’t support. There is no reason to.

I feel like there is some joke I should make about Oral Roberts versus Harbaugh—I know relative competitions against Ohio State—but prudence recommends skipping that.

There are also circumstances, obviously, where we need to make big wide-ranging monopolistic government decisions. There are times when we have to have one-size-fits-all rules, but those cases are few and far between.

What that means is that, most of all the time, even if you are in the majority, you can’t just do everything you want. You can’t just pass one, big, compulsory law immediately without lots of debate, because you might have 50 plus 10. You have to bring some people from across the aisle over to your side. If you are in the majority, it means that you have to learn the habit of sitting down with Members of the minority. You have to talk to them. As importantly, you have to listen to them.

When this process of compromise works and a bill is passed, you are then guaranteed that the new law has the stamp of approval of at least some representatives of the minority on that issue, and it means that they will become your allies against quickly undoing that law next year. They will become your allies because the process of compromise has led you to listen to each other and say: Instead of doing the 51-percent thing, what harder work might be required to get to the 60-per- cent thing?

One of the ways we have done that traditionally in the Senate is we have always made sure, here, where we come from all across the country—east to west, north to south—that we would be required to pass legislation not by 50 percent plus 1 but by 50 plus plus 10. You have to bring some people from across the aisle over to your side. If you are in the majority, it means that you have to learn the habit of sitting down with Members of the minority. You have to talk to them. As importantly, you have to listen to them.

When this process of compromise works and a bill is passed, you are then guaranteed that the new law has the stamp of approval of at least some representatives of the minority on that issue, and it means that they will become your allies against quickly undoing that law next year. They will become your allies because the process of compromise has led you to listen to each other and say: Instead of doing the 51-percent thing, what harder work might be required to get to the 60-per- cent thing?

When this process of compromise breaks down, that is a pretty important signal as well. When you are forced to make rules that are binding on diverse groups of people, it is in everyone’s interest that you get as much buy-in as possible, that represents it, and it is unlikely that the new rule will be respected and followed beyond just this 2-year Congress. Yet, if you shelve a rule change

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through with a bare-knuckle majority, you ensure that 49 percent of the country is going to resent not just the rule but you. Pass laws today with a 50-plus-1 majority, and watch them be repealed tomorrow with a 50-plus-1 majority. Our Nation would not last another day from one policy agenda to another. It makes politics too central in the lives of the American people to allow a flicker 51-and-49-percent majority to change the whole direction of the Nation. Each election would become more do or die, more of a bare-knuckle brawl. Each campaign would descend further and further into tribal ugliness.

In a big and diverse country, the Senate exists to force lawmakers to build a healthy consensus before we try to make sweeping national, legal changes. The Senate exists precisely to force this kind of consensus-building. That is really why this institution exists. It is how we guarantee that we do not have laws on the books that are respected by half of the country and resented and hated or ignored by the other half of the country. The Senate’s super-majority requirement has helped to ensure that big changes are not impulsive and narrow and instant but, rather, deliberately and broadly accepted.

But there is an alarming trend in our time. Let’s be clear: It is in both parties. It is not just the Democrats, who are now in the majority, who are interested in this kind of new, more instant, more narrow and tribal kind of politics. There is a new trend toward a bare-knuckles belief that this is the only kind of politics that works, that it is the only kind of way you can go forward.

My colleagues—again, in both parties—have decided that if you have the power, you should wield it, and you should wield all of it with no constraint. They might use this or that particular bill as a stalking horse for the agenda grab, but it is clear: Any particular bill is beside the point; it is about the new “ends justify the means” principle, which is the principle that there are no principles except that of flexing your power as vigorously and as brutally and as instantaneously as you can for as long as you can cling to power.

Some of the Republicans who have already spoken on the floor this last week have warned the Democrats that they may rue the day they made this decision. There is an age-old self-delusion in power that says: If you are in the majority, you will never have to be in the minority again, so why would you want to respect any rules that have traditionally protected minorities? You will always be driving the bulldozer and never be in its path.

This debate isn’t about policy. It isn’t about any specific bill. You can listen to the activists on the outside who are advocating for it. They have been transparent about their purposes for the better part of a year that they would use whatever bill they think most politically opportune at the moment to try to end the filibuster. Books published on this topic in the last 60 days haven’t come about in the last 60 days.

We should remember that if this happens, if a simple majoritarianism—a minority is just a minority—is what this body is about, we will have taken a step down a path toward the exercise of naked power that will be absolutely permanent. It cannot and will not ever be undone. Once the super-majority requirements that the Senate has in place is gone, it will be gone forever because no one—it is self-evident to make this argument—is ever going to voluntarily surrender power when the other party has just used a simple-majority power against them. No one will ever restore the super-majority requirements when they have a simple majority and a simple majority has just become the rule against them.

If you want to see American politics become more brutal, if you want to see American politics become more crude, if you want to see American politics become more demagogic, then stripping away the mechanisms that have forced us to work together would be the perfect recipe for bringing about this dystopian reality. If you want to see a politics that favors more candidates running for office with claims that they will be strongmen and tyrants, then make politics nothing more than a contest of wills between people more interested in promising to spend the next 2 or 4 years simply making the other side pay. If you want to see the rights and interests of minority groups scorned, dismissed, and trampeled, then establish a legislative process where minority voices don’t need to be heard at all. That is what would happen if we end the super-majority requirements that have always dominated the Senate from its first day. If you want lame, meme politics that aims only to “own the libs” or “drink conservative tears,” this is how you bring that crap show about. You would set the Senate on fire.

All of you know this, though. Many of you have spoken in private about this being a rash move. Many of you have spoken in public about having been opposed to this before.

I think of my friend BRIAN SCHATZ—and I am going to name him precisely because he is a real friend, not a Wash¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬¬—
majoritarian exercise of power, it is supposedly exclusively a relic of slavery and a tool of Jim Crow. It is nonsense, and the people saying it know that it is nonsense. You used the same rule last year, and you were not racist when you used it last year.

This is B.S. that has been focused group, and particular bills are being used as the excuses to grab power that won’t just be for this bill; it will be forever. It will be the end of the Senate.

Was there really a tool of Jim Crow when it was used against Tim Scott last year? I don’t think so, and I don’t think any of you think so. If somebody wants to come to the floor and repent of their racism for having used the filibuster last year, please do, but that isn’t what was happening, so stop with the nonsense rhetoric that is just for an MSNBC sound bite tonight.

It is sad to watch so many of my colleagues who know better be bullied into this position of shortsightedness, and that is why, because a U.S. Senator must say, I know that people are angry. I know that people are yelling. I know that there are hotheads. But one of the jobs of a Senator and surely the job of this body is to try to find a way to allow cooler heads to prevail.

We already have an institution that is instantly responsive to majorities—you only have to walk 200 yards to see it—and there is nobody who serves in this body who wishes they served in that body. We know what it looks like to have a simple majoritarian body, and the House was designed to do that. It is a good thing. The House was designed to reflect the energy of the people. We are not the people, and they want something done fast and they want their majority to act, they call on the House and get a hearing, but the Senate’s job, the Senate’s purpose, is different.

The House is actually allowed to act with a hothead precisely because the Senate exists to cool those passions. The Senate exists to act with a cool head. Our job is not to cater to sudden, instant majorities and to changes that disrespected large portions of America.

I literally made the centerpieces of why I was running that I would resist someone in my own party who tried to do majoritarian, instant stuff. And I can tell you, I can introduce you to a whole bunch of Republicans on the ground in Nebraska who are really mad that I didn’t pre-cisely say it 17 different ways, where I named every person that they might later want to have all of that instant power.

After the 2016 election, people started looking back at what I said the whole 2014 campaign and got more uncomfortable with what they voted for. So nobody has to tell me how unpleasant it is to stand up and say things that are unpopular in your own party.

Over the course of the last 5 years, I have been cussed out by lots of people who once supported me and called me a friend. None of that was politically. In other words, we faced the same choice then that you face now, and we decided that it was better to choose long-term stability over short-term political victories. It was the right choice for a nation this big and diverse. It is better for America’s hardiest debates to be decided in a deliberative Senate rather than in the thunderdome.

Republicans in the majority held firm against blowing up this central structural pillar of this institution, even when it would have benefited us politically. In other words, we faced the same choice then that you face now, and we decided that it was better to choose long-term stability over short-term legislative victories. It was the right choice for a nation this big and diverse.

A lot of Republicans think that decision was naïve. Their argument was that the other side hates us. They will definitely use all power against us whenever they can. And I know that many Democratic strategists on the outside, many people raising money, small-dollar fundraising online, they are making the exact same argument, but this isn’t war, and we are not supposed to be permanent enemies.

We want a politics of debate and of verbal jousting rather than of physical violence. And one of the most urgent political tasks we face today is to demonstrate that it is possible for people who deeply disagree and who are polarized in our division—we can still work together for the common good.
We urgently need to protect and strengthen, not weaken and destroy, the norms that force us to come together and cooperate.

But we don’t need to be naive. We don’t need to believe that that means we walk ‘Kumbaya’ and expect cooperation. Obviously we don’t in this body, but that doesn’t mean we are free to be naive in the other direction as well.

For every step we take that further divides, further infuriates, and further inflames half the country, it makes it far likelier that we will set a fire that we cannot put out.

The American Founders understood the problem that we are facing. They were not naive about how politics worked and what it took, what kind of labor and sweat and relational hand-wringing and bread-breaking it takes to be able to work together amicably. They were working from a personal experience of repression, tyranny, and violence. And so they set out some basic principles: federalism, localism, and consensus building, of supporting majorities but without sacrificing minorities. And so they established a framework in which these principles could be balanced in a way that is responsive to changing conditions and needs.

The Founders’ concerns are still our concerns, but guess what. They built the Senate for this exact moment. We are constantly tussling over how to make sure that every voice is heard and every person has a place. We live in a divided time. We live in a divided nation. But they lived in a divided time and in a divided nation, and so they created the Senate to be a place that could deescalate red-hot anger, to take a deep breath rather than just assuming that a runaway majority of 50 percent plus one should advance whatever it wanted.

Friends, colleagues, you know after the summer of 2013, the dominoes were falling. We were crescendos of anger, and many of you—I don’t know if it is most, but many of you have talked about how much you regret the summer of 2013 decision. This decision is 100 times larger.

Friends, please consider whether or not it is prudent to set the Senate on fire. It is the only deliberative structure we have in our government, and at a time when institutions are being consumed, let us not consume another.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise in support of Shalanda Young’s nomination to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Ms. Young is a proven leader, a dedicated public servant with the experience and the expertise needed to tackle the challenges facing OMB and our Nation.

Not only does Ms. Young bring a deep knowledge of the budget process and government operations, but she has a long track record of working successfully across the aisle.

During her 14 years as a senior staff member on the House Appropriations Committee, she worked tirelessly to find a bipartisan path forward on many critical issues. She played a key role in ending past government shutdowns and in negotiating last year’s bipartisan coronavirus relief legislation.

Since President Biden announced Ms. Young’s nomination, Members and staff, both Democrats and Republicans, have enthusiastically praised her ability to work with both sides and get results for the American people. This is exactly the type of leadership OMB needs to successfully steer the country through the current public health and economic crisis.

The passage of the American Rescue Plan earlier this week was a historic achievement. But much of the work to fully implement this landmark bill, which will pump billions of dollars into the pockets of workers and families to ensure schools open swiftly and safely and making meaningful investments in small businesses and local governments.

I have no doubt Ms. Young is prepared to take on the challenging work of ensuring relief is delivered swiftly and effectively and that families, businesses, and communities across our country have the support they need to fully recover from this pandemic. I know that in order to move past this current crisis, we must work together. We all want to end the pandemic and reinvent our economy, but there are intense disagreements over how we achieve those shared goals.

Ms. Young has demonstrated the ability to work hard, to find common ground during times of crisis and in the face of a deeply divisive getting climate, experience that makes her uniquely qualified to serve at OMB at this very moment.

Having spent most of her career working in Congress, Ms. Young will also bring a profound respect for the role of the legislative branch. She understands the importance of Congress’s oversight role and is firmly pledged to work with Congress in a cooperative and a transparent manner.

Ms. Young also fully understands that laws enacted by Congress are the law of the land, and they remain the law of the land regardless of her own personal views. You know, I know that some of my Republican colleagues have expressed concerns about Ms. Young’s personal views. However, I hope they recognize that she has repeatedly committed to following the laws put forth by Congress, including laws that she may personally disagree with.

There is no doubt that Ms. Young is exceptionally qualified for this role. OMB urgently needs qualified, Senate-confirmed leaders, not only to address the current public health and economic crisis but also to strengthen Federal cybersecurity, review regulations, and modernize the Federal workforce.

In short, OMB works to ensure that every part of government is working effectively for the American people. Her budget expertise, extensive record of bipartisan engagement, and deep-rooted understanding and respect for Congress are exactly what is needed to meet the challenges that we face now and the challenges that lie ahead.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the confirmation of Shalanda Young as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUTTJENS). On this vote, the yeas are 62, the nays are 38.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak for not more than 5 minutes regarding Shalanda Young.

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

NOMINATION OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am proud to be here on the Senate floor to offer my strong support for Shalanda Young to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, as I have spoken about her earlier before the committee.

She has worked on the House Appropriations Committee for nearly 14 years. She has been the House Appropriations staff director since 2017. It is my position on the Appropriations Committee that I got to know her very well. I can tell you, without any reservation, there is no one better suited for this position. Her deep understanding of, really, the often arcane Federal budget process, her years of experience on the Appropriations Committee, her tenacity, and her dedication to public service will serve the Agency and the American people.

I think after we had the last shutdown of the government—I believe the longest in history—we ended up, finally, with four of us meeting for several weeks in my office here in the Capitol. When we forged the agreement to reopen, Senator SHELBY and myself, Congresswomen Lowey and GRANGER from the House—we were chair and vice chair of our respective committees—but, most importantly, Shalanda Young was there for the House, as was Chuck KIEFFER, and she had an opportunity to work for the Senate. Her knowledge of the intricacies of that and her ability to help us reach agreement were absolutely essential.

Ms. Young began her career in public service in 2001 at the National Institutes of Health. She first came to work on Capitol Hill as a detailer for the House Appropriations Committee in 2005. She came back as a professional staff member in 2007. She worked her way up in the committee over the years. She helped develop a budget for and conducted oversight of key Agencies. That has given her a critical insight into the operation of some of our Nation’s most important Agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, the General Services Administration. She even served as a staff director for the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, which covers the budget for Congress.

Ms. Young became staff director of the House Appropriations Committee in 2017, coincidentally the same year I became vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee. But she has helped the House navigate some of the most difficult issues before the Chamber. As I said, she was a critical player in helping to end the longest Federal shutdown in history in 2019, and she was instrumental in crafting 2020 bipartisan COVID relief bills.

She has a reputation as a tough but fair negotiator. That is high praise on the Hill because she gets it from both Republicans and Democrats. I can attest to the truth of these statements. I have seen these skills firsthand.

I have already said that the Office of Management and Budget is one of the most powerful government Agencies that most Americans have never heard of. That is true. It wields incredible influence on not just the Federal budget but over policies that affect people’s lives.

We need people like Shalanda Young to help steer the Agency in these important decisions. That is why I voted yes on the recent motion, and that is why I want to see her in that position as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m. Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:35 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

NOMINATION OF SHALANDA D. YOUNG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, during committee review of Ms. Young’s nomination to be the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, important questions were raised about whether she would uphold and enforce the restrictions of the Hyde amendment if confirmed. I found her initial response to a question put to her on the subject troubling as it suggested she may seek to use her position to undermine Hyde. However, after speaking with Ms. Young and pressing her on the issue, I am satisfied that she will follow the law as written by Congress without regard to her own personal views. She has assured me that she has no intention to revise rules or regulations concerning Hyde and understands it is not her place to change law. I therefore have decided to vote in favor of her nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise in support of confirming Shalanda Young as the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. The OMB urgently needs Senate-confirmed leaders, and Ms. Young is exceptionally qualified for this role. Her budget experience and extensive record of bipartisan results are what the OMB needs to guide our Nation through the current pandemic and through the current economic crisis.

During her 14 years as a senior staff member for the House Appropriations Committee, Ms. Young developed a deep understanding of the budget process and government operations, and she has been instrumental in negotiating bipartisan agreements on many critical issues.

She is a proven leader who is ready to get to work at the OMB, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her confirmation.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON YOUNG NOMINATION

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

All postcloture time is expired. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Young nomination?

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 63, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin Grasseys
Bennett Hassan Padilla
BinNSDent Heimrigh Peters
Bingaman Hickenlooper Reed
Booher Hirono Rosen
Brown Hoeven Sanders
Burr Hyde-Smith Schatz
Cantwell Kaine
Carson Kelly
Carper Kennedy
Cashev King
Collins Konchar
Collins
Cook
Corzine
Crowley
Cromwell
Courneya
Crump
Currie
Cryer
Cruz
Daines Paul
Ernst Portman
Feinstein Young
Gillibrand
Graham
Murray

NAYS—37

Barrasso Hawley Rounds
Blackburn Inhofe Rubio
Boozman Johnson Sasse
Broun Lankford Scott (FL)
Capito Lee Scott (SC)
Caryn Lummis Thune
Cayetano Marshall Tilly
Crapo McConnell
Creson
Daines
Ernst
Escher
Hagerty

MURDOCH

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.
The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years.


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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 130 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Casper
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Kaine
Kaine
Murray
Murphy
Nunes
Peters
Portman
Reed
Romney
Rosen
Sanders
Schacht
Schumer
Shaheen
Smith
Sullivan
Sullivan
Warner
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Capito
Cochrane
Cotton
Craner
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Ernst
Fischer
Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Jenkins
Murrin
McCain
McConnell
McSally
Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Young nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, today I am proud to join a number of my colleagues to highlight the importance of S. 1, the For the People Act.

The ballot box is the pulsating heart of our government of, by, and for the people.

President Lyndon B. Johnson said:

The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice.

Think about that—‘the most powerful instrument ever devised for breaking down injustice.’

It is Robert Kennedy who observed that ‘each citizen’s right to vote is fundamental to all the other rights of citizenship.’

You know, the opportunity to cast a ballot is not just an opportunity. It is not simply a responsibility. But it is a right—the right that embodies all it means to a republic in which the power flows from the people. And what is that stadium, that is so important in the social contract of the citizens with their government? It is the ballot box, driving the vision of our Nation, for over 200 years, overcoming barrier after barrier. We overcame some of the barriers of race with the 14th and 15th Amendments. We overcame the barriers of gender with the 19th Amendment. We overcame barriers that had denied Native Americans the right to vote with the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. We overcame the barriers of class with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. But now, as we stand in this Chamber, the central right of each citizen’s opportunity to participate in the election through the ballot box is again under attack.

Right now as we speak, there are 235 bills in 43 States assaulting the right to vote. These efforts are designed to make it harder for students to vote, for low-income Americans to vote, for Native Americans to vote, for seniors to vote, and insidiously, for Black and Brown Americans to vote. And I say ‘most insidiously’ because blocking access to the ballot has been a massive form of systemic racism throughout our history for Black Americans.

But all of us in this Chamber have taken an oath to the Constitution. All of us have a responsibility to defend the ballot box. It is our responsibility to knock down the barriers that others would put up to prevent citizens from having the opportunity to participate in our elections. That is exactly what S. 1, For the People, does in the face of the greatest attack on voting rights in this Nation since Jim Crow.

This legislation puts power back where it belongs—in the hands of the people.

This bill said that if you believe in the vision of our democratic Republic, then you believe in voter empowerment, not voter intimidation, not voter obstruction, not voter suppression.

This bill says that the people should choose their politicians, not the other way around. Gerrymandering attacks the very notion of equal representation that is so important in the social contract of the citizens with their government. So this bill says we will have an independent commission in each State to draw the boundaries of the districts so that have put an end to partisan gerrymandering.

This bill says that government of, by, and for the people means you can’t have a stadium sound system turned up to full volume, drowning out the voice of the people. And what is that stadium sound system? It is the dark money, hundreds of millions of dollars of unidentified funds racing and coursing through our elections across this country, doing attack ads, with citizens having no idea where that funding is coming from. That is simply wrong.

This bill says that public servants should work in the public interest, not to line their own pockets, not to serve simply the wealthy or the powerful or the privileged.

These points are straightforward. We have been fighting to improve and guarantee the vision of government of, by, and for the people over our entire history. Now, to protect our system of voting, the foundation of our Republic, we have to get this bill over the finish line. We have an extraordinary team working to make that happen. Senators with sturdy, clear ideals and excellent ideas and grit and determination coming together to save our Republic. Senator Klobuchar will be speaking next—author of several of the key provisions of this bill, including bipartisan provisions—who tomorrow will be chairing the first-ever Senate hearing on this landmark legislation; Senator Padilla, who authored the DISCLOSE Act portion of the bill and is a tremendous leader on campaign finance reform.
Today, our Nation is at a crossroads. Are we going to be a nation for “we the people,” or are we going to be a nation for “we the powerful”?

We must pass the For the People Act to save our democracy. As our leader said, “If we do not act now, we will lose it forever.”

The For the People Act is critically important. It is important because it would improve our democracy by protecting voting rights, getting dark money out of our elections, and putting in place anti-corruption reforms. It is important because every one of the things that we want to get done, from reforming our economy to fixing our immigration system, to investing in infrastructure, to tackling the climate crisis, to reforming our criminal justice system, they all depend on a democracy that works for the people.

Why did so many people vote in the middle of a pandemic, nearly 160 million Americans voted, more people than ever before in the history of America. Think about that—in the middle of a pandemic. And we know we saw the pictures on TV. We saw the people at the very beginning before we knew what safety protocols should be in place, when things were getting messed around—those people in Wisconsin in garbage bags, in garbage bags in the rain, standing in line to vote. Why did so many people vote in the middle of a pandemic, both sides of the aisle—Democrats, Republicans, Independents—why did they vote? Well, they were interested in the election; we knew that. But it was more than that. In part, they voted because they had more access to voting because of the changes that were made in the States. Vote-by-mail was available and easier for so many more people to do than ever before.

We think about those people who suddenly had new means to vote in States where they suddenly didn’t have to get a notary public or two signatures or this or that just to exercise their right to vote. They voted, and they voted in droves.

Even though the overwhelming majority of Americans have made it clear they want to see policies that continue to make it easier to vote, sadly, there are those on the other side of the aisle who have been doubling down to find ways to make it harder to vote. As Senator MERKLEY noted, over 250 bills have already been introduced in States across the country, including my home State of Minnesota, that had the highest voter turnout in the country. People are trying to make it harder to vote, including in Arizona where they had such a record turnout, including in Georgia. Why? As Senator WARNER said so beautifully and succinctly in his maiden Senate floor speech just last week: “Some people don’t want some people to vote.” Well, that is not how this country was founded. That is not what our Constitution says.

We cannot just stand back and let our democracy be undermined. As I said from the inaugural stage on that beautiful blue-sky day at the very place where you could still see the spray paint at the bottom of the columns and makeshift windchimes that we placed in place after the January 6 attack:

This is the day our democracy picks itself up, brushes off the dust, and does what America always does: goes forward as a nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

For decades, there have been those who have been trying to chip away at the fundamental right to vote. We can’t just keep taking it. We have to ensure that right to vote.

What is this about? One, making it easier to vote. That is exactly what the For the People does. It includes provisions that I have championed and so many others have, like automatic voting registration, ending purges of voting rolls, same-day voting registration, requiring all States to allow same-day voting registration, and voting by mail.

These are commonsense policies that were already in place in many States in the last general election. Forty-five States didn’t require an excuse to vote by mail. This will ensure that in every State, you don’t need to make an excuse. Twenty-one States have same-day registration, including States like Idaho, Wyoming, and Iowa. Forty-three States have early voting. Just last month, Kentucky’s Republican secretary of state praised a State bill that would make early in-person voting permanent.

Certainly, we need to ban purges of voting rolls. As my friend Stacey Abrams said: If you don’t go to a meeting every year, you don’t lose your right to assemble under the Constitution. If you don’t go to church or synagogue or mosque or temple, you don’t lose your right to worship. So if you haven’t voted for a few elections and you decide you want to vote because you care about a candidate or an issue, you should not lose your right to vote. This is true in too many places, that is not the case.

Twenty States already have automatic voter registration laws, including West Virginia, Alaska, and Georgia. This bill simply says they all should.

The second major reform we need is to get the big money out of politics. The For the People Act helps bring transparency to campaign spending so that voters are informed about who is funding candidates and who is paying for ads.

It also tightens regulations on super PACs and restructures the Federal Election Commission to make it more...
The For the People Act is restoring trust in our government. Democracy isn’t just about what happens on election day; it is about making sure everyone who is eligible to vote has the chance to do so—particularly those that historically are counted.

The For the People Act ensures that Members of Congress and other Federal officials are truly working for the people. It expands conflict of interest laws, prohibits Members of Congress from serving on the boards of for-profit entities, and codifies ethics rules for the executive branch.

More importantly, why does the highest Court in the land not have any ethics rules for the Supreme Court when every other Federal court in the Nation does? This bill answers that question.

Three simple ideas: Making voting easier, getting big money out of politics, and strengthening ethics rules.

The year 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. This year, a century after that ratification, we elected our first African American, first Asian American, and first woman Vice President in Vice President Kamala Harris. As we celebrate these firsts, we are reminded that throughout our country’s history, the right to vote has been hard-fought and hard-won.

As Congressman John Lewis, whom we sadly lost, once said:

Your vote is precious, almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have to create a more perfect union.

When we reflect on the sacrifices and strides that have been made for the right to vote, one thing is very clear: the fight isn’t over. The best way we can honor the countless Americans who have risked and, in some cases, given their lives—given their lives to protect our freedoms overseas, given their lives to protect our democracy here at home—the best way is to make sure every vote continues unshaken and that everyone has the right to vote because we know, as Senator Warnock reminded us, that there are some people who are trying to make it hard for some people to vote. That is not how America works.

The For the People Act is all about making sure America works for everyone.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I see we are joined by two Senators who are going to be speaking, Senator Padilla—three Senators—from California, as well as Senator Whitehouse from Rhode Island and Senator Van Hollen from Maryland.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. Padilla. Madam President, I rise to speak today on the For the People Act.

But before I do, I want to take a moment to honor the lives of those tragically lost in Colorado yesterday by yet another senseless mass shooting in our country. My heart breaks for their families, but the sobering and harsh reality is that in many parts of the United States, it is easier to buy a gun than it is to buy a ballot. In 25 States, voters must be registered before they can vote. These States have specific forms of identification in order to cast a ballot, but those same States allow people to buy rifles without permits and require no bond checks for some sales. Think about that. It seems to me that we are completely out of step with the rest of the world when it comes to making it easier to buy a weapon than we do to cast a ballot.

As we work to rebuild our economy for all people, we must acknowledge that to build an inclusive economy, we need an inclusive democracy. Just as the pandemic has put a spotlight on the inequities in our economy and our healthcare systems, so, too, has the pandemic put a spotlight on the inequities in our voting systems. The 2020 election, held in the midst of the COVID–19 pandemic, demonstrated once again that we have made it easier for some citizens to vote than others. This is not an accident.

Depending on where a voter lives, they may or may not have the ability to register to vote online; they may or may not be able to participate in same-day registration; they may or may not be able to vote early or by mail. Overall, across the States, the patchwork has a direct and dramatic effect on whose voices are heard in our democracy, and, too often, it is working-class communities, communities of color, young people whose voices are silenced.

For voters whose work schedule does not allow them to wait in line to vote, the denial of vote-by-mail or early voting denies the opportunity to vote altogether.

For voters who do not have that specified form of State identification, even though they are American citizens of voting age and otherwise eligible to vote, lack of an ID can mean that they will not be given a ballot, even if they can verify their identity some other way.

For voters who want to vote by mail and may have access to some form of vote-by-mail, unreasonable ballot receipt deadlines, a scarcity of ballot return locations, and/or slow or unreliable Postal Service delivery can mean that their ballots won’t be counted.

For young voters and for those who move frequently, antiquated registration systems and unnecessarily early registration deadlines leave them unable to register to vote or to update their registration record in time to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

All of these voting restrictions have a disproportional impact on communities of color. Just like the poll taxes and literacy tests of the Jim Crow era, the truth is plain for all to see: Voter suppression laws are rooted in White supremacy.

The For the People Act presents an opportunity for us to establish a baseline of voting rights and ballot access for all voters. I know that the For the People Act will improve voting rights in America because, as California’s secretary of state, I helped advance and implement best practices. These include automatic and same-day voter registration; online voter registration; expanded access to vote-by-mail; extended early voting periods—in-person early voting periods; and widespread, convenient access to poll drop-off locations. Together, these policies help to ensure equitable access to the ballot and, in so doing, strengthen our democracy.

While California has led the way in making our elections more accessible to all voters, the policies we have implemented are not unique to our State. States like Maine and Alaska have also adopted automatic voter registration policies. States like Utah, Iowa, Idaho, and Wyoming allow no-excuse vote-by-mail and provide voters with early voting options as well.

The election reforms within the For the People Act are not partisan. These reforms are not Democrat or Republican. They are common sense and are proven to work. All voters deserve equal voting rights and equal access to the ballot.

Colleagues, we are a stronger democracy and a better nation when we hear all voices from all corners of our Nation and when those voices are not just heard but counted. By passing the For the People Act, we can ensure that more voices are heard and more voices are, indeed, counted.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Murphy). The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. Van Hollen. Mr. President, first, I thank my colleagues who have gathered here on the floor to help pass and urge the passage of this very important piece of legislation, the For the People Act.

Our Constitution begins with three words that ring in the minds of each and every American, “We the People.” Seventy-six years after those words were written, President Lincoln resolved, in 1863, that those who had lost their lives on the battlefield at Gettysburg shall not have died in vain and that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the Earth.”

One hundred two years after Gettysburg, our beloved former colleague, Congressman John Lewis—the great civil rights activist and leader—together with nonviolent marchers, was beaten bloody by Alabama State Troopers in 1965 as they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge while demanding voting rights. Later that year in 1965, Congress acted on the Voting Rights Act, and it was reauthorized regularly thereafter, most recently in 2006 by a vote of 90 to 0 here in the U.S. Senate
and 390 to 33 in the House, where I served at that time.

Then, in 2013, in the case of Shelby County v. Holder, the Supreme Court, in a notorious 5-to-4 decision, stripped away a key enforcement provision from the Voting Rights Act: the requirement that the Department of Justice approve changes to voting rights laws in States that had histories of discriminating against African-American voters. It was part of their past laws.

Almost immediately, like within 24 hours, you saw States that had been covered by that act begin to move to erect barriers to the ballot box, making it more difficult for people of color to vote. Indeed, in the case of the North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP v. McCrory, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit said that the voting provisions passed by the North Carolina legislature, in the aftermath the Georgia House and Senate Rights Act, were designed to "target African-Americans with almost surgical precision."

Now we come to 2021. On January 6, we witnessed a violent mob, incited by the former President of the United States, attack this Capitol in order to overturn the results of a democratic election. The mob came because of the big lie—the big lie told by Donald Trump and fueled by some of his allies here on Capitol Hill—that he had been cheated out of an election victory. It is a pernicious and insidious lie that has caused Republican State legislatures across the country to try to build up barriers to voting. That is what happened in Georgia for anyone to provide water to someone who is waiting in line to vote—a real provision that has already passed the Georgia House and Senate, that is on its way to the Senate. These are all measures designed to make it harder for American citizens to exercise their right to vote.

We needed the For the People Act before January 6th, but we needed it more than ever now to establish some minimum national standards to ensure that every American's right to vote is secure. In addition to the barriers being erected around the country to voting, our democracy faces another real and present danger: the flood of cash from Big Money and special interests—invading the airwaves and invading the internet to drown out the voices of everyday Americans.

In 2010, in another notorious 5-to-4 Supreme Court decision, Citizens United, the Court opened the floodgates to unlimited amounts of corporate special interest money flowing into our elections. Over $14 billion was spent in the 2020 election cycle, much of it secret. In fact, one of the consequences of that decision, coupled with already existing laws, was that more money flowed secretly into our elections—the dark money, the dark money trying to hijack our democracy for the highest bidder.

As my colleagues have said, the American people have a right to know who is spending all of this money to try to influence their votes. That is why, back in 2010, I authored and the House passed the DISCLOSE Act—to require that the information be available to the American people. In fact, had that House bill become law, we wouldn't have secret money today. While it was overwhelmingly popular in the country and supported by an overwhelming majority of Americans at the time and a quirk of history in the death of Ted Kennedy, the Senate was not able to secure the 60 votes necessary to overcome a filibuster. Ted Kennedy passed away, and his replacement was a Republican. This Senate voted with 59 votes—a big majority—to pass the DISCLOSE Act, but because of the filibuster rule, it couldn't get over that hurdle.

The DISCLOSE Act is part of S. 1. Senator WHITEHOUSE and all of the Senators here have been part of that effort. It is part of S. 1.

We cannot afford to repeat the history of 2010. We cannot allow a minority of Senators who represent a minority of the American public in this country and the American people to stop the For the People Act. We have a duty to every patriotic American who has worked hard—and the many who have spilled blood—for the right to vote. We have a duty to pass the For the People Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I pick up where Senator VAN HOLLEN left off because, when he was fighting for the DISCLOSE Act in the House, I was the manager of that bill on the floor here in the Senate.

It would do something very simple. If you are spending more than $10,000 in a particular election, we ought to know who you are. That is pretty easy. It is not going to be in lots of small donors. It will get the big interests who are out there trying to control our democracy and hide who they are while they are doing it.

As Senator VAN HOLLEN said, this started with Citizens United—a wretched decision that unleashed unlimited money into our politics, but it said that the unlimited interest money was going to be transparent. That was its predicate. It is going to be transparent. You won't have corruption because everybody will be able to see. The ad will say: We are ExxonMobil, and we paid for this message.

Well, of course, the dark money forces, in having achieved that victory at the Supreme Court, went right out and violated that predicate—right out. They have built an entire architecture of deception around their campaign finances since then. It is the 501(c) corporations that don't have to report their donors. It is the donor-advised foundations that are money identity laundering devices for big donors. It is even as simple as phony-baloney shell corporations. Sometimes they are stacked up, and the money goes to the phoney-baloney shell corporation. The shell corporation launderers it through DonorsTrust, and DonorsTrust gives it to the 501(c) to run the super PAC. They all know it is going on. This is orchestrated stuff.

So we have a real battle on our hands. We passed the billion-dollar-in-dark-money threshold a long time ago. When people are spending $1 billion in dark money to influence what goes on in this country, you can bet they are winning. You can bet they are winning. They wouldn't keep spending money by the billions if they were not winning.

So we have to put a stop to this.

The American people are with us. The polling is unbelievable. It is in the nineties. Whether you are a Bernie Bro or a tea partier, you hate the idea that there is big dark money in politics carping the tune for Congress to dance to, but that is the fact. Look at the outcomes.

Look at climate change. There is no dispute about the science. We all know what needs to be done, but one big special interest, the fossil fuel industry, has shut down one political party. My strong bet is, if you looked at all of the dark money funding the Republican Party in Congress, you would find that it is 80 percent the fossil fuel industry. They have become the virtual wing of the fossil fuel industry, and they specialize in fake climate denial for that reason, and it is going to cost us. The lost decade on climate is going to cost us.

So dark money is not just a plague to the integrity of American democracy; it is a plague that harms our ability to deal with the other problems that are coming our way—wherever there is a special interest that can play the game of hiding the money and moving it around.

Let me say one last thing.

Dark money? Not really. It is not dark to the candidate who is the beneficiary. When a big dark money donor sets up a shell corporation and gives it a couple of million dollars and then has that shell corporation launder the money through DonorsTrust and then has that money go into a super PAC to be spent for a particular candidate or against an opponent, do you think that don't find a way a candidate know what they did and why? The only people who are not in on the joke are the American people, and we have got to put an end to this.

Democracy behind masks isn't democracy at all. Let's get rid of this stuff. The American public will be with us. It will provide health and hygiene to our democracy again, and we will start to see results for the American people in a way that the dark money has not.
is the democracy that needs defending, and, by God, we are going to defend it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am happy to join in this block of time in which Members are coming forward to talk about the For the People Act.

I thank Senator MERKLEY for being our leader and inspiration in many aspects of this and Chair AMY KLOBUCAR from the Rules Committee, who will have the honor of bringing this matter before our committee for debate and discussion.

Tomorrow is going to mark 11 weeks since we sat in this Chamber late into the night and debated the certification of the electoral college vote of the November 3 election. It was an experience none of us will ever forget.

Hours before we were told to rush out of this Chamber as quickly as possible because the insurrectionist mob was just a few feet away, we had been told they would go to keep this place safe for us. We were to sit at our chairs and gather our staffs along the walls. You will be safe. You will be just fine. Ten minutes later, they said: Run as fast as you can. It was an experience that none of us will ever forget.

We had been rushed out of the Chamber as this mob attacked the Capitol in an effort to stop us from fulfilling our constitutional duty in recognizing Joe Biden as the President of the United States. If that were in a novel 20 years ago, I would have said: It is preposterous. It will never happen in America.

But I saw it. I lived it. Many of us did.

This mob had been fueled by weeks of lies, disinformation, and baseless allegations of fraudulent votes and a stolen election.

I could not get over that, yesterday, a lawyer named Sidney Powell, who was the big defender of the big lie, said: Do you mean people actually believed me? How could they possibly believe me?

Well, that is how far it has come. The preposterous statements being made by the pro-Trump forces about stealing the election now are so laughable that people are trying to escape legal liability by saying: Surely, you didn’t take that seriously.

We saw a lot of people did across America, and many of them marched on this Capitol.

Despite this horrific attack on the Capitol and our democracy, some of our colleagues, to amplify these wild claims, they continue to object to the electoral vote count and claim that Congress needed to do more to assure voters that the 2020 election was legitimate.

A few of those colleagues even proposed a sham Commission for the election. They were relying on another 1876 precedent that was responsible for the end of Reconstruction and the beginning of the Jim Crow era, a precedent that established rank discrimination against African Americans for decades and invited brutal voter suppression efforts that sadly, amazingly, we are still fighting today.

Here is the reality: If those colleagues were serious about protecting democracy, they would be standing on the floor with us right now. They would have stayed in their seats when the electoral college vote was certified. They wouldn’t have spent weeks challenging the legitimacy results of an election that their chosen candidate actually lost, and they would be on the floor with us, as I said, in support of the For the People Act.

Anyone who truly believes that we need to strengthen the integrity of our elections and democratic process should be cosponsoring this bill.

The For the People Act ensures that all eligible Americans can cast a ballot without excessive barriers that suppress the vote.

In 1890, there was established something called the Mississippi Plan. The Mississippi Plan was State legislation carefully crafted to make certain that African Americans didn’t have the right to vote.

Other States looked at it carefully and said: This is the answer. Literacy tests, poll taxes, every obstacle they could dream of became part of the Mississippi Plan, with the express purpose of disenfranchising African Americans recently emancipated.

That plan, unfortunately, lived out its days for decades and performed as expected, suppress the vote. Again, we face this kind of challenge.

The bill that we are talking about here invests in election infrastructure and provides State and local officials with the resources they need for safe and secure elections.

The bill reforms a broken campaign finance system that elevates the voices of wealthy donors today and special interests, and it strengthens and enhances ethics and transparency requirements.

I am proud to be here today because this bill also includes the Fair Elections Now Act. I have introduced this every year since 2007. And occasionally, just occasionally, I would get a Republican cosponsor.

The idea behind it is simple: public financing of campaigns, a voluntary, small-donor public financing system for Senate candidates who agree to raise small-dollar contributions, not big money.

The fair elections public financing system would elevate the views and interests of a diverse spectrum of Americans rather than just the wealthy.

I am lucky to have a House sponsor, JOHN SARANBES. His father and I served in the Senate together, and he really has done a remarkable job promoting the bill in the House.

We would pay for these campaigns, public financing, without spending a dime of taxpayers’ dollars. It would be financed with assessments on wealthy bad actors and industry laborbreakers.

Voluntary, small-donor public financing of congressional campaigns would mean more candidates with more ideas and a Congress that works for more than just the top 1 percent in America.

I thank Senator MERKLEY for, once again, including this act in the bill, and, again, I thank Congressman SARBANES for his leadership in the House.

The Fair Elections Now Act is just one of the many critical reforms in this bill, one that will empower voters and combat corruption.

After months of the former President and his allies undermining faith in our electoral system with their unjustified claims, we must take immediate, concrete steps to repair our battered democracy.

I urge all my colleagues to join in this mission and support the For the People Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues who have come to the floor to speak so powerfully to the essential task of defending the ballot box, of stripping dark money out of our system, of honoring the vision of equal representation by ending the practice of gerrymandering across this country.

Senator KLOBUCAR, who chairs the Rules Committee, the host and direct the committee hearing, the first ever for S. 1, For the People Act, made a powerful representation of how vote-by-mail gives every citizen a full opportunity to participate in elections without the manipulations that can occur on election day, when different people who do not want you to have access to a ballot can put all kinds of hurdles and obstacles in your way.

Senator VAN HOLLEN, who authored the DISCLOSE Act in the House, repositioned the DISCLOSE Act in the Senate, noted that there is a scheme of 501(c)(3) corporations and donor advice trusts and phony-baloney shell corporations, as he put it, all working to corrupt our campaigns and that the amount of money that has been used to secure power to the powerful by manipulating the elections now exceeds $1 billion.

And Senator DURBIN, who has championed year after year after year the Fair Elections Now Act, presenting a powerful remedy for the role of Big Money donations in our campaigns through public financing—public financing, not with government funds
but with funds that come from corporate malfeasance. So I appreciate so much these colleagues who have been all involved in so many different ways in this battle to save our Republic.

There is always a powerful force seeking to manipulate the election process to their favor, and it is one of many tools that that powerful group brings to bear. There are the dozens of lawyers who work night and day, being paid tens of dollars an hour, to secure power for the powerful. There are the public media campaigns that take tens of millions of dollars to frame issues to try to persuade Americans of their particular viewpoint or to drive a wedge between different groups of Americans. There is that dark money. There are those efforts in State legislatures to block the vote.

I want to just close by reminding us all that the Constitution clearly states that elections for Senators and House Members, this body—Congress—has the ability to pass laws to make sure those elections are fair across this country because every American of any State has a clear stake in the legitimacy of the elections in other States because it is that collective force here that makes decisions. So this is not only a responsibility provided to us, it is a responsibility that we must fulfill to defend the ballot box, to end gerrymandering violating equal representation, and clear that dark money, polluting and disrupting our campaign, out of the system forevermore.

Let’s get this essential bill, this essential defense of the pulsating heart of our democracy, the ballot box—let’s get this bill passed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I am an unabashed optimist. I am a glass-half-full not a glass-half-empty kind of guy, and I tell my staff that I am like the little boy who goes down on Christmas morning under the Christmas tree and finds a pile of manure and wonders where my pony is. That is how much of an optimist I am.

So I am optimistic about our progress made in the war against COVID-19 after this long year that we have all endured. So far, a quarter of Americans over the age of 18 have received at least one dose of the vaccine. More than two-thirds of people over 65 have gotten their first shot. In my State, they have recently said everybody got a shot by now. Very, very soon, any adult person over the age of 16 will be eligible to get the vaccine. That translates into good news across the board. New cases, deaths, and hospitalizations are all declining. Over the last week, the 7-day positivity rate in Texas dropped to the lowest point since last May.

While we continue to follow the public health guidance, if we stay on track without getting close to the virus, it is clear we are moving closer and closer to an eventual end of this pandemic, and there are a million reasons to be optimistic.

Despite the narrative pushed by some—of this timeline isn’t the result of just the last couple of months, and it certainly is not the product of the partisan bill that was passed just 2 weeks ago. These efforts have been underway for more than a year now, and we owe a great deal of credit to Operation Warp Speed, the initiative set up by the Trump administration to accelerate the development of vaccines, treatments, and therapeutics.

Last summer, when President Trump speculated that we would have an effective vaccine by the end of the year, he received some serious backlash. One media outlet published a fact check saying it would require nothing short of a “medical miracle.” Well, thanks to the leadership of the previous administration, the outstanding work of scientists, pharmaceutical companies, and others, that so-called miracle has come true not just once but twice. Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines received emergency authorization last year, and the Johnson vaccine was authorized last month.

Rather than setting ambitious goals to bring an end to the pandemic, the Biden administration has embraced a different approach. An Associated Press headline in January evaluated the situation pretty well when it said that Biden’s early approach is to “underpromise” and “overdeliver.”

Well, in December, President-Elect Biden announced his administration’s vaccine goal as 100 million shots in the first hundred days. That announcement came about a week before the first doses of the vaccine were distributed, before we had a real-world test of the processes that had been in the planning stages for months. But, it quickly became obvious that we were on a pace to meet that goal before President Biden even took the oath of office on January 20. The week of the inauguration, we averaged 1 million shots a day. On January 26, we received the vaccine. One physician and public health expert described the President’s goal as a “disappointingly low bar.” To no one’s surprise, the administration met that goal well ahead of the deadline.

Last week, the President claimed a victory for hitting 100 million vaccines in 58 days. Well, so did he follow up with a new goal, a truly ambitious one that would get us shots in arms even faster? Did he set up a new benchmark to encourage States to make their vaccination efforts more efficient and effective? Well, not yet. Maybe he will. Maybe he will announce a new goal this week. For the sake of our country, I hope he sets the bar high. Given the fact that we are now vaccinating about 2.5 million Americans per day—a staggering number, really—it is time for the administration to take a truly bold step. The goal he set, I think, is a target you are almost certain to meet. After all, you didn’t see the previous administration set a target of a successful vaccine by the summer of 2021, which is what many experts believed at the time.

Unfortunately, the underpromise, overdeliver strategy doesn’t end with vaccinations. Just look at the President’s latest comments about small outdoor gatherings. In the same speech where he tried to take a victory lap for the “disappointingly low bar” set for vaccinations, he made a rather confusing promise to the American people.

He said:

If we keep our guard up, stick together, and stick with the science, we can look forward to a Fourth of July a little bit more normal with small groups able to gather for cookouts in backyards.

Well, that was a little bit of a head-scratcher, when President Biden said that he anticipated everybody who wanted the vaccine could get it by May, and now he is talking about having outdoor gatherings on the Fourth of July.

I can tell you, these small outdoor gatherings have been a part of many Texans’ routines for almost all year now. Families and friends have spent time in driveways, backyards, open-air spaces, parks. They follow the public health guidelines to keep themselves and their loved ones safe while managing some sense of normalcy.

The Centers for Disease Control has said it is safe for fully vaccinated individuals to gather not just outdoors but indoors as well. But based on the President’s remarks last week, he is trying to frame these gatherings as a reward if things go well over the next few months. If you do everything right, then you might be able to hang out with your family in the backyard in 3 months. Well, the administration’s own Centers for Disease Control has already told us that these gatherings are safe. Your current public health guidelines can’t also double as a goal for 3½ months from now.

Then there is another big inconsistency between what the experts are telling us and what the administration is doing, and that has to do with reopen schools. Some children have now hit the anniversary mark of virtual learning. Studies have shown consistently that this has a huge negative impact on America’s kids academically, mentally, socially, and emotionally.

We need our schools to reopen, and, of course, we need that to happen safely, which they can. But in December, the President said he hadn’t been asked to share that goal. He promised to safely reopen the majority of schools within his first hundred days in the White
House, another hundred-day goal. The experts tell us it is not only possible, but it has already been done across the country.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published a report in January that states:

The report has been little evidence that schools have contributed meaningfully to increased community transmission.

In short, the schools are not a breeding ground for COVID-19, and as long as proper precautions are taken, schools can reopen safely. In fact, it has already happened across most of Texas. Nearly two-thirds of Texas schools are fully in-person, and just 3 percent of districts are still fully remote. Two-thirds are fully reopened, and 5 percent are fully remote.

Unfortunately, in this case, the science is at odds with a key supporter of our Democratic colleagues, and that is the teachers unions. For months, teachers unions have fought a safe return to school and been inconsistent, even though the experts and real-world evidence tell us that it is safe. It has gone so far that they have now gotten into some pretty sticky situations.

A leaked post from a private Facebook group for the Los Angeles teachers union warned teachers not to post pictures of their spring break photos because it makes it difficult to argue that it is unsafe to return to school. Well, it is tough to tell parents that we won't let them have their kids go to school and then turn around and tell teachers it is fine to go on vacation; just don't post pictures. Trusting science and listening to the experts means doing so all the time, not just when it is convenient or politically expedient.

We are seeing progress every day in our fight against COVID-19. That is the light at the end of the tunnel that is getting bigger and brighter, and the question is: how do we get there but, when. How quickly can we get more vaccines into arms? When will our children—all our children—return safely to the classroom? How long until families can hug one another without fear of spreading the virus to someone they love?

We all know this is a community effort. It is a team effort. It is a personal responsibility effort. Each of us has a role to play in stopping the spread of the virus. But leadership matters too. The goals and benchmarks set by the administration will determine how quickly all of these things can happen. Now is not the time to walk back goals, set low bars, or bow to unions and political supporters. The administration needs to set clear metrics and goals, set low bars, or bow to unions and political supporters. The administration needs to set clear metrics and goals, set low bars, or bow to unions and political supporters.

So we are getting close to safely crossing the finish line, and we shouldn’t let politics or any other consideration slow us down.

I yield the floor.

I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 928

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, at a moment, I am going to propound a unanimous consent request. But before I do so, I want to make some brief observations.

Earlier this month, Democrats passed their extreme partisan reconciliation bill—bill that President Biden signed into law. When the Senate was considering the bill, I introduced an amendment to ensure that illegal aliens would not receive the $1,400 tax-payer checks provided in the bill.

Every Democrat in this body voted against that amendment. It failed by a single vote. If even one Senate Democrat had voted for that amendment, it would have passed.

At the time, Senator DURBIN incorrectly told us that no illegal aliens would receive stimulus checks under this bill. It was clear then, and it is ever more clear now, that that statement was very much in error, as even Senator DURBIN has admitted.

Last day gave our Democratic colleagues a chance for a do-over, once it became clear that there was a very substantial number of illegal aliens who would be receiving these checks. Unfortunately, the Democrats objected again and put themselves on record that they are just fine with millions of illegal immigrants getting taxpayer stimulus checks.

There has been some debate as to the exact number, but, just this week, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities released an economic report that catalogued that we are indeed talking about millions of illegal immigrants who are receiving these checks. At the same time we were debating this partisan reconciliation bill, the Senate considered another amendment, which I had introduced and Senator CASSIDY had introduced, to prevent the payments from going to criminals currently incarcerated in prison. Again, unfortunately and astonishingly, every single Democrat in this Chamber voted against it. It failed by a single vote. If even one Democrat had demonstrated the common sense to say violent criminals who are currently in prison right now, shouldn’t be getting $1,400 taxpayer stimulus checks, that amendment would have passed. But every Democrat lined up in a party-line partisan vote to say no.

Today, I am going to give Democrats another chance at a do-over to recognize that that extreme position is a position, frankly, none of us could go home and explain to our constituents without being laughed at, even in the bluest of States. And I am going to give an opportunity in this instance for Democrats to vote on stopping the funds going to criminals currently incarcerated and sending those funds instead to the Crime Victims Fund, a program that is run by the Department of Justice to compensate victims of crime.

So this is a choice the Democrats have: Do you want $1,400 checks going to criminals in prison, or do you want instead to direct those funds to the victims of crime that suffered at the hands of those criminals?

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 928, introduced earlier today. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, just two quick points. First, this is not really about prisoners. This is about disrupting payments to families all across the country who need the money to make rent and pay for groceries.

Here is why. The IRS administers the tax system for millions and millions of Americans. The Cruz amendment has the practical effect of keeping these folks who are hurting from getting that check that they are going to use to pay for essentials. That is because their check would be on hold while the IRS sets up the system envisioned by this amendment.

Now, I guess that is what my colleague from Texas wants. After all, he opposed the bill. He opposed these payments going out to all the people who are being discussed here when they controlled the White House and the Senate.

Senator Cruz voted for the CARES Act. It passed unanimously. There were 41 Republicans for the December relief bill, with no exception like the Senator from Texas wants. The system Trump was so happy with the checks going to prisoners that he put his name on them. The only difference between the CARES Act relief checks that Republicans unanimously supported and America Rescue Plan relief checks is the party in the White House.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.
The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, the Senator from Oregon, I guess, demonstrates the principle that hypocrisy is the tribute that vice pays to virtue, because the Senator from Oregon suggests that some people who are not criminals will be delayed if we don’t pay criminals in prison. That claim, on the face of it, is absurd.

The Federal prisons are administered by the Bureau of Prisons. Government may not be good at everything, but I feel quite confident that the Federal Government can produce a list of currently incarcerated prisoners. I know the States can.

The IRS, likewise, is perfectly capable of recognizing whether it is mailing checks to prisoners in prison. This is not whether you have ever been convicted of a crime. It is, Are you sending the checks to Sing Sing? If so, don’t send it.

The claim that somehow Joe Six-Pack at home is not getting his check because we don’t want to send checks to prisoners is demonstrably untrue.

The Senator from Oregon also claims Republicans oppose stimulus checks when he knows that is simply not the case. As he noted, this body overwhelmingly passed bipartisan COVID relief five times last year. It is only when Senate Democrats took the majority that bipartisan legislation ended because Democrats decided to push a hard partisan bill instead.

A clean bill providing relief checks would have passed with an overwhelming bipartisan majority in this body, and the Senator from Oregon knows that.

We have now discovered, though, that given a straight-up choice between sending checks to criminals in prison versus sending checks to the victims of crime, Senate Democrats stand silent.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 929

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I am going to suggest an even narrower situation. Perhaps we can’t agree on victims of crime. How about murderers?

We just had a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee on gun violence. We saw a horrific mass murder in Colorado. Can’t we agree that murderers shouldn’t get checks—$1,400 stimulus checks—from the taxpayers? Let’s take the money going to murderers and put it in the crime victims task force fund instead.

And so, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 929, introduced earlier today. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. WYDEN. Thank you very much.

Mr. President, there isn’t information about this crime or these crimes at the Federal, State, and local levels. So, again, we are back in exactly the same place.

The Senator from Texas wants to hold up the checks to millions and millions of people in spite of the fact that he voted—he voted earlier—for a system that sent the checks to everybody in a timely way. And when you don’t have the information about the specific crimes at the Federal, State, and local levels, it becomes impossible to carry out what the Senator from Texas seeks to do. And the net effect is, again, that millions and millions of Americans aren’t getting the funds that they need to pay for essentials, rent and groceries.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, you know, it could be hard in these partisan days to know what the truth is. Both sides yell at each other. They insult each other. It is hard to know who is telling the truth.

I ask the folks at home who are listening to this debate to exercise a little bit of common sense. The Senator from Oregon just told you the Federal Government has no idea who are murderers currently in prison. I want to suggest that doesn’t make any sense.

I feel quite confident the Department of Justice could produce a list of currently incarcerated murderers in Federal prisons within 24 hours. I am absolutely certain the State of Texas could produce that list. I am confident the State of Connecticut could produce a list of the murderers currently in Connecticut prisons. I am even confident the Federal Government could produce a list of the murderers convicted of homicide currently incarcerated in the State of Oregon.

The claim that we don’t know who the murderers are who are in our prisons serving time for murder—it doesn’t pass the laugh test.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 930

Mr. President, so let’s see if we could agree in a different area—rapists, those who committed sexual assault.

Again, the Senator from Oregon just told you the Federal Government has no idea who are rapists currently in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to rapists in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to rapists in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to rapists in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to rapists in prison.

Here is a choice for Democrats: Do you want to send money to the rapists or the victims of sexual assault? This ought to be a hundred-or-nothing choice.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 930, introduced earlier today. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to read, specifically, what the IRS has told us, because I think my colleague would like to just continue this for some time. But here is what the IRS says:

In the information the IRS receives from the Bureau of Prisons and State prison systems, we do not get the crime for which the person is incarcerated.

So we can have a host more of these amendments, if my colleague wants to do it. But I get why he is so anxious to have his amendment passed—because he was always for keeping people from getting checks, and his amendment, if passed, would put those checks on hold. So that is why I have objected, and we will put this into the record as well. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKS). Objection is heard.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, once again, the Senator from Oregon has said something that is demonstrably false and that he knows is false, which is that he has suggested that I opposed sending stimulus checks to the American citizens, to law-abiding citizens, I not only didn’t oppose it, I voted for it. Republicans supported it. He knows that. That is a red herring.

He just read a statement from the IRS Agency saying they get a list of prisoners from the Bureau of Prisons, and he said: But we don’t know the correct.

The first unanimous consent request I put before this body is, everyone on that list in the Bureau of Prisons, don’t send them a check. That doesn’t delay checks. If you are not looking at bars, if you are not in a jail cell that is 5 feet by 10 feet, this doesn’t affect you. This only affects criminals currently in prison.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 931

Mr. President, let’s try one more time. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to criminals in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to criminals in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to criminals in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to criminals in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to criminals in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to criminals in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to criminals in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to criminals in prison. The Democrats have objected to not sending checks to criminals in prison.

Here is a choice for Democrats: Do you want to send money to the rapists or the victims of sexual assault? This ought to be a hundred-or-nothing choice.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 930, introduced earlier today.
kids? And before the Senator from Oregon says, "Who knows who the child molesters are," well, the Department of Justice and every State department of justice knows who the child molesters are in their prisons.

Let's take the money that the Democrats now say we will send to child molesters, and let's take it from the child molesters and give it to the victims of crimes, the kids who have been molested. This is as simple a legislative choice as I can imagine.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 931, introduced earlier today. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, once again, our colleague from Texas is offering an idea that would disrupt the system that would keep billions and millions of Americans who are hurting from getting help in a timely way. He has come back with, essentially, one version after another because he thinks that, somehow, this is the key to a sensational idea that will cause people to rally to his side.

I believe what he has been proposing—now, I gather, four times—is so disruptive, so unworkable that it is going to hurt the millions of people whom this Congress wanted to help, and that is what the Senator from Texas has sought to do from the very beginning. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, there is an old saying that you don't learn anything from the second kick of a mule.

The first time the Senator from Oregon said that I sought to disrupt stimulus payments, perhaps he did so because he didn't know my views on that topic, but he has since been corrected that I voted for stimulus payments to American citizens in the time of economic crisis and didn't oppose them. So he is now repeatedly stating falsehoods about the ideas that they are the same.

You know, all of us were there when Joe Biden gave his inauguration speech making a call to unity, making a call to healing, and there was a chance we could have done that. On COVID relief, you don't have to ask theoretically. Last year, when Republicans had control of the Senate, we passed five bipartisan COVID relief bills, coming together with overwhelming bipartisan majorities.

The Democrats decided, when they took control, they didn't want to do that. You want to know just how far out of touch and how radical today's Democratic Party is? We have seen the Democrats now say we will send taxpayer stimulus checks to millions of illegal immigrants. We have seen Democrats say we will send the taxpayer stimulus to criminals in prison. We have seen the Democrats say we will send the taxpayer stimulus checks to murderers in prison. We have seen them say we will send the checks to rapists in prison. And we now just saw them say we will send the checks to child molesters in prison.

It should be the essence of common sense to give this money to violent criminals; give it to victims of crime instead. In a sane world, that would be a hundred-to-nothing proposition.

I challenge any one of you in the brightest of blue States: Go home and explain to your constituents that you refused to take the money from child molesters and give it to the victims of that crime. That is the position of every Democrat in this Chamber because the Democratic Senator was the deciding vote rejecting the amendment on the floor.

It is unfortunate just how extreme the hard left is right now, but it is far out of touch with the American people, and it has long abandoned any semblance of common sense.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Here is what we are for. We are for being sure that needy people get help to pay for groceries and make rent rather than have one of our colleagues come out with something that is unworkable and disruptive and is going to keep those people from getting help. That is what this debate is all about, something that is unworkable.

I read the direct comment from the IRS with respect to not having the information or getting help to people who are hurting.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, the Senator from Oregon suggested that the concern of the Democrats is to get taxpayer funds to needy people. People currently incarcerated are not needy. The Senator from Oregon said we need to help Americans struggling with rent. You know what? People currently incarcerated may zero in rent. They don't have rent costs.

So the argument of the Democrats is: We don't know who the criminals are who are currently in jail. That does not comport with reality, and any fair-minded person watching this knows that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I am sure you have been to Paris. The architect, as you undoubtedly know, who designed the Louvre's iconic glass pyramid was actually an American. He was an American. His name was I.M. Pei. Mr. Pei emigrated from China to the United States in the 1930s.

By the time he passed at the age of 102, he had designed a number of famous buildings. He had done that all across the world, including the U.S. Capitol.

America is proud of Mr. Pei. He is just one of millions of Asian Americans whose talents have helped America continue to be an exceptional nation, a nation made up of exceptional people who take advantage of all of the opportunities that these United States have to offer.

The contributions of individual Asian Americans have helped our country pioneer—and the Presiding Officer knows this—advances in architecture, in medicine, in art, and in technology. But, more than that, Asian Americans are our friends, and they are our neighbors.

The recent murder of Asian-American women in an evil assault in Atlanta was an assault not just on the Asian community but on the United States of America. President Biden has correctly denounced these attacks, and he is not alone.

I know the President can join me in this. I condemn these evil murders in the strongest possible terms. No one can justify—one of them—the brutal theft of eight lives. Every community—every single one—across our country is grieving for the victims and is grieving for the families. These victims were all made, they were each made, in God's image, and Americans know that. I also feel the same way about the shooting in Boulder. We all do.

America pioneered government that is based on inalienable rights that God gives each person. God has imbued every man and woman with dignity, and Americans answer that dignity with respect, respect for each individual and their right to make the most of the manifold opportunities our country offers.

Unfortunately, President Biden's rhetoric in defense of the Asian-American community is not altogether matched by respect for the right of Asian Americans to reap the reward of their talent and grit.

The Biden administration, thus far—it has time to correct its course—has shown and did show right out of the gate determined to pick its head in the sand while some of America's top universities are actively discriminating against Asian Americans.

Last year, as the Presiding Officer knows, the Justice Department sued Yale University. The Justice Department contended that Yale rejected many qualified Asian-American applicants on the basis of race—not on the basis of qualification, on the basis of race.

The decision by the Justice Department came 2 years after several Asian-American organizations filed a complaint with the Department of Justice.
and the Department of Education that accused Yale of what I just described: racial discrimination.

Yet only a few weeks—only a few weeks after President Biden set up shop in the Oval Office, the Department of Education had determined to discriminate against Asian-American applicants. In 2014, Students for Fair Admissions sued Harvard, claiming that the school was using an application system that intentionally reduces the number of Asian Americans through evaluations that are subjective and potentially racially biased.

Unfortunately, Harvard University also appears determined to discriminate against Asian-American applicants. In 2014, Students for Fair Admissions sued Harvard, claiming that the school was using an application system that intentionally reduces the number of Asian Americans through evaluations that are subjective and potentially racially biased.

You see, Harvard apparently believes it knows how to discriminate in the right way. It believed the same thing a number of years ago when it limited the number of Jewish people who could attend Harvard.

When Harvard considers an applicant, the school doesn’t just look at their grades or their test scores or their academic awards. In fact, the admissions team at Harvard often looks past these objective indicators to a student’s—this is what Harvard calls it—personal ratings, which is an unfair, ridiculous, and a subjective standard.

These personal ratings, as Harvard calls them, supposedly take into account character traits like humor, sensitivity, helpfulness, and courage. For years, Harvard has consistently granted lower personal ratings scores to Asian Americans than it has to other applicants, and that is, in fact.

The judge in the Students for Fair Admissions’ lawsuit wrote the following:

The data demonstrates—

These are the judge’s words, not mine.

The data demonstrates a statistically significant and negative relationship between Asian American identity and the personal rating assigned by Harvard admissions officers, holding constant any reasonable set of observable characteristics.

I didn’t say that; the judge in the case did.

Now, I want to be fair. It may look smart or wise for Harvard to look for well-rounded applicants—I get that—until the judge thought about that these personal ratings are not just subjective; they are subversive. If you think about it, the scores, these scores—they are not objective like test scores or grades or extracurricular activities; these personal ratings are value judgments that can easily be tainted by racial bias. It is clear that the personal ratings minimize the accomplishments of Asian Americans in particular.

Just look at the numbers. Harvard’s admissions scores work like this: They use a scale of 1 to 6. One is the strongest possible rating. When it comes to personal ratings—remember, this is the subjective analysis of the personhood of the applicant by Harvard, not the test scores, not the grades, not the extracurricular activities. When it comes to personal ratings, only 17.6 percent of Asian-American applicants receive a score of 6. In 2014, 17.6 percent of Asian Americans. For African Americans, that number is 19.01 percent. For Hispanic Americans, it is 18.7 percent. In fact—and these are the numbers—Harvard gives Asian Americans the weakest personal ratings of any ethnic group, bar none.

Harvard admissions officials have reportedly handed out these scores without even interviewing all of the candidates in question—personal ratings without interviewing the applicants. This happens now despite the fact that Asian Americans have the highest grades and test scores. So on the objective criteria—test scores, grades—Asian Americans have the highest scores. What pulls them down? The personal ratings.

Harvard officials admitted in 2013 if Harvard considered only academic achievement, then proportional Asian-American representation that year would have doubled. Think about that. Harvard went with the objective criteria—extracurricular activities, grades, test scores—twice as many Asian Americans would have been admitted to the university. Why weren’t they? Because of the personal ratings. They call it “personal” even though many of the applicants are never even interviewed.

The Department of Justice has historically supported the Students for Fair Admissions lawsuit. In 2018, the Justice Department filed a statement of interest in the case. Last year, the Justice Department filed an amicus brief in the case. A Federal judge ruled against the plaintiffs in 2019 in the case. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit upheld that decision last November—despite the fact that the Federal district court judge in the case openly acknowledged that Harvard grants lower personal ratings scores to Asian-American applicants.

The fruits of Harvard’s policy are pretty clear. You don’t have to be Mensa material to figure this out. The Ivy League school has repeatedly rejected highly qualified Asian-American candidates because of their race.

But there is still hope for justice for our Asian-American students. The Supreme Court may well take up this case, and the White House could defend the cause of merit against Harvard’s alleged racial discrimination.

So let me say this as clearly as I can. If President Biden—if the Biden team is committed to fighting racial discrimination against Asian Americans, if President Biden and his team want to lift up Asian Americans, as they say they do, it is not hard to see how counte...
Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in order.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in order. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENIOR LIEUTENANT GENERAL NGUYEN CHI VINH

Mr. LEAHEY. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to one of Vietnam’s highest ranking military officers, Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh.

General Vinh, who has served as Vietnam’s Deputy Minister of National Defense since 2009, has played an indispensable role in the reconciliation between Vietnam and the United States. After more than four decades of military service, he is finally nearing retirement from the Ministry of National Defense.

General Vinh was born in 1957. He studied at the Institute of Military Technology before embarking on his long and distinguished career in the Vietnamese People’s Army. His father, General Nguyen Chi Thanh, came from a humble family and rose to become a decorated military officer and politician. Today, one of Hanoi’s main thoroughfares bears his name.

As someone who lived through the Vietnam war era, I remember it a catastrophe for both countries. The more than 58,000 American soldiers and other servicemen who died, whose names are etched in the granite Vietnam Veterans Memorial, are only part of the story. We remember their families and the many tens of thousands who returned home with severe disabilities.

In Vietnam, virtually no family was unscathed. Hundreds of thousands are still missing among the estimated 3 million Vietnamese who died. The majority were civilians, whose families suffered grievous losses and severe hardships as the fighting raged around them. Many of their stories remain untold.

In the decades since, memories of that time have faded and the world’s attention has turned elsewhere. Yet during the bicentennial of the French Revolution since the normalization of relations with Vietnam, there has been a sustained effort by both countries to address some of the worst legacies of the war. By doing so, we have built a new partnership and set an example for other former enemies.

It began in the late 1980s with the first use of the Leahy War Victims Fund by the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, to assist people with severe war-related disabilities that was authorized by President George H. W. Bush, after he and I discussed the need to assist Vietnamese who had been injured during the war. It led to funding by the State Department to locate and destroy unexploded landmines and bombs, which litter the Vietnamese countryside and have maimed and killed tens of thousands of innocent people, including children, since the war ended.

Nearly 15 years ago, those war legacy programs launched an initiative to address the cruel legacy of Agent Orange, and it is in this that General Vinh and I became acquainted.

Since then, General Vinh has been my principal Vietnamese counterpart in working to address the legacy of dioxin contamination at former U.S. military bases and the needs of Vietnamese with severe physical and cognitive disabilities resulting from exposure to dioxin. I consider him a friend and confidant. I have learned from his experience and his values, which has shown me, my wife Marcelle, and many others that we have visited Vietnam.

From 1961 to 1971, the U.S. Air Force sprayed nearly 19 million gallons of herbicides in Vietnam, of which at least 11 million gallons were Agent Orange, in an effort to defoliate trees and kill agricultural crops that were providing cover and food to North Vietnamese soldiers. Decades later, we learned that nearly 70 percent of the Agent Orange that was sprayed was contaminated with dioxin, which can cause problems with reproduction, development, and the immune system. Dioxin can disrupt hormones and lead to cancer. It is also a persistent pollutant that can remain in the environment for many decades.

Millions of Vietnamese were exposed, and hundreds of thousands suffered severe physical and cognitive disabilities. My wife Marcelle and I have met three generations of Agent Orange victims, from young children to their parents and grandparents. Hundreds of thousands of Americans who served in Vietnam were also exposed, and thousands have been battling cancers for years.

Fortunately, thanks to studies funded by the Ford Foundation, it was possible to identify key “hotspots” with significant contamination, and work with the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, to clean up the contaminated soil and sediment at the former U.S. airbase in Da Nang. Seven years and $110 million dollars later, it is once again a busy commercial airport. In fact, Air Force One landed at Da Nang in 2017, when President Trump visited Vietnam. That project would not have been possible without the leadership and perseverance of General Nguyen Chi Vinh, and I will never forget visiting the site with him when we formally launched the project in 2014.

Since then, we have moved on to Bien Hoa, on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City, the site of the largest U.S. airbase during the war where Agent Orange was stored and loaded onto airplanes. Today, it is a shadow of what it once was, and it is contaminated with dioxin that has been leaching into the nearby Dong Nai River for half a century.

In 2019, General Vinh and I, along with Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hoa Binh and U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kritenbrink, and in the presence of eight other U.S. Senators, inaugurated a joint U.S.-Vietnam project to clean up Bien Hoa, including a U.S. commitment to contribute $300 million over 10 years, half from the U.S. Department of Defense and half from USAID. I had several conversations with Secretary of Defense James Mattis about Bien Hoa, and the Pentagon’s contribution is the result of his recognition that we have a responsibility and a national interest in helping Vietnam address war legacy issues.

At the same time, USAID launched a 5-year, $65 million effort to expand our humanitarian and disability work, which are being implemented in eight provinces that were sprayed with Agent Orange.

Over more than four decades, the Government of Vietnam has provided essential access and support in locating the remains of hundreds of American MIA’s. This year, we are embarking on a $15 million program, jointly funded by the U.S. Department of Defense and USAID, to help the Vietnamese locate some of their own people missing or killed during the war.

Much has been written, and I suspect more will be, about the collaboration between our two countries in addressing the legacies of the Vietnam war. Issues that for years were a cause of anger and resentment are today examples of how two former enemies can work together for the betterment of the people of both countries. These projects opened the door for the United States and Vietnam to cooperate on a wide array of other issues, from climate change and wildlife trafficking, to public health and regional security.
Tens of thousands of Vietnamese students are studying in the United States, and we are supporting institutions of higher education in Vietnam.

This has been possible because of the efforts of many people over many years. Senators John McCain and John Kerry played instrumental roles in establishing the normalization of relations. By doing so, they set the stage for both countries to build trust based on mutual respect by addressing sensitive war legacy issues, which Ambassadors of both countries have also strongly encouraged.

It is in this that Senior Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh has built his own legacy. The partnership that has developed from our cooperation on war legacies and which today extends to programs jointly funded and implemented by Vietnam’s Ministry of Defense and the U.S. Department of Defense would not have been possible without General Vinh’s vision, his leadership, and his good will. For that we owe him our lasting appreciation.

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VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, on Monday, March 15, due to a snowstorm in Denver, I was unable to travel to Washington in time for the vote to confirm Deb Haaland to serve as Secretary of Interior. Had I been present, I would have voted to confirm her to serve in this important position.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH MARTIN ROSE, SR.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Joseph Martin Rose, Sr., Moka’ang Glizis or “Rising Sun” in the Ojibwe language, a beloved elder and member of the Eagle Clan of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe. As a member of the Three Fires Midewiwin Grand Medicine Lodge, Joe was a teacher, culture keeper, pipe carrier, and treasure to his community. His life was one of far too many claimed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joe was born on April 24, 1935, to Carl Rose, Sr., and Mary “Dolly” (Jackson) Rose in Oklahoma. When his father volunteered to repair naval ships in Alaska during World War II, his mother brought the family back home to Odanah to live with her parents on the Bad River Native American Reservation. Joe often told stories about growing up in Odanah, calling it a “time of kerosene lamps, outhouses, and wood heat.” He credited his grandfather, Dan Jackson, with instilling in him a strong connection to the natural world by teaching him about traditional plants, ceremonies, and medicines. He spent his youth netting fish in the spring, wild ricing in late summer, duck hunting in the fall, then ice skating and enjoying bonfires in the winter.

He attended DePauw High School in Ashland, where he played nose tackle on the football team, wrestled, and sang in the school choir. His athleticism earned him a scholarship to Northland College, where he majored in biology and secondary education, earning a certification to teach high school science and math. After high school, he spent 10 years teaching in South Dakota and Wyoming, while coaching youth sports. With the help of his parents, he raised two children, taught full time sports, and earned a master’s degree in guidance counseling before returning to Bad River in 1970.

Back in Wisconsin, he became the homeschool coordinator and guidance counselor at Ashland High School. As an advocate for Bad River children, he taught them Native American arts and crafts and offered courses about culture. In 1974, he was asked to develop the newly formed Native American Studies Program at Northland College, one of the first such programs in America. He created a culture-based curriculum that emphasized environmental stewardship and the connection Ojibwe people have with Lake Superior.

Joe’s experiential learning courses were memorable for the visits to his home on Waverly Beach, birch bark canoes, ceremonial lodges, and a round house built by his students. He helped create the Traditional Ways Gathering, an annual event celebrating Ojibwe cultural arts and crafts and offering courses about culture. Joe was a teacher, culture keeper, pipe carrier, and treasure to his community. His life was one of far too many claimed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joe retired as an associate professor in 2007, although he continued to teach and serve in leadership roles until the end of his life. Even after retirement, Joe continued his activism against environmental degradation. He was a part of virtually every significant environmental and treaty-rights struggle in the region over the past half century.

While soft-spoken, Joe had a voice that proved powerful and deeply resonant. He believed that he had the responsibility to “go out and share this knowledge and wisdom of how to live in harmony and balance with the natural world.” With this ethos and an indomitable faith in grassroots organizing, he never turned down an opportunity fight tooth and nail to share those values and knowledge with others. The countless people who were fortunate enough to know and learn from Joe Rose, Sr., will keep his memory alive and continue his good work for generations to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE KINDRED HIGH SCHOOL VIKINGS

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, my State enjoys many legendary sports rivalries that make up the Class B Boys High School Basketball Tournament played every March is, without question, North Dakota’s premier sporting event. This year, 108 teams began the basketball season in 16 districts and 8 regions. The 16 district champions met the third weekend of March to compete for the State title. Every year, these games draw the attention of the entire State, along with fans from across the Nation, all of whom claim a connection with at least one of the competing teams.

This week, I stand a little taller as a proud 1979 graduate of Kindred High School. The Kindred Vikings won their first-ever boys basketball State championship title in Minot Saturday night, defeating the Edgeley-Kulm-Montpelier Rebels 40-34. Their 21-4 season was capped with impressive tournament matchups, where the Vikings showcased their agility and skill against some of the best basketball players in the State. In their semi-final victory against Four Winds-Minnewaukan, Kindred’s Matthew Pearson sunk six three-pointers to score 18 points, as Paul Olson scored 13, and Jaiden Peraza 10. In the championship game, Paul Olson scored 23 points, making 8 of 13 shots and 8 rebounds. Paul, Jaiden, and Gavin Keller were the Vikings named to the all-tournament team.

I want to recognize this year’s team members: Brock Woehl, Cole Campbell, Ethan McKenney, Jeremiah Dockter, Matthew Pearson, Jorgen Svensen, Ethan Heinrich, Paul Olson, Maxwell McQuillan, Trey Heinrich, Jaiden Peraza, Chase Miller, Gavin Keller, Presley Peraza, and Riley Sunram, along with manager Jack Davis and statisticians Rylie Ranking, Leah Roland, and Zoe Sharp.

As a Kindred High School student athlete who lettered 4 years in football, basketball, and track, I realize my high school skills would not qualify me to be the ball boy for this year’s squad. I congratulate the team, as well as Coach Brad Woehl, his assistants Scott Milbrandt, Matt Hagen, and Jimmy Hoy, and the hometown fans on winning this championship. I join the rest.
of North Dakota in thanking the Kinder Vikings for being an inspiration to all of us by demonstrating what can be achieved by combining a passion for excellence with determination and teamwork.

REMEMBERING ANDY HOFFMAN

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I first met Andy Hoffman at a chili cook off in Butte, NE, in October of 2004. I was running for first term in the Nebraska Legislature. I was walking from group to group, talking with the cooks and tasting their chili, when I came upon a young man in jean overalls. I introduced myself, and we ended up talking for over 30 minutes.

Actually, it would be more accurate to say he “grilled” me for over 30 minutes with a smile on his face. He was kind, and he later became a supporter and a dear friend.

We stayed in touch during my 8 years in the unicameral. Never one to keep strongly held opinions to himself, Andy would call me every now and then to tell me how he felt about bills in the legislature. When I decided to run for U.S. Senate, I asked him to serve as one of my county chairs.

Andy agreed, but a few weeks later, his son Jack was diagnosed with brain cancer. Jack was just 5 years old at the time.

Andy and his wife, Bri, had their lives turned upside down. But instead of giving up, they supported Jack every step of the way as he fought cancer. And they started the Team Jack Foundation in his honor, which helps fund pediatric brain cancer research and raise awareness about this terrible disease. Andy spent the years since Jack’s diagnosis traveling the country and appearing on national television, where he spoke about how important this funding is for children like Jack.

Like so many Nebraskans, Jack loves Husker football. In 2013, his favorite player, Rex Burkhead, invited him to join the team for their annual spring game. Jack won Best Moment at the ESPY Awards that year when he ran 69 yards for a fourth-quarter touchdown and into the hearts of millions of people around the world. “Sports Illustrated” even made him one of their five nominees for Sportsman of the Year. Jack and Rex were kind enough to sign jerseys for me, and I still have them hanging in my office today.

To recognize the Hoffman family’s heroic efforts, I was pleased to work with the White House to arrange an Oval Office visit with President Obama for Jack and the Hoffmans. And at that same time, I led a U.S. Senate resolution making Jack’s birthday, September 26, National Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day.

Andy was relentless in bringing attention to this disease. Under Andy’s leadership, Team Jack has raised over $8.4 million to help make sure no child has to go through what Jack has. He even published a book last year, “Yards After Contact”, about Jack’s fight.

Andy led a successful law practice with offices in Atkinson, O’Neill, and Central City. He was also a passionate runner, even qualifying for the Boston Marathon in 2014. And he was especially fond of hunting, fishing, and spending all the time he could outdoors.

Andy passed away on March 1, at age 42, after his own hard-fought battle with glioblastoma, an extremely aggressive type of brain cancer. Our State lost a remarkable Nebraskan. His wife, Bri, and three children, Jack, Ava, and Reese, lost a loving husband and father, and Bruce and I lost a wonderful friend.

We are heartbroken that Andy is gone, but we take comfort in the fact that his legacy will live on through the incredible work of the Team Jack Foundation.

The world is a better place today because of Andy’s life. At the end of the day, I think that is all that any of us can ask for.

I ask that you join me in honoring Andy’s life. Please keep the Hoffman family in your prayers.

TRIBUTE TO FAY BRICKMAN

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I would like to wish Ms. Fay Brickman of Charleston, SC, a very happy and healthy 100th birthday.

Ms. Brickman married her high school sweetheart, Jack, after he returned from serving in World War II. They were married for 70 years before his passing. Together, they touched the lives of countless people in their community by generously supporting Charleston’s academic institutions and consistentlydevoting time to their synagogue, Brith Shalom Beth Israel, where Fay was the president of the sisterhood.

I would like to recognize Ms. Brickman for the impact she made on our State and the legacy she built through her work and family. She is blessed with six brilliant children, all of whom hold law degrees, and 11 grandchildren, who visit regularly. I wish the family a wonderful time as they gather to celebrate Fay’s 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO DALE GILBERT

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today I would like to take a moment to recognize the great work of Dale Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert served as a meteorologist for nearly 25 years at WYFF-TV, which is a local station in Greenville, SC.

Dale Gilbert began his career at WYFF in the early 70s, becoming one of the youngest people on the air for the network. During his time at WYFF, he received the South Carolina Broadcasters Association Masters Award. Mr. Gilbert was well loved by his community, and will be missed for the local legend that he has become.

MEASURES REFERRED ON MARCH 22, 2021

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred for report:

H.R. 6. An act to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1112. An act to require a report on the military coup in Burma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1603. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or service; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 937. A bill to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

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–644. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2013 through 2018 Operation and Maintenance (O&M) funds and was assigned case number 19–63; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–645. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2020 Annual Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Assessments from the Secretaries of Defense and Energy, the National nuclear security directors, and the Commander, United States Strategic Command (OSS–2021–0133); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–646. A communication from the Attorney–Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2021; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–647. A communication from the Supervisory Workforce Analyst, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Strengthening Wage Protections for the Temporary and Permanent Employment of Certain Immigrants and Non–Immigrants in the United States, Delay of Effective Date” (RIN1205–AC00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

EC–648. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds;
Implementation of Vacatur” (RIN1615-AA22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2021, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-559. A communication from the Office of the Attache, Mexico, to the Committee on Foreign Relations, submitting, pursuant to law, an item relative to the vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, which nominations were received by the Senate on March 17, 2021, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-560. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, an item relative to the vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transportation, which nominations were received by the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2021, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER, from the Select Committee on Intelligence:


By Mr. REED, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

Special Report entitled “Report on the Activities of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the United States Senate During the 116th Congress” (Rept. No. 117–3).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services:

Space Force nominations beginning with Col. Dennis O. Bythewood and ending with Col. James E. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 3, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Sharon R. Bannister and ending with Maj. Gen. Paul A. Friedrichs, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. John J. Allen and ending with Brig. Gen. Daniel H. Tulley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Capt. Christopher D. Alexander and ending with Capt. Ralph R. Smith III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 3, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Col. Sean N. Day, to be Brigadier General.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Ronald J. Piret and ending with Capt. Ralph R. Smith III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 24, 2021.

Navy nominations of Rear Adm. (h) William E. Chase III and ending with Rear Adm. (h) John A. Olson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 24, 2021.

Navy nominations of Rear Adm. (h) Adam H. Fisher and ending with Sylvette Ortiz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Thomas Miller and ending with Gia Marie Wilson-Mackey, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Gary L. Frisard and ending with Brian J. Franklin, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Angela M. Koon and ending with Amy L. Hunt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Air Force nominations beginning with Amiee M. Douglas and ending with Semih S. Kumru, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.
Army nominations beginning with Michael L. Barnett and ending with James B. Priosock, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Army nomination of Lawrence A. Austin, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of John B. Blackburn, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Randall S. Bossler, Jr., to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Joseph A. Marty and ending with Brian W. Mccoy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Army nomination of Fencila L. Jackson, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Jermain Y. Williams, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Timothy M. Benedict and ending with Susan Stankorb, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Harris A. Abbasi and ending with D014446, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Silas C. Abrenica and ending with Daniel J. Yourke, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Paul E. Baker and ending with Stephen L. Willson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Jonathan E. Abshire and ending with D015203, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Nathanael B. Achor and ending with D014388, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Army nomination of Ikechukwu L. Eweama, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Edward F. Burke, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Rob R. Billings and ending with Ovid Villareal, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Army nomination of Stephen F. Barker, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with James Acevedo and ending with Lashell Y. Davis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Army nominations beginning with Joseph A. Anderson and ending with John M. Winton, III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Army nomination of Michael W. Mundle, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Nicholaus A. Abbott and ending with D015077, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Michael J. Allen and ending with Christopher M. Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Douglas A. Mayorga and ending with Mark L. Oldroyd, which nominations were received by the Senate in the Congressional Record on January 6, 2021.

Marine Corps nomination of Jonathan T. Frohlich, to be Colonel.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with William S. Chaisel III and ending with Richard W. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Navy nominations of Rodney A. Noah, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Jonathan S. Channell, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Hassan A. Brown, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of James O. O’Loughlin, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Philip P. Castellano and ending with Gregory J. Yamamoto, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Navy nomination of Peter Minh V. Nguyen, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Troy T. Tartaglia, to be Captain.

Space Force nominations beginning with Raj Agrawal and ending with Sacha N. Tomlinson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Space Force nominations beginning with Leroy Brown, Jr., ending with Forrest D. Taylor, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Space Force nominations beginning with Christopher A. Kennedy and ending with Derek B. Worth, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Space Force nominations beginning with Lance G. Bagshall and ending with Stephanie J. Webb, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

Space Force nominations beginning with Mark C. Bigley and ending with Stephen G. Lyon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 22, 2021.

(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. KING:

S. 891. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable tax credit for the installation of energy efficient air source heat pumps; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 892. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that kumbucha is exempt from any excise taxes and regulations imposed on alcoholic beverages; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 893. A bill to support the use of technology in maternal health care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 894. A bill to identify and refer members of the Armed Forces with a health care occupation who are separating from the Armed Forces for potential employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICHER, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 895. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from gross income for mandatory restitution or civil damages as recompense for trafficking in persons; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 896. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish additional criteria for determining when employers may join together in a group or association of employers that will be treated as an employer under section 3(5) of such Act for purposes of sponsoring a group health plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 897. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation of the exclusion for dependent care assistance programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 898. A bill to require reporting regarding certain drug price increases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 899. A bill to establish the intercity passenger rail trust fund to ensure a safe, convenient and efficient transportation system for the people of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 900. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to establish a Southern New England Regional Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. MARKS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARNER, Mr. PADDILLA, Mr. KAIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. KLOBUCAR):

S. 901. A bill to provide access to counsel for children and other vulnerable populations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. KAIN): S. 902. A bill to authorize a grant program for the development and implementation of housing plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKLURN (for herself, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. ENESY): S. 903. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require a DNA test to determine the familial relationship between an alien and an accompanying minor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HINICH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BARRASSO): S. 904. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to digitize and make publicly available geographic information system mapping data relating to public access to Federal land and waters for outdoor recreation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. MANCHIN): S. 905. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit certain expenses associated with obtaining or maintaining recognized postsecondary credentials to be treated as higher education expenses for purposes of sections 529 accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. DURBIN): S. 906. A bill to expand and enhance programs and activities of the Department of Defense to protect and respond to domestic abuse and child abuse and neglect among military families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE): S. 907. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. WARREN): S. 908. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the negotiation and approval of part D drug plans on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and the establishment and application of a formula by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and Medicare part D, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. WARREN): S. 909. A bill to specifically lower prescription drug prices for patients in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median prices at which the drugs are available in other countries; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. LEEN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY): S. 917. A bill to allow for expedited approval of generic prescription drugs and temporary importation of prescription drugs in the case of marginally competitive drug markets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. TESTER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CREAMER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PAUL, Mr. CAS- SITY, Ms. LUMMIS, and Ms. MÜR-BERGER): S. 910. A bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TOOMY): S. 911. A bill to require the installation of secondary security systems on existing aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mrs. CAPTO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina): S. 912. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide information regarding vaccines for seniors as part of the Medicare & You handbook and to ensure that the treatment of cost sharing for vaccines under Medicare part D is consistent with the treatment of vaccines under Medicare part B, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, and Ms. WARREN): S. 913. A bill to conduct a study on the spread of misinformation and misinformation on the internet and social media platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CREAMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. PADILLA): S. 914. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANDERS: S. 915. A bill to repeal section 3003 of the Paul Wellstone and James McGovern National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS: S. 916. A bill to provide adequate funding for water and sewer infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. LEEN, Ms. DURBIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY): S. 917. A bill to allow for expedited approval of generic prescription drugs and temporary importation of prescription drugs in the case of marginally competitive drug markets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. COTTON): S. 918. A bill to offer financial support to health care providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HINICH, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. MANCHIN): S. 919. A bill to establish duties for online service providers with respect to end user data that such providers collect and use; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BURCH, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILL- HAN, Mr. HINICH, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN): S. 920. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the importation of affordable and safe drugs by wholesalers and distributors of individual providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. HAWLEY): S. 921. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN): S. 922. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide funding for states for extending broadband service to underserved areas in partnership with broadband service providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PETERS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. COLLINS): S. 923. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a consultation, recycling, and outreach grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. BLACKLURN (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. SMITH): S. 924. A bill to establish a demonstration program to provide payments on eligible loans for individuals who are eligible for the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. ENSET): S. 925. A bill to establish the Federal Agency Sunset Commission; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHA- HEDIES, Mr. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. REED): S. 926. A bill to plan, develop, and make recommendations to increase access to sexual assault examinations for survivors by holding hospitals accountable and supporting the providers that serve them; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MORA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. BLACKLURN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mrs. CAPITO): S. 927. A bill to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.
S. 928. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that the 2021 recovery rebates as provided for in the American Rescue Plan Act are not provided to prison inmates and that such sums shall be redirected to the Department of Justice to be paid out in the form of restitution to compensate victims of crime; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 950. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that the 2021 recovery rebates as provided for in the American Rescue Plan Act are not provided to prison inmates convicted of rape and that such sums shall be redirected to the Department of Justice to be paid out in the form of restitution to compensate victims of crime; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 931. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that the 2021 recovery rebates as provided for in the American Rescue Plan Act are not provided to prison inmates convicted of murder and that such sums shall be redirected to the Department of Justice to be paid out in the form of restitution to compensate victims of crime; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 932. A bill to establish the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel, to provide agency and higher level reviews of classification decisions, to provide expedited review of classification decisions for members of Congress, and to provide protections for those challenging classification decisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 933. A bill to designate the Battleship Iowa Museum, located in Los Angeles, California, as the National Museum of the Surface Navy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 934. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve rural health clinics payments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BAHRAMIAN, Ms. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 935. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make technical corrections to rural health clinic payments; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. CAS-SIDY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. COONS, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 936. A bill to require online marketplaces to collect, verify, and disclose certain information relating to the high-volume third-party sellers of consumer products to inform consumers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. Kaine, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. VAN HOLLIN, Mr. WAR-NEK, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ-MASTO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. RYAN) (S. 937. A bill to facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 938. A bill to require the President to declare a national emergency relating to climate change under the National Emergencies Act, in response to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. MURRAY:


SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 130. A resolution remembering the 5th anniversary of the terrorist attacks at Brussels Airport and the Maalbeek metro station in Belgium and honoring the victims of the terrorist attacks; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKKAY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. Kaine, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. Res. 131. A resolution condemning the Government of the People’s Republic of China’s treatment of the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) and calling for an investigation into the abuses and crimes committed in the XUAR; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKKAY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. Kaine, and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. Res. 131. A resolution condemning the Government of the People’s Republic of China’s treatment of the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) and calling for an investigation into the abuses and crimes committed in the XUAR; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 65

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes.

S. 69

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 69, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID–19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, and for other purposes.

S. 105

At the request of Mr. CORTEZ-MASTO, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Ms. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 150, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the inclusion of certain audio-only diagnoses in the determination of risk adjustment for Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

S. 109

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 109, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 196

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 196, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an energy efficiency materials pilot program.

S. 321

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 321, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the members of the Women’s Army Corps who were assigned to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known as the “Six Triple Eight”.

S. 377

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 377, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 406

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 437

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. 437, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to concede exposure to airborne hazards and toxins from burn pits under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

S. 108

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. APPLING) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 108.
as cosponsors of S. 632, a bill to amend chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Ernst, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 636, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Fischer, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer) was added as a cosponsor of S. 662, a bill to establish an interactive online dashboard to allow the public to review information for Federal grant funding related to mental health programs.

At the request of Mr. Coons, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 675, a bill to provide for the reporting to State and local law enforcement authorities of cases in which the national instant criminal background check system indicates that a firearm has been sought to be acquired by a prohibited person, so that authorities may pursue criminal charges under State law, and to ensure that the Department of Justice reports to Congress on prosecutions secured against prohibited persons who attempt to acquire a firearm.

At the request of Mr. Tester, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Klobuchar) were added as cosponsors of S. 692, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the “Hello Girls”.

At the request of Mrs. Hyde-Smith, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Cassidy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 702, a bill to prohibit Federal funding of State firearm ownership databases, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) was added as a cosponsor of S. 723, a bill to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Collins, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. Sinema) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Duckworth) were added as cosponsors of S. 730, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to remove the prohibition on States and territories against lowering their taxes.

At the request of Ms. Ernst, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 760, a bill to require recipients of Federal funds to disclose information relating to programs, projects, or activities carried out using the Federal funds.

At the request of Ms. Ernst, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. Hyde-Smith) was added as a cosponsor of S. 761, a bill to require the publication of fossil-fuel powered travel by the President, the Vice President, and political appointees, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Markley, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 803, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove short-barreled rifles from the definition of firearms for purposes of the National Firearms Act, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Rubio, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Kennedy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Braun, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cornyn) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith) were added as cosponsors of S. 848, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TRACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Lankford, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Hassan) was added as a cosponsor of S. 860, a bill to develop and deploy firewall circumvention tools for the people of Hong Kong after the People’s Republic of China violated its agreement under the Joint Declaration, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Lee, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. Cruz) was added as a cosponsor of S. 884, a bill to close loopholes in the immigration laws that serve as incentives to aliens to attempt to enter the United States unlawfully, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Menendez, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. Rosen) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. Kelly) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 94, a resolution recognizing the 300th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

At the request of Mr. Risch, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 97, a resolution calling on the Government of Ethiopia, the Tigray People’s Liberation Front, and other belligerents to cease all hostilities, protect human rights, allow unfettered humanitarian access, and cooperate with independent investigations of credible atrocity allegations pertaining to the conflict in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia.

At the request of Mr. Merkley, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 105, a resolution condemning the coup in Burma and calling for measures to ensure the safety of the Burmese people, including Rohinyga, Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. Reed, Mr. President, today I am reintroducing the Rhode Island Fishermen’s Fairness Act along with my colleague Senator Whitehouse. This legislation seeks to address a longstanding inequity in our nation’s fisheries management system that denies Rhode Island a voice in the management of many stocks that our fishing industry relies on.

Under the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Rhode Island has voting membership on the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) since NEFMC-managed stocks represent a significant percentage of landings and revenue for our state. However, Rhode Island has an even larger stake in Mid-Atlantic fisheries. Yet, it does not have voting representation on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC), which currently consists of representatives from New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina.

According to data provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), between 2015 and
2019, Rhode Island accounted for approximately a quarter of the commercial landings from stocks under MAFMC’s sole jurisdiction, both by weight and value. The significance of commercial landings from stocks managed by the MAFMC is growing each year for Rhode Island, accounting for 58% of Rhode Island’s federally managed commercial fisheries landings in 2019.

After making an appearance during last summer’s Democratic National Convention, Rhode Island calamari quickly became a social media sensation, and for good reason. Calamari (or squid) is by far the most important commercial species in the Ocean State. In 2019 alone, Rhode Island landed over 5.5 million more pounds of squid than any other state on the East Coast. But, Rhode Island does not have a formal say in how this species is managed because it does not have representation on the MAFMC.

The legislation we are introducing offers a simple solution with a sound precedent. North Carolina was added to the MAFMC as part of the Sustainable Fisheries Act in 1996. Like Rhode Island, a significant portion of North Carolina’s most valuable species were managed by the MAFMC, yet the state was not represented on the council.

Just like the 1996 law that added North Carolina, the Rhode Island Fishing Fairness Act would create two seats for our state on the MAFMC. One seat would be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce based on recommendations from the Governor of Rhode Island, and a second seat would be filled by Rhode Island’s principal state official with marine fishery management responsibility. To accommodate these new members, the bill would increase the MAFMC from 21 to 23 voting members. This would guarantee Rhode Island some minimum representation as other states currently on the council, without altering their status.

With mounting economic, ecological, and regulatory challenges, it is more important than ever that Rhode Island fishermen have a voice in the management of the fisheries they depend on. I urge our colleagues to join us in supporting this commonsense legislation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 912. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide in-partnership on this important legislation.

Before there were vaccines, nearly everyone got measles, and diseases like whooping cough, polio, and rubella were commonplace among children and adults. Luckily for us, vaccines are now a cornerstone of our nation’s disease prevention efforts. They have a demonstrated record of limiting the spread of debilitating and potentially deadly conditions—from measles to flu to pneumonia—saving lives and reducing health care costs. A successful vaccine campaign is also essential to fully reopen and prevent future COVID-19 outbreaks.

Unfortunately, adult vaccines rates are not nearly as high as they could and should be. Prior to the pandemic, more than 50,000 adults per year died from vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States, while millions more became ill as a result, causing them to miss work and leaving some unable to care for those who depend on them. The health care costs associated with low adult vaccine rates are enormous—each year, the U.S. spends $15 billion treating Medicare beneficiaries alone for these vaccine-preventable diseases.

Because the immune system deteriorates as people age, adults 50 and over are especially susceptible to many vaccine-preventable diseases and account for a disproportionate number of deaths and illnesses from these diseases. As Americans age, the impact of these diseases and their complications is likely to grow quickly and substantially improve use of and access to adult vaccines, especially among Medicare beneficiaries.

By increasing vaccine access, we can save thousands of lives and potentially billions of dollars. Unfortunately, older adults seeking access to and coverage for vaccines encounter many barriers. They may not know where or how to get vaccinated and cost can be an obstacle for both patients and providers. That’s why we introduced the Protecting Seniors Through Immunization Act of 2021. The bill improves vaccine information and education for Medicare beneficiaries, including the risks and consequences of vaccine-preventable disease, and ensures older adults know what vaccines are right for them at the right time.

The bill also eliminates the cost burden of vaccines on our nation’s aging population. Vaccines are available for free under Medicare, but for those under Medicare, vaccine coverage is split between Medicare Part B and Medicare Part D. Seniors can access vaccines covered under Part B—such as flu, pneumonia and Hepatitis—with no cost-sharing. However, vaccines covered under Part D, such as shingles (herpes zoster) and pertussis (Tdap), can include a wide range of cost-sharing requirements. For seniors, many of whom live on fixed incomes such as Social Security benefits, these additional costs may preclude them from being vaccinated.

A 2018 study of Tdap and herpes zoster vaccine claims under Medicare Part D demonstrated that higher out-of-pocket cost-sharing is associated with higher rates of cancelled vaccination claims—in other words, when the costs of vaccines are too high, seniors can’t or won’t get them. The study found that cost-sharing of $51 or greater was associated with a 2 to 2.7-times greater rate of cancelled vaccination claims compared with $0 cost-sharing.

There are more than 300,000 cases of shingles reported in the U.S. each year. About 50 percent of people who experience shingles will have postherpetic neuralgia, a debilitating, painful, and long-lasting disease. This is just one example of the types of conditions that vaccines can prevent.

We have a lot of room for improvement for uptake of these vaccines. Passing the Protecting Seniors Through Immunization Act of 2021 will help us to do so. By reducing cost barriers and improving access and raising awareness, we can get these vaccines better and set the stage for healthy aging.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, and Ms. WARNEN):

S. 913. A bill to conduct a study on the spread of COVID–19-related disinformation and misinformation on the internet and social media platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act. I thank Representative JENNIFER WEXTON for working with me on this important piece of legislation, which will help shine a light on the ways social media and other online platforms amplify and spread misinformation and disinformation about the coronavirus pandemic to the detriment of public health. I also thank my colleagues Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARNEN, and Mr. REED—for cosponsoring this bill.

As I stand here today nearly 30 million Americans have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and over 540,000 have died from the virus. The numbers alone are staggering. But when you hear and read the personal stories of individuals and families who are suffering, it is truly tragic. It makes you mournful that for many of the individuals who died, they died alone in the absence of their loved ones.

While many things contributed to this massive loss of life, I am here to talk about one in particular: the insidious spread of coronavirus-related misinformation and disinformation online. This “infodemic” has undercut the efforts of public health officials at every turn, and threatens to prolong the virus’s impact on the health of our people. When a safe and effective vaccine is available.

The online spread of misinformation about public health is nothing new.

March 23, 2021
Claims that the 2014 Ebola epidemic was a form of population control spread across social media. Anti-vaccination groups have long used Facebook and YouTube to spread misinformation. However, social media platforms’ response to coronavirus was supposed to be different. Early in the pandemic, the major social media platforms announced new measures to combat misinformation while making sure users had access to accurate, authoritative information about the virus. Facebook added a COVID-19 Information Center to the tops of users’ News Feeds and announced it would remove misinformation that could contribute to imminent physical harm. Twitter verified accounts that provided credible updates on the pandemic and committed to removing false or misleading content that contradicted information from health authorities. YouTube began directing users who searched for COVID-19 disinformation to the WHO or other health authorities and banned false information contradicting health authorities on treatment, prevention, diagnosis, or transmission of COVID-19.

Unfortunately, these measure proved lacking and insufficient. The conspiracy film Pandemic was viewed more than 8 million times across social media platforms, and the sequel was viewed over 300,000 times on YouTube during its first week alone. An August 2020 study by advocacy group Avaaz found that misinformation about vaccines and other health topics had been viewed an estimated 3.8 billion times on Facebook in the previous year—four times more than factual, authoritative content from institutions like the WHO and CDC. The study found that only 16% of previously fact-checked health misinformation on Facebook carried a warning label. Spending even a small amount of time on the internet or social media and you will find rampant misinformation and conspiracy theories about COVID-19. Some examples of these falsehoods include: Bill Gates created the virus to use a vaccine as cover to implant microchips into Americans. No, actually, Dr. Fauci created the coronavirus to seize political power. You shouldn’t wear a mask to protect against the coronavirus, because wearing a mask actually works against your immune system. And do not worry if you catch the coronavirus—you can treat it by drinking bleach.

These claims might seem ridiculous, but they have real world consequences. A study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene found that 5,800 people had been hospitalized and at least 800 people died in the first three months of 2020 alone as a direct result of coronavirus-related misinformation. As recently as August, the Georgia Department of Health and the Texas Poison Control Center had to warn people not to drink bleach to treat COVID. A recent poll found that only 51 percent of people wear a facial covering in public, despite its proven efficacy in preventing the spread of COVID. And, perhaps most troubling, polls suggest that over 30% of the U.S. population will not get a COVID vaccine.

If we hope to get past the coronavirus and avoid similar public health crises in the future, we must understand where misinformation originates, how it spreads, and strategies to stop it. This is exactly what the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act will do. It directs the National Science Foundation to partner with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on the spread of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation on the internet and social media platforms. This study will provide critical information on the roles disinformation and misinformation have played in the public response to COVID-19, including public acceptance of and demand for COVID-19 vaccines; the sources of COVID-19-related disinformation and misinformation and the ways it has influenced the public debate; the role social media plays in disseminating this disinformation and misinformation; and potential strategies for combating misinformation and disinformation in the future.

This information will not stop the next pandemic from coming. And, it will not force the next Administration to take it seriously and follow the advice of doctors and scientists. But it can give us the knowledge and tools necessary to avoid another infodemic and ensure the American public receives accurate and authoritative information when it is most needed.

I therefore encourage my colleagues to support the COVID-19 Disinformation Research and Reporting Act.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 933. A bill to designate the Battleship USS Iowa Museum, located in Los Angeles, California, as the National Museum of the Surface Navy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise by myself, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Grassley, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Coons, and Mr. Tillis:

CONCLUSION

It is imperative that we preserve the legacy of those who have served on the USS Iowa and all Surface Navy ships. I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill. Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Grassley, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Coons, and Mr. Tillis):
S. 936. A bill to require online marketplaces to collect, verify, and disclose certain information regarding high-volume third party sellers of consumer products to inform consumers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. 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. 936

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 “Integrity, Notification, and Fairness in Online Retail Marketplaces for Consumers Act” or the “INFORM Consumers Act”.

SEC. 2. COLLECTION, VERIFICATION, AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION BY ONLINE MARKETPLACES TO INFORM CONSUMERS.

(a) COLLECTION AND VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION.—

(i) COLLECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An online marketplace shall require any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform to provide, not later than 2 business days after qualifying as a high-volume third party seller on the platform, the following information to the online marketplace:

(I) BANK ACCOUNT.—

(aa) To a payment processor or other third party contracted by the online marketplace to maintain such information, provided that the online marketplace ensures that it can obtain such information on demand from such payment processor or other third party.

(bb) To a current working email address or other means of electronic messaging (which are available for the seller and that consumer inquiries should be submitted to the seller’s email address or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace).

(II) CONTACT INFORMATION.—Contact information for such seller as follows:

(aa) A high-volume third party seller that is an individual, a copy of a valid government-issued identification for an individual acting on behalf of such seller that includes the individual’s name and physical address;

(bb) A high-volume third party seller that is not an individual, one of the following forms of contact information:

(aa) A copy of a valid government-issued identification for an individual acting on behalf of such seller that includes the individual’s name and physical address.

(bb) A copy of a valid government-issued tax record or tax document that includes the business name and physical address of such seller.

(iii) TAX IN.—A business tax identification number, or, if such seller does not have a business tax identification number, a taxpayer identification number.

(iv) WORKING EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER.—A current working email address and phone number for such seller.

(B) NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE; ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An online marketplace shall require any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform to provide the following any change to the information collected under subparagraph (A).

(ii) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, an online marketplace shall:

(I) inform any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform of the notification requirement described in clause (i); and

(II) instruct any such seller to electronically certify, not later than 3 business days after receiving such instruction, that:

(aa) there have been no changes to such seller’s information; or

(bb) such seller has provided any changes to such information to the online marketplace.

(iii) SUSPENSION.—In the event that an online marketplace does not receive the annual certification from a high-volume third party seller required under clause (i), the online marketplace shall suspend any future sales activity of such seller or any payments to such seller for prior sales activity until such seller provides such certification.

(ii) VERIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An online marketplace shall:

(i) verify the information collected under paragraph (A) not later than 3 business days after such collection; and

(ii) verify any change to such information not later than 3 business days after being notified of such change by a high-volume third party seller under paragraph (1)(B).

(B) PRESUMPTION OF VERIFICATION.—In the case of a high-volume third party seller that provides a copy of a valid government-issued tax document, any information contained in such document shall be presumed to be verified as of the date of issuance of such document.

(b) DISCLOSURE REQUIRED.—

(i) REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An online marketplace shall:

(i) require any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform to provide the information described in subparagraph (B) to the online marketplace; and

(ii) disclose the information described in subparagraph (B) to consumers in a clear and conspicuous manner on the product listing or (for information other than such seller’s identification) through a clear and conspicuous marketplace activity to the online marketplace.

(B) DISCLOSURE REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An online marketplace shall:

(i) require any high-volume third party seller on such online marketplace’s platform to provide the following information to the online marketplace in order to justify the provision of a partial disclosure under subparagraph (A) or that a high-volume third party seller requested and received a provision for a partial disclosure under subparagraph (A) has not provided responsive answers within a reasonable time frame to consumer inquiries submitted to the seller by phone, email, or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace.

(C) LIMITATION ON EXCEPTION.—If an online marketplace becomes aware that a high-volume third party seller has violated a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)), such marketplace shall suspend any future sales activity of such seller for prior sales activity until such seller complies with such requirements.

(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) A REPORTING MECHANISM.—An online marketplace shall disclose to consumers in a clear and conspicuous manner on the product listing of any high-volume third party seller—

(i) a reporting mechanism that allows for electronic and telephonic reporting of suspicious marketplace activity to the online marketplace; and

(ii) a message encouraging consumers seeking goods for purchase to report suspicious marketplace activity to the online marketplace.

(B) LIMITATION ON EXCEPTION.—If an online marketplace becomes aware that a high-volume third party seller has violated a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)), such marketplace shall:

(i) suspend any future sales activity of such seller for prior sales activity until such seller complies with such requirements.

(ii) A COMPLIANCE.—If a high-volume third party seller does not comply with the requirements to provide and disclose information under this subsection, the online marketplace shall suspend any future sales activity of such seller on the online marketplace.

(C) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—An online marketplace shall submit any information received under subsection (a) to the Federal Trade Commission.

(D) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person that violates subsection (a) or (b) shall be subject to the penalties, and entitled to

(1) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller does not have a business address and only has a residential street address, the online marketplace may—

(ii) inform consumers that there is no business address available for the seller and that consumer inquiries should be submitted to the seller by phone, email, or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace.

(2) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller is a business that has a physical address, the online marketplace may disclose the seller’s physical address for product returns.

(3) If such seller certifies to the online marketplace that the seller does not have a phone number other than a personal phone number, the online marketplace shall inform consumers that there is no phone number available for the seller and that consumer inquiries should be submitted to the seller’s email address or other means of electronic messaging provided to such seller by the online marketplace.
the privileges and immunities, provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) REGULATIONS.—The Commission may promulgate regulations under section 5 of the United States Code, with respect to the collection, verification, or disclosure of information under this section, provided that such regulations are limited to what is necessary to collect, verify, and disclose such information.

(4) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(5) SELLER.—The term ‘seller’ means any seller, independent of an online marketplace to reliably determine

that any information and documents provided are valid, corresponding to the seller or an individual acting on the seller’s behalf, not misappropriated, and not falsified.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 130—REMEMBERING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS AT BRUSSELS AIRPORT AND THE MALAEBEK METRO STATION IN BELGIUM AND HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS

MRS. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 130

Whereas, on March 22, 2016, 35 people were killed and more than 300 people were wounded by 3 bombs that detonated at Brussels Airport in Zaventem, Belgium, and the Maelbeek metro station in Brussels, Belgium (referred to in this preamble as the ‘terrorist attacks’);

Whereas Justin Shults, Stephanie Shults, Gail Minglana Martinez, and Bruce Baldwin were Americans who lost their lives, among the many other victims, as a result of the terrorist attacks;

Whereas Justin Shults, an east Tennessee native who was 30 years old and working as an accountant while living in Brussels at the time of the terrorist attacks, was a graduate of Vanderbilt University and a devoted husband to his wife Stephanie;

Whereas Stephanie Shults, a Kentucky native who was 29 years old and working as an accountant while living in Brussels at the time of the terrorist attacks, was a graduate of Vanderbilt University, where she met her husband Justin;

Whereas Gail Minglana Martinez, a Texas native who was 41 years old at the time of the terrorist attacks, was a mother of 4 children and wife to her husband Kato, who were all injured in the terrorist attacks; and

Whereas Bruce Baldwin, a Missouri native who was 66 years old at the time of the terrorist attacks, was a husband to his wife Virginia, who was 66 years old at the time of the terrorist attacks, and a father of 4 children and a military veteran who served in Vietnam. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) remembers the 5th anniversary of the March 22, 2016, terrorist attacks at Brussels Airport and the Maelbeek metro station in Belgium (referred to in this resolution as the ‘terrorist attacks’);

(2) honors the memory of Justin Shults, Stephanie Shults, Gail Minglana Martinez, and Bruce Baldwin, the 4 Americans who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks;

(3) expresses its deepest condolences—

(A) to the other victims who were killed or wounded as a result of the terrorist attacks;

(B) to the families of the victims; and

(C) to the home countries of each victim;

(4) pledges continued resolve to stand against terrorism and extremism.
China’s authoritarian government is genocidal, minorities have suffered at the hands of state policies, human rights abuses are rampant in Xinjiang and other regions of China. PRC authorities have imposed pervasive restrictions on the peaceful practice of Islam. The inhumane actions of the Chinese authorities violate international human rights law and must be investigated.

Whereas PRC authorities have imposed restrictions on language, education, religion, travel, employment, and other human rights; and

Whereas international observers, including independent United Nations experts, have documented human rights abuses in Xinjiang, including forced labor, sexual violence, and the use of all diplomatic tools available to hold those responsible for the atrocities in Xinjiang accountable;

Resolved, that the United States recognize the following:

(1) the atrocities committed by the PRC against the predominantly Muslim Uighur, Han, Kazakh, and other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang, including forced labor, sexual violence, and the use of all diplomatic tools available to hold those responsible for the atrocities in Xinjiang accountable;

(2) the PRC’s persistent and systematic efforts to suppress freedom of speech, religion, assembly, association, and other human rights abuses.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1401. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1799, to amend the Small Business Act and the CARES Act to extend the covered period for the paycheck protection program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.
Congress must help those working on the frontlines fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. It should be our highest priority. Ignoring cuts to Medicare while spending $1.9 trillion on other things, to me, is irresponsible.

Instead, just a few days after their partisan spending bill was signed into law, here we have the chairman of the Budget Committee back asking for additional money.

Now, he knows the right thing to do is to help these Medicare providers on the frontlines, and I want to do exactly the same thing. Once again, instead of working on a bipartisan basis, Senate Democrats are rushing through another partisan spending package.

There is a better way. Senator Cortez and I have introduced the Protecting Seniors Access to Healthcare Act. Our legislation takes a small amount of the money from State and federal spending $1.9 trillion bill. Instead of billions going to Gavin Newsom and instead of billions going to Andrew Cuomo, our legislation gives a small fraction of that money to help our healthcare providers around the country. Instead of a blank check, our bill gets the money to where it is needed the most: to healthcare providers on the frontlines of this pandemic.

Our bill also includes commonsense provisions to ensure that taxpayer money is not given to illegal immigrants or prisoners. Our bill simply says that if you are here illegally, you don't get the payments in the Democratic spending bill. Senator Cortez and I know we can't hand out American taxpayer dollars to illegal immigrants. That is why our border is being flooded right now—because President Biden offers benefits for illegal immigrants. We also shouldn't be cutting checks to people sitting in jail.

The question is whether Washington Democrats are interested in solving problems or just playing politics. I think we need real relief for Medicare providers, and we should. It is completely irresponsible for the Democrats and the administration to spend $1.9 trillion and fail to help the healthcare providers who are serving Medicare patients.

Therefore, Mr. President, I ask that the Senate modify his request to instead take up H.R. 1868 with my substituent amendment at the desk and ask unanimous consent that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1868, an act to prevent further cuts to Medicare, and members of his administration say that China is our top pacing threat. Both Secretary Austin and Deputy Secretary Hicks told the Armed Services Committee during their nomination hearings that was the situation.

What concerns me is, I haven't seen the Biden administration take any action that backs up these words. Instead, we are hearing rumors that the Biden administration is considering a flat defense budget, which is actually a 2-percent cut when you adjust for inflation. At the same time, China is increasing theirs by 6.8 percent.

Instead, let us pass H.R. 1868 to give the military the resources it needs to defend American interests around the world. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am down here today to talk about something that I have talked about many times before, and that is the need to have a strong defense budget so we can deter our adversaries. You know, it isn't like it used to be in the old days. It is for real. These guys—China, for example, is in a position they have never been in before. I think it is important that we talk about this budget that is coming up again. It is more important now than ever.

Over the past few weeks, the Senate Armed Services Committee has been hearing in which we have heard from top military leaders, defense experts, and Pentagon officials. What we have heard has been grim.

LTG H.R. McMaster told us that since the 1990s, China has undertaken the "largest peacetime military build-up in history."

Admiral Davidson, who leads the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said, "I think our conventional deterrent is actually eroding in the region these days."

Last week, Admiral Faller, who leads the U.S. Southern Command, said, "Now more than ever, I feel a sense of urgency about global threats we face in our neighborhood."

Now, I agree. I thought the Cold War was bad, but the threats we are facing now, especially from China, are more complex and more dangerous than they ever have been before. In fact, I look back sometimes wistfully at the days of the Cold War when things were predictable. We had them. We knew what they had; they knew what we had. Mutual assured destruction meant something. It really doesn't anymore. Times have changed. I agree that the Cold War was bad, but it is worse today.

I am glad to hear President Biden and members of his administration say that China is our top pacing threat. Both Secretary Austin and Deputy Secretary Hicks told the Armed Services Committee during their nomination hearings that was the situation.

What concerns me is, I haven't seen the Biden administration take any action that backs up these words. Instead, we are hearing rumors that the Biden administration is considering a flat defense budget, which is actually a 2-percent cut when you adjust for inflation. At the same time, China is increasing theirs by 6.8 percent.

It kind of reminds me of the last 5 years of the Obama-Biden administration. That would have been from 2010 to 2015. During that 5-year period, the budget for the military was reduced by 25 percent. At the same time that it...
was reduced by 25 percent, China was increasing theirs by 83 percent. This was happening out in the real world. People are not aware of this.

This sort of thing tells me that the administration isn’t serious about pushing back on China. And I don’t know what? It also tells China the same thing. So talk is cheap, but defending our country is not.

If we really want to send the right signal to Beijing—a signal that says you can’t ever win against us—we need sustained investment in our defense.

We have seen what happens when we cut defense spending before. Look no further than the Obama administration’s 25 percent cut over 5 years. If we had just increased defense spending with the rate of inflation over the past decade, we could have invested another $400 billion in modernizing our military—money we wouldn’t have to spend today. Instead, we are playing catchup with China, which added at least at 75 to $125 billion each year. Now, that would be if we stuck with the 3- to 5-percent increase that is predicted as being necessary in this book. This kind of investment for 5 years in a row would completely close the difference between U.S. and Chinese defense spending.

And what does the investment get us? It allows us to keep our commitment to our servicemembers to not only take care of them and their families but also to give them the tools and training to do their jobs.

You know, often we hear about the fact that we are spending too much on the military. We talk about that we spend more on the military than both China and Russia put together. But there is a reason for that. The most expensive line that we have in our military is taking care of the troops, their families. You know, in the communist countries, they don’t have to do that. They give them the guns; they go out and kill people. They don’t have to spend that money. But we do it, and we do it right. But we need to continue to increase so we can get dug out of the hole that we have dug over decades of insufficient funding and overseen of the force. The bills have been piling up for years. This is a down payment to get the U.S. military healthy for decades of strategic competition.

Now, I am hesitant to even entertain this idea, but I think it is important to talk about. What if there are some out there who would like to see the President go even further and cut defense spending by 10 percent. This is wrong, and Congress has already flat rejected it on a bipartisan basis.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following morning business, on Wednesday, March 24, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 40, Rachel Levine, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, and Calendar No. 38, David Turk, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy en bloc; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on cloture on Calendar Nos. 40 and 38, in that order; further, that if cloture is invoked on either of these nominations, all post cloture time be considered expired at 4:45 p.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked; further, that if either nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be not in order. I make and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 96–388, as amended by Public Law 97–84, and Public Law 106–292, appoints the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the 117th Congress: The Honorable Ben Nighthawk Sanders of Vermont; The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin of Maryland; and The Honorable Jacky Rosen of Nevada.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Denise A. Hibay of New York.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100–458, sec. 114(b)(2)(c), the appointment of the following individual to serve a six-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development: The Honorable Christopher A. Coons of Delaware (term expiring 2026).

The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 70–770, the reappointment of the following individual to serve six-year term as a member of the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking: Dewardric LeRon McNeal of Maryland vice The Honorable Kathleen H. Hicks, PhD, of Virginia.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 70–770, the reappointment of the following individual to serve a six-year term as a member of the Migration Bird Conservation Commission: The Honorable Steve Heinrich of New Mexico (reappointment).

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94–389, as amended by Public Law 97–84, appoints the following Senators as members of the Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) during the 117th Congress: The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin of Maryland (and designate him Chairman) The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island; The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire; The Honorable Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut; and The Honorable Tina Smith of Minnesota.

NATIONAL WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 125.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. 123) designating March 2021 as "National Women's History Month".

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

Mr. KING. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be adopted, the preamble be agreed to, and that 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. 123) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 18, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

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

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 125.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 125) recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States.

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

Mr. KING. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be adopted, the preamble be agreed to, and that 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. 125) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 18, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 937

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The chair will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 937) to facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

Mr. KING. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 24; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expire, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nominations, as provided under the previous order.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator Sullivan.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

NOMINATION OF MARTIN JOSEPH WALSH

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is not often I come down to the floor to say I have a lot in common with the Senate majority leader, Senator Schumer from New York. In fact, in my 6 years in the Senate, I don't think I have ever done that.

But after reading his remarks prior to the vote that we took yesterday on the Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh, I thought I would come down and make a few points on that nominee, that vote, and some issues I have in common with the majority leader and now-Secretary Walsh and maybe some issues I don't have so much in common with the majority leader but I think I do have with Secretary Walsh, which is why I voted for him.

First, as I mentioned, I too, supported our now-Secretary of Labor, Marty Walsh, for some of the reasons that Senator Schumer did. Let me explain. Secretary Walsh started in the Laborers' Union, Local 233, in Boston, age 21, following in his father's footsteps. Now, as many people know, the Laborers are the biggest building construction union in the country. They build things—pipelines, roads, oil wells, bridges. They have made America strong. I am a big fan of Laborers and leaders like Joey Merritt back home in Talent, Oregon. When I am going to talk a little bit about.

Secretary Walsh followed his father's example and joined the Laborers in
Boston. He is also the son of Irish immigrants, which is something that is near and dear to my heart. And Senator SCHUMER said he has something very much in common—yesterday, when he spoke about Secretary Walsh—Secretary Walsh having an immigrant family from Eastern Europe who also, when he came over to America, got very involved with the labor movement. That is really a very common, powerful story of the American dream, common to many of my colleagues here. It, I believe, is certainly a story that I have in common with those two.

You see, my great-grandfather was from a family of Irish immigrants, and he was also very involved in the labor movement. In fact, he was one of the original cofounders of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the IBEW. He was its first grand marshal.

I have something I am quite proud of here. It is a page from the history books of the IBEW, talking about my great-grandfather’s great work for the IBEW when it first got off the ground. I look forward to working with Secretary Walsh on helping the men and women in America, certainly in my State, who build things. They have succeeded. They rise up and help others rise up—other working men and women—the way Secretary Walsh’s father did, the way Senator SCHUMER’s grandfather did, the way my great-grandfather did. It is a great American story.

But I must say that my views and Senator SCHUMER’s diverge on some of the other things he may have been speaking about when he talked about Secretary Walsh’s nomination yesterday.

One, he was critical of some of the Trump administration’s Department of Labor policies that he said were related to the workers and women who build things—these working men and women—despite the fact that prior to the pandemic, with some of the policies that we implemented here, the United States had the strongest economy in decades, the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years, wages were finally going up after 2 decades of stagnation. And very importantly for the working men and women of this country, there was a huge expansion in the American energy sector, “all of the above” energy: oil, gas, renewables, as important to the Presiding Officer as it is to Alaska.

Let me describe one other narrative that I believe certainly is true that I have seen in my professional life in Alaska—in America but certainly back home in my State—and that is the narrative that I am not so sure my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to highlight. But I am going to highlight it because I think it is really important now, more than ever. Let me say this: When national Democrats, whether during the Obama administration or now, during the Biden administration, are set up with the choice where they have to choose between the interests of the working men and women in this country who build things versus the interests of the extremists—radical environmental groups who want to kill jobs and shut them down—they almost always choose the same side as the extremists versus the working men and women of America, not the working men and women of Alaska.

This is true. My colleagues sometimes don’t want to see it. Do you know who else has seen it, and do you know who else I believe knows it is true? Secretary Walsh as a laborer. He has seen it. That is another reason why I voted for him.

He and his fellow laborers, whether in Boston or Alaska, also know that this issue is true. When there is a choice between the working men and women of America who build things versus the extremists who want to shut things down, way too often, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle go with the extremists, not the men and women who build things in this country.

Now, this narrative is not only continuing under the Biden administration, but the Biden administration has been bad for Alaska, bad for America, bad for working families, and, to be honest, it is a bit surprising. President Biden came into office talking about his blue collar roots, but right now, the record going forward is anything but supporting the men and women who build things.

Here is a snapshot of what is going on in my State. In the first 4 weeks of the Biden administration, there were eight Executive orders focused on Alaska—eight. No other State has had that. Many Executive orders focused on Alaskan working families.

Day one, ANWR—trying to shut that down. We got that done in this body. They also killed the Keystone Pipeline—10,000 jobs, laborers’ jobs. Marty Walsh knows a lot about that. It goes on and on and on. There are Executive orders right now that, from my State’s perspective, are focused on hurting working men and women.

There is another one I will talk about. It is a project we have, a big energy project in Alaska called the Willow project. This has been permitted by Democratic and Republican administrations for 25 years to finally get it. In 2021, in the administration of the Obama administration, the Trump administration, everybody. It is in the National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska, a place set aside by Congress over 70 years ago for oil and gas development and good jobs. It is not controversial at all. The Biden administration has put a hold on that. Here is the estimate. It is a $7 billion project that will produce American energy and an estimated 2,000 direct jobs on the Willow project.

This isn’t some pie-in-the-sky project. This is a project that we were working on, one that we expected in the winter. There were 2,000 direct jobs, 75 percent of which are union jobs, and they are saying “We are going to put a hold on it”—thousands of additional supporting jobs, and they are going to put a hold on that. Why? Well, we know why, because in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, some of the most extreme radical environmental groups in the country sued to stop it, and they won.

So guess what happened in Alaska this winter during a recession. The 2,000 men and women who were working on this project were given pink slips and told to go home. That is what happened.

Mr. President, don’t just take my word for it. I want to quote again from Terry O’Sullivan. He is the head of the Laborers, the biggest construction union in the country. This was his reaction after day one of the Biden administration, where there was a choice of working men and women who build things like pipelines or the radical extremist environmental groups who want to shut down and kill American jobs. It is a choice: day one, the radical environmentalists win.

Here is what the head of the Laborers—remember, Marty Walsh, Secretary Walsh is a Laborer from Boston. Here is what the head of the Laborers, the great American Terry O’Sullivan, said:

The Biden administration’s decision to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline permit on day one of his presidency is both insulting and disappointing to the thousands of hardworking LIUNA members.

Those are the Laborers—those who will lose good-paying, middle class family-supporting jobs.

By blocking this 100 percent union project, and pandering to environmental extremists—

Remember, this is Terry O’Sullivan talking, not Senator SULLIVAN talking.—a thousand union jobs will immediately vanish and 10,000 additional jobs will be foregone.

That is Terry O’Sullivan. Remember the choice: Men and women who build things and make our country great versus extremist groups like the Center for Biological Diversity—they go with the extremists.

Here is Mark McManus, general president of the United Association of Union Plumbers and Pipefitters. They were going to build the Keystone Pipeline, too, just like LIUNA members:

In revoking this permit, the Biden Administration has chosen to listen to the voices of fringe activists instead of union members and the American consumer on Day 1 of the Biden administration. Let me be clear.

This is Mark McManus still talking.

When built with union labor by the men and women of the United Association, pipelines like Keystone XL remain the safest and most efficient modes of energy transportation in the world. Sadly, the Biden Administration has now put thousands of union members and workers out of work.

This is why the Secretary of Labor we just confirmed—as I said, I was glad to support him—he is a Laborer. He knows how to build things. He knows these politics. This is why it is important to have his voice because
the voice of the extremist is much stronger in this administration. It is not just policies of killing union jobs—the men and women who build things for America—but if you listen, it is how the new members of this administration talk about these jobs. Listen. You and what you hear is as condescending a tone as it relates to these jobs. You may have heard John Kerry and Gina McCarthy, the climate change czars in the White House, who were saying in one of their press conferences that they need to tell the fossil workers—or the fossil communities—in my State and in America. They are worried that the majority now, the Senate majority, has similar views, so they are nervous.

Yet I am hopeful on one thing. Given his background and his heritage—now I am talking about the Secretary of Labor, Secretary Walsh. I believe that, when the decisions are made—and I hope when the decisions are being made in the Biden administration, the new Secretary of Labor is going to stand up for the working men and women, stand up for the hard workers, stand up for the laborers in Alaska whom he knows so well and look at the other Cabinet members and say: Not on my watch. We are not going to kill any more of these jobs.

That is what I am hopeful for. That is what he committed to me to do, and that is why I voted for Secretary Walsh as the new Secretary of Labor.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I have one more topic I would like to talk about today. It is another important one, and it is one that many have been talking about here on the floor of the U.S. Senate. Many have spoken very eloquently about this topic, and depending on when they have spoken about it—this year, last year, a decade ago, a century ago—it is a topic that is really fundamental to this institution and it looks as if Members in this institution are trying to change the institution forever. Now, I am talking about the filibuster. As you know, there has been much talk recently about the possibility of getting rid of the filibuster. This is an action that will fundamentally transform this institution, certainly, but I believe, frankly, it will transform our country. I don’t think this is a wise move at all. The irony is—and I am going to talk about it—until very recently, the vast majority of my colleagues, Republican and Democratic, were in agreement on this topic in that getting rid of the legislative filibuster was not a wise move for the Senate and not a wise move for America. Now, this might seem like an insular issue—something that people in Washington, DC, get incensed about, wound up about, and the people back home might not necessarily care because it might not impact them—but I don’t think it is the case at all. This rule, the filibuster, is at the very heart of what keeps extreme legislation, pushed by a small minority of the public, from passing. It is a rule that, in the Senate, certainly encourages, if not demands, compromise and bipartisan work both when one’s party is in or out of power.

Now, look, our instincts as Senators are that our instincts are to get things done for our States, for our country, but what is good for Alaska isn’t always good for Colorado, and what is good for Colorado isn’t always good for New York. What is good for the majority isn’t always good for the minority and vice versa and it is always good for the Nation. That is the heart of federalism. It is also why the majority can’t wield unfettered power in the U.S. Senate. With the exception of a few laws, what is required here is typically 60 votes on legislation. It is what separates this body, the Senate, from the House.

For the good of the country, if you look at our history, we must work together, find compromise, find common ground, particularly on major legislation, to get a broad-based buy-in from all Americans or most Americans. This is what the filibuster has required.

Remember, the Framers understood this. If there were a filibuster, we would be different from the House. We would be the bulwark against what James Madison called an anchor, a necessary fence, against the fickleness and passions that pervade the House. No offense to Members of the House of Representatives, but as George Washington is said to have told Thomas Jefferson, the Framers created the Senate to cool House legislation. It was the cooling saucer you had with regard to the tea in the cup.

Indeed, the Senate—often referred to as the “world’s greatest deliberative body” in its earliest days—was founded on the right of unlimited debate. That is what the filibuster is. Even in the deliberation of the Senate in 1789, Senators used this right to debate and debate in order to delay consideration of legislation. It wasn’t until the mid-1800s that this tactic was coined the “filibuster.” The point is that this procedural rule in the Senate has been here, in one form or another, since the founding of the Republic, and when you hear my colleagues talk about it as some new, recent procedure, it is just not accurate. Before there was a formal procedure to even end debate if a Senator chose to talk a bill to death. It wasn’t until 1917, during a debate about arming Merchant Marine vessels during World War I, that the Senate established the cloture tool, giving this body the ability to end debate by a certain margin of Senators. Now, as some of my colleagues have been debating recently and have mentioned throughout its history, we have seen the filibuster, cloture used for good. We have used it to stop legislation, and it has also been used for ill—to delay much needed, historic reforms like civil rights legislation during the
fifties and sixties, legislation which was filibustered by Democratic Senators until the filibuster was finally broken in the sixties. It has also been used for many other purposes, but Members on both sides have used it for centuries. In the 1917-18 session, the solution was that the first Senate filibuster was over a bridge across the Potomac River. I am not sure why, but I guess it was an important issue back then.

So slowing things down, cooling passions, that is what this body was designed to do, and that is what this procedure has done for decades. That is why my friends on the other side, who are undertaking a push to get rid of this, need to think. They need to stop. They need to think. The American people need to understand the consequences, and our good friends in the media who are covering the Senate need to write some real history about this.

As my friends on the other side of the aisle know, this is one of these issues that, when the shoe was on the other foot, we did not take action. What am I talking about? Recently, the Republicans held the majority in the Senate, and, currently, with President Trump, we had a Republican in the White House. There was frustration, and they wanted to move things quicker, and the President, President Trump, waspressuring many Senators: Let’s get rid of the filibuster. We didn’t. We didn’t. We told the President: It is not a good idea for the Senate, and it is not a good idea for the country.

That is what we did when the shoe was on the other foot. We said no. It is not good for this body, and it is not good for the country. The Republican President was pushing: We need to get things done. We need to get rid of it. No.

Let me just read a few of the things that were said recently about the necessity of keeping the filibuster.

My friend from Delaware, in 2018, said:

I am committed to never voting to change the legislative filibuster.

Now, he said that when the Republican President was in the White House.

My friend from New Jersey, in 2009, said:

My colleagues and I—everybody I have talked to—believes the legislative filibuster should stay here, and I will personally resist any efforts to get rid of it.

My Democratic friend from Montana said just a little over a year ago:

I am a “no” on changing the filibuster. The move to make the Senate like the House, I think, is a mistake.

I could go on.

I don’t want the Senate to become like the House. The consequences of getting rid of the filibuster are too great.

These are all words spoken very recently by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Even more impressive, just a few years ago, we had 61 Senators—33 Republicans, 25 of whom are still here, and 30 Democrats, 27 of whom are still in the Senate today—who sent a letter. I have it right here.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Record this letter sent to the Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, the Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER, saying we have to maintain the 60-vote threshold for filibusters involving legislation.

There being no objection, the material was so printed in the Record, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, DC.
April 7, 2017.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Democratic Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND DEMOCRATIC LEADER SCHUMER: We are writing to urge you to support our efforts to preserve existing rules, practices, and traditions as they pertain to the right of Members to engage in extended debate on legislation before the United States Senate. Senators have expressed a value in the propriateness of limiting debate when we are considering judicial and executive branch nominations. Regardless of our past disagreements on procedure, we are united in our determination to preserve the ability of Members to engage in extended debate when bills are on the Senate floor.

We are mindful of the unique role the Senate plays in the legislative process, and we are steadfastly committed to ensuring that this great American institution continues to serve as the world’s greatest deliberative body. Therefore, we are asking you to join us in opposing any effort to curtail the existing rights and prerogatives of Senators to engage in full, robust, and extended debate as we consider legislation before this body in the future.

That is the letter. Twenty-seven of my Democratic friends said “Don’t get rid of the filibuster” 3 years ago. Where are they now?

Why is it that when this topic comes up, Senators MANCHIN and SINEMA are the only ones the media focuses on? How come they are not asking the questions of the other twenty-five—one-quarter of the entire body—who wrote this letter? What happened? Where is their conviction?

As my shoe was on the other foot, we said we are not doing it, but they now want to do it. Nobody is asking them. I think the media should take a look at every Senator who signed this letter 3 years ago and say: Hey. Why did you change your opinion so quickly? Three years ago, you were adamantly against the filibuster, getting rid of it. What happened? Could it be that you now have power and you—but we didn’t do that when we had the power, when we had the White House.

It is a really important question. Actually, it is so important, I would welcome any of my colleagues who signed the letter, Democrat or Republican, to come on down and explain to your constituents, explain to the American people why you switched so quickly and what you think it is going to do to the structure of the U.S. Senate and liberties to our country.

What strikes many of us is how, on so many issues, people change their side—it happens on both sides—when people are holding power from different perspectives. I am going to provide another example that even hits our media friends. In 2004, when George W. Bush was President and Republicans had the majority, they were evidently considering getting rid of the filibuster, and they didn’t.

The New York Times wrote the following:

The Republicans see the filibuster as an annoying obstacle, but it is actually one of the checks and balances that the founders, who worried greatly about the concentration of power, built into our system.

It is the New York Times saying the framers built the filibuster into our system.

People who call themselves conservatives should find a way of achieving their goals without declaring war on one of the oldest traditions in American democracy.

The filibuster. That is the New York Times. So Republicans heeded the advice of the New York Times. It doesn’t happen a lot, but it did.
So let’s see where the New York Times was on this one just about a month ago.

The filibuster is a centuries-old parliamentary tool that has been transformed into a weapon for strangling functional government. The filibuster must go.

Well, so much for the New York Times’s convictions. I wonder why they are changing their tune. I wonder why they are changing their tune. Probably the same reason that some of my Democratic colleagues are changing their tune after signing this letter.

So I will end with one final quote. This is from a politician we all know well, all very familiar with him. It is from a speech on the Senate floor by U.S. Senator—in 2005, U.S. Senator Barack Obama. He spoke about how the American people expect their politicians to work to create a more perfect union.

What they do not expect is for one party, be it Republican or Democrat—

This is former Senator, former President Obama speaking right here on the floor—
to change the rules in the middle of the game so that they can make all the decisions while the other party is told to sit down and keep quiet.

Sounds a little bit like what is going on with this filibuster debate.

I understand that Republicans are getting a lot of pressure to do this—

“This” meaning get rid of the filibuster—

from factions outside the [Senate] Chamber, but we need to rise above the “ends justify the means’ mentality because we are here to answer the people—all of the people, not just the ones who are wearing our particular party label.

That was Senator Obama—former Senator Obama, former President Obama saying in 2005: Don’t do it, Republicans. You have the power. You have the Presidency. You have the Senate. Don’t get rid of the filibuster.

Well, I couldn’t agree more with our former President. Again, when we had the ability to do this just 3 years ago, we said no.

I hope our friends in the media will write about this. Don’t hold your breath. But here is one instance when the shoe was on the other foot. Because it was so important to America, so important to this institution, we declined to make the power move.

It would be really good—whether it is President Obama, who has spoken out about this now; or the New York Times, who has changed their tune; or all 25 of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who signed this letter 3 years ago saying “Don’t do it”—come on down, speak to the American people. Tell them why you have had such a drastic change of heart.

But I will tell you this: If we do do it, you are going to regret it; we are going to regret it; the American people are going to regret it. And do you know what? In my discussions with some of my Democratic colleagues, and I am not going to name names, they know that. They know that. They are getting a lot of pressure. Majority Leader SCHUMER is getting a lot of pressure from the far left.

Don’t let the far left ruin this institution. Don’t let the far left bludgeon you guys into changing America, because I think deep down in your heart of hearts, especially all of you who signed this letter 3 years ago know what the right thing to do for the U.S. Senate is and the right thing to do for the United States of America is, and it is to continue to keep what the Founding Fathers devised for this body.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:47 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 23, 2021:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

SHALANDA D. YOUNG, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

VIVEK HALLEGERE MURTHY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE MEDICAL DIRECTOR IN THE REGULAR CORPS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, SUBJECT TO QUALIFICATIONS THEREFOR AS PROVIDED BY LAW AND REGULATIONS, AND TO BE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.
Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Kellie Goodman Shaffer of Osterburg, Pennsylvania, for receiving the Influential Leadership Award.

In her capacity as President and CEO of the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce, Kellie has worked tirelessly to make Bedford County a better place to live and work. Since she assumed her position in 2010, she has consistently advocated for Bedford’s small businesses, community and helped to grow our economy.

Amid the COVID–19 pandemic, Kellie has been a tireless advocate for Bedford County’s businesses, ensuring that they are able to utilize programs and opportunities designed to support small businesses during this challenging time.

Kellie is an outstanding Pennsylvanian and leader. It is my privilege to work alongside her to serve the people of Bedford County, and I wish her every continued success as she advocates for our community.

RECOGNIZING JOANNE GOODWIN AND HER SERVICE TO THE SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Joanne Goodwin for her years of dedicated and unwavering service to our country and to the South Florida area. For decades, Joanne has made it her goal every day to make other people’s lives around her better, and has enjoyed a record of success in-and-around the Fort Lauderdale area continue to blossom and grow each and every year since. She also volunteered on former congressman Ron Klein’s campaign for the House of Representatives, and congresswoman Lois Frankel’s in the same district.

Goodwin has been recognized for her amazing work before. She has been named Broward County Volunteer of the Year three separate times, in 2013, 2015, and 2017. In 2018, she was given the Broward Young Democrats Lifetime Young Democrat Award. In addition, she remains an avid reader, traveler, and continues her commitment to electing progressive candidates, particularly women, up-and-down the ballot in the future.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Joanne Goodwin for her continued support for Florida’s 22nd Congressional district and the broader South Florida community.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR DANIEL NASKE

HON. KAY GRANGER
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Daniel Naske of the U.S. Air Force, upon his departure from the Department of the Air Force, Directorate of Legislative Liaison. As Executive Officer, Major Naske serves as the critical bridge between key senior leaders within the Department of Defense, to include the Secretary of the Air Force, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Chief of Space Operations and Members of Congress and the White House. His responsibilities include leading a 6-member team in executing senior leader communication and resource support responding to 535 Members of Congress. His principal advisor to the Director of Legislative Liaison’s ensures the Department’s strategic communication and vision is synchronized and thoughtfully executed across 6 divisions and 85 members in the planning of over 200 Member engagements on Department programs, policies and weapon systems.

Major Naske is a native of upstate New York and is a Distinguished Graduate from Clarkson University ROTC with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He also holds a Master of Arts in Military History from American Military University, and is a 2019 graduated Defense Legislative Fellow.

Major Naske began his flying career in 2009, and was first assigned as a pilot of the MC–12W reconnaissance aircraft. In 2011, Major Naske was qualified on the C–17A Globemaster III and became an Instructor Pilot in 2013. Additionally, he is a graduate of the esteemed U.S. Air Force Weapons School. Major Naske’s exemplary U.S. Air Force career spans more than 2,741 hours in airlift and reconnaissance aircraft, and of that, 1,002 are in combat.

Major Naske and his wife, Caitlin, have two beautiful daughters, Ava and Mara and his family continues to support him and his service to our nation.

We wish Major Naske the best of luck in his new role leading an operational C–17 unit as the Director of Operations. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress and a grateful Nation, I extend our deepest appreciation to Major Daniel Naske for his dedicated service to the U.S. Air Force, and to our Nation.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JUDGE ANITA SUKOLA ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true public servant and a fine example of women leadership, the Honorable Anita A. Sukola. I congratulate her on her retirement after 36 years of service to the people of Guam in our government as a respected educator, attorney, and judge.

Early in her career, Judge Anita Sukola maintained a firm commitment to the betterment of our community through education. After graduating from John F. Kennedy High School in 1969, she went on to Washington State University and earned her bachelor’s degree in History and Secondary Education. Hoping to foster her same passion for growth and learning in others, she became a full-time educator in the public school system while working towards her master’s degree in Administration and Supervision. By 1983, Judge Sukola obtained her Juris Doctor from the People’s College of Law and expanded her role in educating our island youth through her appointment as Deputy Director of the Department of Education. The following year, she was confirmed to serve as the DOE Director and continued her service through this position until 1991. During her tenure at DOE, she simultaneously contributed to our island community as Chairperson for the Government of Guam Retirement Fund Board of Directors for eight years. Her role as an educator also extended beyond the public school system with an assistant professorship at the University of Guam’s Criminal Justice program. In this capacity, she helped to develop minds that would eventually go on to pursue careers in various areas of law, police, probation, social work, and other security and military organizations.

Upon closing her chapter with DOE, Judge Sukola established a private practice alongside late Justice Monessa G. Lujan and served Guam through this partnership for nearly 11 years. Prior to her judgship, she further fortified her legal expertise through service as an attorney with the Public Defender Service Corporation, Legal Counsel for

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
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Refuge in India.

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people were killed, over 200,000 women were

raped in organized rape camps, and over 10

million people were displaced, most finding

refuge in India.

I offer my prayers and condolences to the victims and their families who still feel the very real effects of this heinous crime against humanity.

March 25th officially marks the beginning of the genocide in Bangladesh.

The brutality unleashed by the Pakistani army and the targeting of Bengali Hindus simply because of their religion must be strongly condemned as religious freedom is one of the most sacred of human rights.

It has been 50 years since the genocide in Bangladesh, and the survivors and their descendents are still fighting for recognition; they are still fighting for an apology from Pakistan, as the Prime Minister of Bangladesh formerly asked her Pakistani counterpart as recently as January of 2021; and they are still fighting for justice and for closure.

On March 28, 1971, Archer K. Blood, U.S. Consul General stationed in Dhaka, East Pakistan, present-day Bangladesh, during the genocide, sent a cable back to Foggy Bottom with the subject reading "Selective Genocide."

In his cable, the Consul General informs his superiors at the State Department that "Here in Dacca we have horrifying witnesses to a reign of terror by the Pak military," and that the full horror of its atrocities "will come to light sooner or later."

That is why I rise; to remember and acknowledge that history so that victims and survivors of the Bengali Hindu Genocide know that the people of the United States stand in solidarity with them.

IN RECOGNITION OF JILL SELLERS

HON. JOHN JOYCE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jill Sellers on her new role as the Executive Director of Main Street Gettysburg, a non-profit organization committed to the preservation and revitalization of historic Gettysburg.

In this new role, Jill will collaborate with community leaders and volunteers to steward the mission of Main Street Gettysburg. Since first visiting Gettysburg two decades ago, Jill has been a passionate advocate for this town and community.

Jill has extensive leadership and management experience. Prior to moving to Adams County, Jill founded a public relations firm and served as the President of the Weston County Hospital in Wyoming. Earlier in her career, she served as an intelligence officer with the Defense Intelligence Agency as a program manager for Northrop Grumman. Jill is a graduate of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, where she earned a master's degree in international policy.

Jill Sellers will be an incredible partner to small businesses and the tourism community in Adams County. I congratulate Jill on this new chapter, and I look forward to working alongside her to serve the Gettysburg community.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in sad remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the Bengal Hindu Genocide, and celebrate and honor the lives of the more than two million Bengal Hindu persons who were systematically killed by the Pakistani Army when it launched an offensive into East Pakistan, present-day Bangladesh, thus beginning the 10-month reign of terror known as "Operation Searchlight."

Over that time, approximately 2 to 3 million people were killed, over 200,000 women were raped in organized rape camps, and over 10 million people were displaced, most finding refuge in India.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I regretfully missed Roll Call vote 86 H.R. 1620 The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021 on March 17, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.
HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Jewish Adoption and Family Care Center’s declaration of intent agreement with the State of Israel. JAFCO continues to provide support to children affected by disabilities at risk of abuse or neglect in the United States.

JAFCO was established as a non-profit in 1992. The JAFCO Children’s Village is among the rarest programs of its kind around the country. The partnership with the Israel Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, and Social Services, or MOLSA, will help both entities refer requests for foster care, consultation, support services and more.

JAFCO and MOLSA have seen their efforts overlap over the past 25 years, making this partnership all the more important towards providing help to children in need. Both have done phenomenal work serving special needs kids. This partnership can help mend any unmet necessities for children in the Jewish community.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this partnership and commending the invaluable work JAFCO and MOLSA have done over the years to bring help to children and families in need.

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Keeping Our Manufacturers from being Unfairly taxed while Championing Health Act (KOMBUCHA). This legislation would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to properly tax kombucha, a fermented tea, naturally rich in probiotics and healthy acids, that can contain trace amounts of alcohol.

Last month, on February 21, we commemorated World Kombucha Day and acknowledged the many contributions of kombucha brewers in my home State of Oregon, across the United States, and around the world. With the introduction of KOMBUCHA, the United States Congress now can extend that acknowledgement to legislative action by providing the industry with much-needed relief.

Under the Internal Revenue Code, kombucha beverages with more than 0.5 percent alcohol-by-volume are subject to excise taxes intended for beer. As a result of the fermentation process that is necessary to produce kombucha, some final products may contain more than 0.5 percent alcohol-by-volume, subjecting the industry to onerous excise taxes. But kombucha drinkers do not choose the product because of its alcohol content, they choose it as a healthy beverage option.

My legislation would increase the alcohol-by-volume limit for kombucha to 1.25 percent, properly categorizing the product and allowing the kombucha industry to continue its growth. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senator Wyden in the Senate to provide this relief as soon as possible.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize LifeStream Behavioral Center as they commemorate 50 years of service in bringing hope to life during the month of March. LifeStream is dedicated to their mission of supporting recovery, promoting health and creating hope. Over the years LifeStream has grown to meet the needs of our communities and become a leader in behavioral health, substance use disorders, and social services.

In 1969, LifeStream began as a component of Waterman Memorial Hospital in Eustis, Florida, providing community-based care as an alternative to institutionalization. In 1971, LifeStream became a non-profit organization, originally founded as Lake/Sumter Community Mental Health Center, with 18 inpatient beds located inside Waterman Hospital and two outpatient clinics located in Lake and Sumter Counties.

Since its founding, LifeStream has expanded to multiple facilities with over 50 programs and 1,000 staff providing services throughout Central Florida, proudly serving the individuals and families of Lake, Sumter, Citrus, Hernando, Marion, Orange, and Hillsborough Counties. As a leader in behavioral healthcare, LifeStream offers a multi-disciplinary approach helping people reclaim their lives and take what for many is their first step towards hope. Their integrated health system provides behavioral health, substance use, primary healthcare, and social services. For 50 years, LifeStream has helped thousands of individuals in our community achieve recovery and reach their highest potential.

This is a momentous year for LifeStream, and I am honored to join my friend, Jonathan Cherry, CEO/President of LifeStream in celebrating this milestone. The community and families of Central Florida are blessed to have a committed behavioral health center such as LifeStream, and I commend them for the measures they are undertaking to support recovery and provide hope to those in need.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral on their celebration of this, the Bicentennial of Greek Independence. Their continued efforts to support, preserve and promote their Greek culture, as well as honor the heroes of 1821 and the sacrifices they made in pursuit of Greek independence, are truly remarkable and deserving of the highest praise.

The parishioners of St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral are stewards of their culture’s rich history, celebrating and honoring the sacrifices made by their forefathers during their fight for freedom. With the signing of the Treaty of Edirne in 1829, eight years after the inception of the War of Greek Independence, the independent state of Greece was finally established. St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral has been a vital member of the Greater Springfield community since 1907, and generations of parishioners have faithfully commemorated Greek independence for more than a century.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again acknowledge St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral for their extraordinary efforts and support of the Greek-American community. Their dedication to preserving the traditions of their religion and their culture is admirable, and I wish them many more years of health and prosperity.

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON
OF SOUTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, celebrate, and honor the frontline healthcare workers of the great state of South Dakota.

Some of these South Dakota heroes are Ashley Beck, Jordan Beck, Joshua Beck, Charleen Beckel, Bonnie Becker, Janet Becker, Michele Becker, Ellen Becker, Carianne Beckwith, Rebecca Beckwith, Jody Becker, Amber Becker, Heidi Becker, Brooklyn Becker, Beth Becker, LaTora Becker, Myranda Becking, Vicki Beckler, Nicholas Beckler, Crystal Beckman, Danielle Beckmann, Lindsay Beckstrand, Erin Beckstrom, Briana Beckstrom, Sheri Beckwith, Nicole Beckwith, Krista Beckwith, Loni Bedard, Cassandra Beech, Kelsey Beeck, Darla Beede, Andrew Beede, Amy Beeghly, Allison Beeman, Debra Beermann, Amelia Beernink, Chelsi Beers, Erika Beers, Amanda Beeson, Dalene Beetem, Naomi Beisch, Marsha Begeman, Katelyn Begeman, Cynthia Begley, Cambry Becker, Margaret Behl, Rebecca Behl, Keith Behl, Ashley Behl, Brenda Behlings, Nancy Behr, Kristina Behrend, Christina Behrends, Travis Behrens,
Briana Behrens, Alyson Behrens, Kylie Behrens, Jordan Beiswanger.

Ephrem Bejiga, Bethlehem Bekele, Biruktan Belay, Kirsten Belcher, Lisa Belcher, Morgan Beil, Sarah Belden, Amanda Belding, Connie Bell, Leila Belile, Tina Belile, Darcy Belitz, Cassie Belden, Kaetlyn Belden, Karen Belden, Mirak Bellenayeh, Denise Below, Douglas Belton, Kristy Bems, Susan Bendel, Edna Bender, LaDonna Bender, Chris Bender, Karen Bender, Andrea Bender, Bryan Bender, Grace Bender, Lucas Bendlin, Jennifer Benedetto, Kelsey Benedetto, Darla Benedict, Jamie Benedict, Deanna Benesh, Paul Beninga, Candice Benne, Sarah Benne, Stacia Bennett, Bruce Bennett, Theresa Bennett, Lesly Bennett, Amanda Bennett, Melissa Bennett, Andrea Bennett, Kayla Bennett, Lisa Bennett, Steffani Bennett, Katherine Bennett, Marcia Benning, Patricia Benson, Maryls Benson, Cynthia Bens, Angelique Benson, Christina Benson, Heather Benson, Susan Benson, Amanda Benson, Matthew Benson, Polly Benson, Tonya Benson, Blake Benson, Tessas Benson.


Amy Berke, Bonnie Berkemier, Cara Berkley, Diana Berkland, Mary Berkness, Callie Berlin, Chelsea Bern, Kaniyll Berndt, Brinette Berndt, Kayla Berndt, Pamela Bernt, Emily Berndt, Rebecca Bernger, Eleanor Bernier, Juliette Bemit, Susan Berreth, Brittney Berreth, Sonia Berrios, Beryl Berry, Beverly Berry, Brenda Berry, Chad Berry, Amber Berry, Cade Berry, Melissa Berry, Bonnie Bertelsen, Case,Casey Bertollo, Emily Bertoltto, Jennifer Bertram, Michelle Bertram, Michaela Bertram, Katie Bertrand Graeb, Evan Bertsch, Josephine Beskow, Will Besler, Natasha Besler, Erica Bestgen, Deborah Bestgen, Debra Bludorn, Gaea Blue, Taphne Blue, Holly Bving, Lauren Beyer, Ashley Beynon, Jessica Biedzick, Sharon Bezenek, Rohini Bhat, Nancy Bialas, Stacey Bialas, Kim Bialas, Karen Bialas, Laura Bialas, Jerald Bials, Blair Bice, Mary Bicke, Laurie Bikke, Marne Bickel, Audrey Bickerdyke, Mary Bickett, Kirsten Bickett, Sarah Bickett.


Debra Bludon, Gaea Blue, Taphne Blue, Brenda Blue, Tanya Blue, Sarah Blue, Melissa Blue, Tiffany Blue, John Blue, Pamela Blume, Catherine Blumenauer, Matthew Blumer, Mikaela Blumhardt, Ashlee Blumhoff, Melissa Blumke, Deanna Boadwine, Michelle Boadwine, Naida Boadwine, Natalie Board, Lindsay Bobier, Nicole Bocijan, Elizabeth Bockenstette, Jeffrey Bodnar, Wendy Boe, Maggie Boe, Brittany Boeckman, Jessica Boeddicker, Stephanie Boehm, Brittany Boeheer, Renee Boehe, Shelly Boehreiia, Lisa Boeke, Lou Boer, Jordan Boerboom, Dustin Boes, Theodore Boese, Kelly Boese, Chanda Boes, Kristina Boettel, Maria Boetel, Heath Boeletter, Paul Boettnere, Bernadette Boeover, Jenna Bogenhagen, Heather Boggess, Mary Boggs, Ellie Bohan, Emily Bohle, Patricia Bohlen, Jonathan Bohlen, Celeste Bohling, Kyle Bohling, Angie Bohling, Sara Boon, Karin Bonk, Nicole Bond, Amber Bonn, Corinne Bohn, Kelli Bohn, Bohmabach, Mary Bohn, Marys Bohn, Kathryn Bohnenkamp, Lesley Bohnet, Alisa Bohrer, Kay Boik, Bernice Boland, Linda Boland.


Dawn Boone, Julia Boos, Sara Booth, Julie Boote, Felix Bor, Emily Bor, Denise Boraas, Catherine Borah, Keith Borah, Sarah Borchard, Sheri Borchard, Carla Borchardt, Michaela Borchardt, Dawn Borchert, Emily Borchert, Rita Bordeaux, Sandra Bordewy, Karen Bordewy, Cynthia Borg, Amber Borge, Malsy Borgella, Mary Borgstadt, Selia Borgum, Jamie Borgum, Trista Borgum, Lori Bors, Jami Borske, Emily Borske, Stephanie Bork, Catherine Borketley, Debora Borman, Jennifer Bormann, Lisa Bormes, Kendra Bornhorst, Cynthia Bons, Marlene Soro, Carly Borr, Andrea Bortko, Heather Bortnem, Julie Bortnem, Caitlyn Bosch, Isabel Bosch, Alexis Boschee, Amanda Bosenky, Lisa Bosley, Abigail Bosma, Kristin Bosman, Ann Boms, Julie Bostic, Nolan Bostic, Nathan Bostic.


Virginia Bradford, Hazel Bradley, Rebecca Brand, Janice Bradshaw, Jane Brady, Jamie Brady, Lynnzee Brady, Katie Bragg, Priscilla Bragg, Mary Braithwaite, Tamara Brake, Sharron Bramble, David Brandell, Karen Brandenburg, Michelle Brandenburg, Brandi Brandenburg, Samantha Brandenburg, Kasey Brandenburg, Nidhi Brandis, Debra Brandlie, Shell Brandly, Nicholas Brandner, Danielle Brandner, Myranda Brandner, Peggy Brandriet, Leanne Brands, Diane Brandsrud, Cassandra Brandsled, Kelsey Brands, Debra Brandt, Sandra Brandt, Michael Brandt, Kristin Brandt, Samantha Brandt, Suzanne Brandt, Wade Brandt, Michael Brandt, Kristin Brandt, Amanda Brandt, MacKenzie Brandt, Kathleen


Rhonda Christensen, Janice Christensen, Cynthia Christensen, Gaylene Christensen, Dawn Christensen, Renee Christensen, Julie Christensen, Kristina Christensen, Janna Christensen, Debra Christensen, Teresa Christensen, Holly Christensen, James Christensen, Susan Christensen, Rhonda Christensen, Christina Christensen, Renae Christensen, Brenda Christensen, Alyssa Christensen, Rebecca Christensen, Christensen, Annie Christensen, Katie Christensen, Taya Christensen, Shay Christensen, Amanda Christensen, Ashley Christensen, Jessica Christensen, Daniel Christensen, Nick Christensen, Allison Christensen, Courtney Christensen, Kasha Christensen, Brandi Christensen, Nicole Christensen, Briane Christensen, Tanya Christensen, Jessica Christensen, Sarah Christensen, Janell Christensen, Lee Christensen, Delynda Christensen, Gina Christensen, Brian Christiaansen, Camille Christman.

Becca Christian, Amber Christian, Hannah Christiansen, Carolyn Christiansen-Brekke, Dianne Christiansen, Jill Christiansen, Jessica Christiansen, Ashley Christiansen, Holly Christiansen, Sarah Christle, Brittany Christion, Marlene Christman, Shawn Christoffers, Pamela Christopher, Megan Christopher, Carrie Christpherson, Heather Christman, Deborah Christperson, Okeleamaka Chukwuye, Daeyeong Chung, Teresa Church, Carrie Churchill, Diane Ciancio, Jean Ciazynski, Jennifer Cichosz, Jamie Cihak, Sean Cihak, Patrick Cimburek, Elizabeth Cimburek, Kelly Cimpi, Jackie Rau, and Jeanette Saugstad.

Over the past year, they have faced challenges most of us cannot even imagine. They have shown incredible resolve in the face of adversity. They have shown us all how to seek positivity and hope in each day as we weather the storms that come our way.

I couldn’t be more thankful to represent the incredible people across South Dakota and all over the nation who work hard each day, not for fame, not for recognition or for money, but for the betterment of their communities. This is what makes America strong. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize these hard-working individuals.

IN RECOGNITION OF MOM’S HOUSE
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Mom’s House, a community organization assisting women and families, for its service to Johnstown, Pennsylvania and surrounding communities.

In 1983, Mom’s House was established in Johnstown to offer support to victims of abuse and women in need. By providing childcare services, Mom’s House helps mothers to complete their education at the high school or post-secondary level while raising a family. Mom’s House also offers parents counseling and other vital resources.

The success of Mom’s House in Johnstown has led to the establishment of seven other Mom’s House organizations in four states and plans for additional centers across the country.

Mom’s House works to serve families while protecting each person’s unalienable right to life. On behalf of Pennsylvania’s 13th Congressional District, I rise to recognize this outstanding organization and thank the leaders and volunteers at Mom’s House for their service to the Johnstown community.

HONORING THE WOMEN OF STEEL
AS WE CELEBRATE WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise today in observance of Women’s History Month and its 2021 theme—Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced. Each year, the National Women’s History Project selects a unifying theme to recognize and promote Women’s History Month. This year’s theme recognizes the passage of the 19th Amendment and honors the stories of those women who have fought for equal rights in the workplace.

Prior to the right to vote, women were instrumental in organizing workplaces, most famously during the Bread and Roses Strike of 1912. Tens of thousands of women fought for more than wages and working conditions; they fought to be respected in the workplace. For generations since, women have contributed to resolving conflicts and have persevered tirelessly to promote equality in the workplace.

Women have insisted upon and continue to fight for respect, justice, and equality.

Today, I would like to take a moment to honor Women of Steel, an advocacy-arm of the United Steelworkers, which evolved from the early women’s caucuses that demanded women have their rightful place in the workplace. Throughout the years, women from diverse backgrounds have played an instrumental role in paving the way for women in the steel industry.

Among these remarkable leaders was Ola Kennedy. Ola was a resident of Gary, Indiana, who passed away in 2009. Ola worked for 28 years at Hammond Valve. A devoted community leader, she was involved in many union and civic organizations and was one of the founding members of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists in addition to being a member of the NAACP and holding various positions at Union 1273, District 31 in the Steelworkers union.

We also celebrate Roberta Wood. In the 1970s, Roberta Wood went to work in the male-dominated mill in the union’s former District 31 in Gary, Indiana. Along with Ola, Roberta co-founded the steelworker women’s caucus in the Chicago/Gary district of the Steelworkers union. In 1976, she was elected the first female member of USWA Local 65’s Executive Board and is currently a member of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees where she continues to advocate for future generations.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize those women who have recently celebrated more than five decades at ArcelorMittal, which is now Cleveland-Cliffs: Gail Richardson, a native of East Chicago and a safety advocate at Indiana Harbor; Judith Studer, a senior clerk in the maintenance, environmental and utilities department at Burns Harbor; and Maria Garcia, a materials management coordinator in the logistics department at Indiana Harbor.

Today, the Women of Steel continue to advocate for more women in leadership and carry on the march to fight for full gender equity in the workplace. I commend these women and the many others who fought and continue to fight alongside them for women of every creed, class, and ethnic background. These fearless, strong, and vocal women are exemplary role models who reflect the 2021 theme, Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to be Silenced.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to join in celebrating Women’s History Month and recognizing the role Women of Steel have played to organize, unionize, rally, and inspire workers to fight for justice. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in celebrating the impact these extraordinary women have made in labor history and their continued contributions to the labor movement and our nation.
RECOGNIZING MIKKIE BELVEDERE AND HER SERVICE TO COCONUT CREEK AND SOUTH FLORIDA

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH OF FLORIDA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Mikkie Belvedere for her years of public service in South Florida. Mikkie was born in Israel, lived in New York City, in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and has been a resident of South Florida since 1992.

Commissioner Belvedere is a financial professional who has spent years putting her expertise to good use to better her local community. She was first elected to the Coconut Creek City Commission in 2009, where she has served in the roles of Mayor and Vice Mayor of Coconut Creek. Prior to her service as a city commissioner, Commissioner Belvedere spent years working to better Coconut Creek, serving on the city’s Planning and Zoning Board, the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, and as the chair of the Coconut Creek Environmental Advisory Board. Commissioner Belvedere served as an ambassador committee representative and charter member for the Coconut Creek Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to her years of public service, Commissioner Belvedere has had a positive impact on communities in Coconut Creek and throughout South Florida. The founder of the Coconut Creek Multicultural center, Mikkie Belvedere also is a member of the Wynmoor Hurricane Emergency Network and a member of the Coconut Creek Community Emergency Response Team. She is a Trustee of the Sisterhood of Liberal Jewish Temple and the president of the Hebrew club of Wynmoor. She is a former member of the Sawgrass Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and a former participant of the Broward Mentoring Program. For the past decade and a half, Commissioner Belvedere has volunteered with the Broward County Prime Time Program, where she reads to children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mikkie Belvedere and her service to the South Florida community and Florida’s 22nd Congressional District.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1681–S1721

Measures Introduced: Forty-eight bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 891–938, S.J. Res. 13, and S. Res. 130–131. Pages S1706–08

Measures Reported:


Special Report entitled “Report on the Activities of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the United States Senate During the 116th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 117–3) Page S1705

Measures Passed:

National Women's History Month: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 123, designating March 2021 as “National Women’s History Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to. Page S1717

Recognizing the Heritage, Culture, and Contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Women: Committee on Indian Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 125, recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to. Page S1717

Appointments:

United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the 117th Congress: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 96–388, as amended by Public Law 97–84, and Public Law 106–292, appointed the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the 117th Congress: Senators Sanders, Cardin, and Rosen. Page S1717

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: Denise A. Hibay of New York. Page S1717

Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training Development: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 100–458, sec. 114(b)(2)(c), the appointment of the following individual to serve a six-year term as a member of the Board of Trustees of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development: Senator Coons (term expiring 2026). Page S1717

Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 116–92, appointed the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking: Dewardric LeRon McNeal of Maryland vice Kathleen H. Hicks, PhD, of Virginia. Page S1717

Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 70–770, the reappointment of the following individual to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: Senator Heinrich (reappointment). Page S1717

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission): The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94–304, as amended by Public Law 99–7, appointed the following Senators as members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) during the 117th Congress: Senators Cardin (and designate him Chairman), Whitehouse, Shaheen, Blumenthal, and Smith. Page S1717

Levine, Turk, and Adeyemo Nominations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the remaining motions to invoke cloture filed on Thursday, March 18, 2021, on the nominations of Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, and Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of
the Treasury, ripen at 11:30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, Senate resume consideration of the nominations of Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, and David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, en bloc; further that at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, and David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, in that order; that if cloture is invoked on either of these nominations, all post-cloture time expire at 4:45 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order upon which cloture was invoked.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 63 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 129), Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 62 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. EX. 128), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

By 57 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 131), Vivek Hallegere Murthy, of Florida, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 130), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—131)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:47 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1717)

Committee Meetings

(Nominees not listed did not meet)

Nomination

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Admiral John C. Aquilino, USN, for reappointment to the grade of admiral and to be Commander, United States Indo-Pacific Command, Department of Defense, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Hirono, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

Business Meeting

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 4,113 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force.

Nomination

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Markey, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

Bolstering Democracy in Georgia

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation concluded a hearing to examine bolstering democracy in Georgia, after receiving testimony from George Kent, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, and Kara McDonald, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, both of the Department of State.

2020 Census

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the 2020 census and current activities of the Census Bureau, including the need for the Census Bureau to ensure transparency over data quality and finalize plans for data protection, after receiving testimony from Ron S. Jarmin, Acting Director, Census Bureau, Department of Commerce; and J. Christopher Mihm, Managing Director, Strategic Issues, and Nick Marinos, Director, Information Technology and
Cybersecurity, both of the Government Accountability Office.

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES**

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security concluded a hearing to examine why the U.S. pays the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, including S. 908, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the negotiation of lower covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and the establishment and application of a formulary by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under Medicare part D, S. 909, to significantly lower prescription drug prices for patients in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median prices at which the drugs are available in other countries, and S. 920, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the importation of affordable and safe drugs by wholesale distributors, pharmacies, and individuals, after receiving testimony from Aaron S. Kesselheim, Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts; Nav Persaud, University of Toronto and St. Michael’s Hospital, Ontario, Canada; Alex Brill, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Elia Spates, Derby, Vermont.

**GUN VIOLENCE**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine constitutional and common sense steps to reduce gun violence, after receiving testimony from Chief Fernando Spagnolo, Waterbury Police Department, Waterbury, Connecticut; Selwyn Rogers, University of Chicago Medicine, Chicago, Illinois; Robyn Thomas, Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, and Chris Cheng, both of San Francisco, California; Amy E. Swearer, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.; Geneva Solomon, Redstone Firearms, Burbank, California, on behalf of the National African American Gun Association; Robin Brule, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Suzanna Gratia Hupp, Lampasas, Texas.

**INTELLIGENCE**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

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**House of Representatives**

**Chamber Action**

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 66 public bills, H.R. 2118–2183; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 33; H. Con. Res. 24; and H. Res. 266–270, were introduced. Pages H1617–21

**Additional Cosponsors:** Page H1623

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Sarbanes to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H1615

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H1615. Page H1615

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

**Committee Meetings**

**WOOD INNOVATION: SUSTAINABLE FOREST PRODUCTS TO REINVIGORATE RURAL ECONOMIES**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Wood Innovation: Sustainable Forest Products to Reinvigorate Rural Economies”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**ADDRESSING THE MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis”. Testimony was heard from Lisa Asare, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Health Services, Department of Health, New Jersey; and public witnesses.
FUTURE DEFENSE SPENDING
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled “Future Defense Spending”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEARNING FROM AND PREVENTING FUTURE TRAINING MISHAPS
Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled “Learning From and Preventing Future Training Mishaps”. Testimony was heard from General Joseph M. Martin, Vice Chief of Staff, Department of the Army; Admiral William K. Lescher, Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Department of the Navy; General David W. Allvin, Vice Chief of Staff, Department of the Air Force; and General Gary L. Thomas, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps.

FY 2022 BUDGET PRIORITIES: MEMBERS’ DAY
Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “FY 2022 Budget Priorities: Members’ Day”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Kilmer, and Representatives Cloud, Tonko, Wittman, Norton, Graves of Louisiana, Timmons, Moore of Wisconsin, Case, Boebert, Larson of Connecticut, Jackson Lee, and Gohmert.

BUILDING ON THE ACA: LEGISLATION TO EXPAND HEALTH COVERAGE AND LOWER COSTS
Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Building on the ACA: Legislation to Expand Health Coverage and Lower Costs”. Testimony was heard from Dean Cameron, Director, Department of Insurance, Idaho; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT’S AND FEDERAL RESERVE’S PANDEMIC RESPONSE
Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Treasury Department’s and Federal Reserve’s Pandemic Response”. Testimony was heard from Janet L. Yellen, Secretary, Department of the Treasury; and Jerome Powell, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

UNITED STATES STANDING IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations, and Global Corporate Social Impact held a hearing entitled “United States Standing in International Organizations”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

RECLAIMING CONGRESSIONAL WAR POWERS
Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Reclaiming Congressional War Powers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUILDING BACK BETTER: EXAMINING THE FUTURE OF AMERICA’S PUBLIC LANDS
Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing entitled “Building Back Better: Examining the Future of America’s Public Lands”. Testimony was heard from Brad Little, Governor, Idaho; and public witnesses.

A YEAR IN REVIEW: THE STATE OF COVID–19 IN AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITIES—LESSONS LEARNED FOR FUTURE ACTION
Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States held a hearing entitled “A Year in Review: The State of COVID–19 in American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Communities—Lessons Learned for Future Action”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ARTICLE I: REFORMING THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Article I: Reforming the War Powers Resolution for the 21st Century” [Original Jurisdiction Hearing]. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE INTERACTION BETWEEN THE PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM AND FEDERAL ACQUISITION RULES: WHAT IT MEANS FOR GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS
Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure held a hearing entitled “The Interaction Between the Paycheck Protection Program and Federal Acquisition Rules: What it Means for Government Contractors”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2020: STATUS OF ESSENTIAL PROVISIONS
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment
held a hearing entitled “The Water Resources Development Act of 2020: Status of Essential Provisions”. Testimony was heard from Matthew J. Strickler, Secretary of Natural Resources, Virginia; Gene Seroka, Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles, California; Mary Ann Bucci, Executive Director, Port of Pittsburgh Commission, Pennsylvania; and public witnesses.

VA COMPENSATION AND PENSION EXAMS DURING THE COVID–19 PANDEMIC: A PATH FORWARD

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled “VA Compensation and Pension Exams During the COVID–19 Pandemic: A Path Forward”. Testimony was heard from Elizabeth Curda, Director, Education, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; David McLenachen, Executive Director, Medical Disability Examination Office, Veterans Benefit Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Toby Mathew, Chief Officer, Office of Disability and Medical Health, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Brent Arronte, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs.

MEMBER’S DAY

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member’s Day”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Deutch, and Representatives Ryan of Ohio, Sherrill, Norton, Underwood, Malinowski, Lois Frankel of Florida, Phillips, Lengyel, Gottheimer, Sablan, Craig, Schrader, Brownley, Peters, Beatty, Titus, Barragan, Porter, and Bass.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D242)

200th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States, S. Res. 117, expressing support for the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, or the Belfast Agreement, and subsequent agreements and arrangements for implementation to support peace on the island of Ireland, S. Res. 35, condemning the military coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military’s detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained and for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, S. Res. 36, reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Mongolia and recognizing the 50th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia, S. Res. 99, observing the 10th anniversary of the uprising in Syria, S. Res. 97, calling on the Government of Ethiopia, the Tigray People’s Liberation Front, and other belligerents to cease all hostilities, protect human rights, allow unfettered humanitarian access, and cooperate with independent investigations of credible atrocity allegations pertaining to the conflict in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia, S. Res. 114, commending the United States African Development Foundation on the occasion of its 40th anniversary for creating pathways to prosperity for underserved communities on the African continent through community-led development, an original bill entitled “Ukraine Security Partnership Act”, an original resolution recognizing the Ninth Summit of the Americas and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to a more prosperous, secure, and democratic Western Hemisphere, and an original resolution reaffirming the importance of United States alliances and partnerships; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the state of democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, 9:30 a.m., SD–106/VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Cynthia M. Hannon Act, focusing on coping during COVID, 3 p.m., SD–G50.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SVC–217.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Management, Performance Challenges, and COVID Response at the Department of Justice”, 10:30 a.m., Webex.


Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “The Rural Economy”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Remediation and Impact of PFAS”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Extremism in the Armed Forces”, 12 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Power Struggle: Examining the 2021 Texas Grid Failure”, 11:30 a.m., Webex.


Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance, hearing entitled “Preserving a Lifeline: Examining Public Housing in a Pandemic”, 12 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism, hearing entitled “State and Local Responses to Domestic Terrorism: The Attack on the U.S. Capitol and Beyond”, 9:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Examining the Need to Expand Eligibility Under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled “How the Biden Administration’s Build Back Better Plan Can Benefit the U.S. Territories”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Honoring ‘Equal Pay Day’: Examining the Long-Term Economic Impacts of Gender Inequality”, 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled “Examining R&D Pathways to Sustainable Aviation”, 11 a.m., Webex.
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 610, the “San Francisco Bay Restoration Act”; H.R. 1144, the “Promoting United Government Efforts to Save our Sound Act”; H.R. 587, the “Ocean Pollution Reduction Act II”; H.R. 1921, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Act to reauthorize the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program, and for other purposes; H.R. 2008, the “Local Water Protection Act”; H.R. 1765, the “Washington Channel Public Access Act”; H.R. 468, the “ Expedited Delivery of Airport Infrastructure Act of 2021”; H.R. 1262, the “Notice to Airman Improvement Act of 2021”; H.R. 390, to redesignate the Federal Building located at 167 North Main Street in Memphis, Tennessee as the “Odell Horton Federal Building”; H.R. 1703, the “National Children’s Museum Act”; H.R. 1917, the “Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects Act”; H.R. 593, the “ Preventing Disaster Revictimization Act”; H.R. 1951, the “ Increase Federal Disaster Cost Share Act of 2021”; H.R. 2016, the “ Federal Disaster Assistance Coordination Act”; and General Services Administration’s Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “The Pandemic and VA’s Medical Supply Chain: Evaluating the Year-Long Response and Modernization”, 2 p.m., Webex.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 24

Senate Chamber
Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nominations of Rachel Leland Levine, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, and David Turk, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, and vote on the motions to invoke cloture thereon at 11:30 a.m. If cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations at 4:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 p.m., Friday, March 26

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

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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