United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021 No. 100

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, June 11, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, without You, our mortal flesh is but disappearing dust. Draw close to our lawmakers, for, in Your presence, they can discover their dignity and destiny. Make Your face shine with favor upon them today as they strive to do Your will. Lord, give them the wisdom to seek Your guidance, depending upon Your redemptive power to direct their steps. Lift them into the saving knowledge that they are Your children, made in Your likeness. Strengthen them to plant seeds that will bring a harvest of peace and purity.

We pray in Your righteous 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:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Zahid N. Quraishi, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

U.S. COMPETITION AND INNOVATION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, 68 to 32, that was the final vote tally last night for the U.S. Competition and Innovation Act—USICA—an overwhelming display of bipartisan support, a rarity on a major bill in this Senate.

I believe the final vote reflects the importance of the bill—of rededicating the Federal Government to science and technology; to outcompeting our adversaries, especially the Chinese Communist Party; to strengthening critical supply chains as well as our partnerships and alliances abroad.

I believe that future generations will look back on this competition bill as the turning point for American leadership in the 21st century.

I think the depth of the bipartisan support reflects the process we took as well. The kernel of the bill is legislation I wrote with Senator TODD YOUNG, the Endless Frontier Act. We ultimately included legislation from six committees and input from every Member. Over 3 weeks, the Senate considered more than 20 amendments, the vast majority from Republicans. In fact, the Senate even accepted an amendment from Senator PAUL by voice vote. That doesn't happen too often around here.

Excluding budget resolutions, nearly as many amendments have received

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

Printed on recycled paper.

rollcall votes on this one bill as on all the bills in 2017, when the Republicans were in the majority—nearly as many amendment votes on this one bill as over that entire year. We are running the Senate in a different way.

So I want to thank my colleagues on both sides for their efforts, Senators CANTWELL and WICKER for their excellent management of the bill, Senator YOUNG for working with me from the beginning until the very end, Senators MENENDEZ and RISCH as well as MURRAY, DURBIN, PETERS, BROWN, and WYDEN, whom I am committing to working with to put real teeth into the anti-censorship provisions of this bill before it becomes law. Senator WYDEN has been a hallmark on that.

Of course, the job is not done until the legislation moves through the House and onto the President's desk.

Now that the bill has passed the Senate, we are going to work with Speaker PELOSI and the relevant committee chairs in the House to move this bill forward as quickly as possible.

Of course, the House can bring in additional priorities, but I am intent on seeing the major thrust of this legislation become law. The bill is so important to the future of America that the House and Senate must come together and send President Biden a bill he is very, very eager to sign.

Yesterday, the Senate took a bold, strong step toward boosting American science, technology, and innovation for decades. We are going to keep at it, keep at it until we cross the finish line.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS

Mr. President, on paycheck fairness, almost immediately, however, we saw the limits of bipartisanship in the Senate last evening, right after we voted on USICA, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act.

Minutes after coming together to pass that sweeping competition bill, Senate Republicans mounted a partisan filibuster against a very straightforward piece of legislation to help provide equal pay to women.

The vote was party line. Not a single Republican Senator voted in favor of even debating the bill. Sure, my colleagues might not like every aspect of Democratic legislation. I understand that. But if you want to change the bill, you have to let the Senate debate it and amend it.

It is shocking that my Republican colleagues believe that the Senate has no role to play in defending the rights of women who are unfairly and illegally discriminated against in the workplace. For a reason that I can't understand, the issue of pay equity has become a partisan one, sadly. Democrats in favor; Republicans opposed—despite the fact that the issue isn't all that partisan out in the country. A solid majority of voters see pay equity as a problem and believe Congress has a role to play in solving it.

It reminds me of gun safety. Ninety to ninety-five percent of America supports expanding background checks so that people who shouldn't get a gun—felons and others—don't. The vast majority of Republicans in the country, the vast majority of gun owners in the country, support that policy. Only in DC, among Republicans here in the Senate and in the House, is that issue remotely partisan, where Washington Republicans have traditionally opposed it.

So before the press writes the latest Republican filibuster of equal pay legislation as just another chapter in the typical partisan games, just remember that the only place this issue is partisan is in Washington, with Republicans way out of touch with what the American people want.

Americans across the country expect their government to make progress on big issues, even if we don't agree on everything. But yesterday, sadly, Senate Republicans once again chose the path of obstruction and gridlock.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, finally, on judges, yesterday, the Senate confirmed the first two judges of President Biden's tenure—now—Judges Neals of New Jersey and Rodriguez of Colorado.

These judges are only the first of many to come. The Democratic majority in the Senate is going to move quickly to confirm Biden's judicial appointments. So after the two confirmations yesterday, we wasted no time in preparing the next slate of nominees.

Last night, I took the necessary step to set up votes on two more judges—Zahid Quraishi for the District Court of New Jersey and Kentanji Brown Jackson to serve on the powerful DC Circuit Court of Appeals.

Democrats believe in not only bringing demographic diversity but professional diversity to the Federal bench. In fact, this morning I had the privilege of introducing my recommendation to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in the Judiciary Committee, Ms. Eunice Lee.

Once confirmed, Ms. Lee would become the second African-American woman ever to sit on this powerful and important Second Circuit and would be the only former Federal defender among its active roster of judges.

As I mentioned, we believe in demographic diversity but professional diversity as well. All too often, the bench has been filled with a very narrow sector—partners in big law firms, prosecutors. What about the rest? What about public defenders like Ms. Lee? What about voting rights lawyers, like Mr. Ho and Ms. Perez, whom I recommended to the President this week? We must defend—we must expand not only demographic diversity but professional diversity. And I know that President Biden agrees with me on this, and this will be something that I will set out to do not only in New York, along with Senator GILLIBRAND, but across the country.

And the two other nominees I mentioned are powerful examples as well. Mr. Quraishi will be the first American Muslim in U.S. history to serve as an article III Federal judge. The third largest religion in the United States, he will become the first to ever serve as an article III judge, and we will confirm his nomination this week.

And next up is the nomination of Judge Jackson. After a sterling career as a district court judge, a Federal defender, a Commissioner on the Sentencing Commission, and a clerk to Justice Breyer, Ms. Brown Jackson is poised to take a seat on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, the second highest court in the land. She will fill the seat of now-Attorney General Merrick Garland.

Oftentimes, nominees to the powerful DC Circuit Court are controversial, in spite of their qualifications, because the stakes are so high. But I am proud to say that Ms. Brown Jackson came out of the Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan—a bipartisan—vote, and soon the entire Senate will confirm this highly qualified jurist to one of the most important positions and courts in the country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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 MAJORITY LEADER

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

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I was disappointed to learn yesterday that President Biden had walked away from negotiations on infrastructure spending with Senator CAPITO.

For several weeks, the ranking member of the EPW Committee has been engaged in good faith on finding common ground with the administration. She has led several of our colleagues in literally exhaustive efforts to put a bipartisan deal within reach.

Senate Republicans proposed historic investments in the kinds of things most Americans would call actual infrastructure. They met and exceeded the President's own threshold demands, and then they were left at the table.

Our colleagues weren't wrong to bet on bipartisanship. For one thing, it is what the American people actually deserve. For another, as I have noted before, infrastructure investments have historically featured overwhelming bipartisan consensus. But an agreement requires that actually each side is willing to give up some of what it wants. And as we learned yesterday, President Biden is unwilling to let go of some of the most radical promises he made to the leftwing of his party.

From the day the White House rolled out its first ''infrastructure'' plan in

March, it has been clear that the left's definition of the word is evolving faster than even some Democrats can actually keep up with. Medicaid expansion is now infrastructure, paid leave is now infrastructure, and job-killing tax increases to hold the assortment all together.

At every step of the way, Republicans have focused on targeted investments in roads, bridges, airports, waterways, and broadband infrastructure the American people actually need.

But yesterday, President Biden showed that his patience for the smart, bipartisan approach was wearing thin. He directed Democratic leaders in Congress to get ready to ram through more expansive, unrelated spending unilaterally.

Meanwhile, Senator CAPITO and our colleagues on the EPW Committee continue to demonstrate that bipartisan infrastructure investment is actually still within reach.

In April, the Senate passed their water infrastructure bill by a count of 89 to 2. And just a couple weeks ago, the committee reported out a historic investment to surface transportation, and they did it unanimously. It is disappointing that President Biden has been unwilling to follow the Senate's productive example.

And now some of our colleagues have signaled that they intend to use this month to depart from that example, themselves. The Democratic leader has laid out a partisan agenda he seems to hope will illustrate that the Senate is somehow broken.

Remember, the Senate is 50–50—50–50. The American people did not hand the Democrats a mandate in the Senate. This series of radical proposals has no chance of becoming law, but every intention of justifying reckless changes to the way the body actually operates—plans to jam hospitals, schools, and small businesses with new high-stakes tests of ''wokeness,'' to dramatically curtail Americans' right to keep and bear arms, and, of course, to tip the scales of our electoral system permanently in their favor.

Yesterday, the radical parade began with an attempt to use the cause of paycheck fairness as cover for placing unprecedented new legal burdens on American employers. Wage discrimination on the basis of sex has been illegal for 60 years. Wage discrimination on the basis of sex has been illegal for 60 years. What Democrats proposed yesterday was to kick down carefully constructed protections to leave even the smallest American business at risk of unlimited liability in workplace cases—listen to this—even where malice plays no part. Their bill would force workers to opt out of, rather than into, class-action suits—in other words, a gift-wrapped bonanza for the trial bar. Unsurprisingly, that gambit not only failed to pass; it failed to even unite a majority of the Senate.

So if our colleagues intended to actually earn support for consensus steps on paycheck fairness, they might have considered subjecting their proposal to scrutiny through the normal legislative process—perhaps a markup or even a committee hearing.

Well, apparently when your agenda is designed to fail, regular order is just a waste of time.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. President, now on an entirely different matter, I have been outspoken on the importance of sustaining America's support for local partners who are leading counterterrorism efforts in Afghanistan and elsewhere, even when doing so has put me at odds with the Presidents, actually, of both parties.

When the previous administration considered precipitous withdrawals from Afghanistan and Syria, I sponsored a bipartisan amendment warning that doing so could ''allow terrorists to regroup . . . to the detriment of United States interests and those of our allies.''

Dozens of Senate Democrats joined the measure at that point.

Last year, the Congress overrode veto threats and put explicit restrictions and reporting requirements on force drawdowns in the annual Defense authorization act. I and others voted to override the veto of a Republican President. The goal wasn't to tie the hands of the Commander in Chief. It was to force the administration to seriously address the risks to U.S. interests posed by any potential withdrawal.

But this spring, when President Biden announced his intention to abandon the battlefield in Afghanistan completely—completely—without a plan, there was a bit less outrage, for some reason, on the Democratic side of the aisle.

And yesterday, the President moved to waive the NDAA requirements that Senate Democrats themselves had supported in order to proceed with this misguided retreat.

The White House has yet to address the obvious risks of our departure: that the Taliban will regain control, al-Qaida will return to strength, and the people of Afghanistan—particularly, women and girls—will suffer.

We don't have to wait long for these fears to prove prescient. The Taliban has wasted no time in ramping up its campaign to drag more of the country back under its oppressive medieval rule—more killing of soldiers, journalists, and activists; more oppression of women; and more ambitious operational goals.

As one Taliban commander put it, ''when we arrive in Kabul, we will arrive as conquerors.'' Well, they are inching closer every day while we withdraw, and this is all happening, as I just indicated, before our retreat is even complete.

Experts are still unsure just how quickly the Taliban's resurgence will accelerate as we depart. That is bad news for our partners in Kabul. It is bad news for the Afghan military, which is losing its edge without coalition support on the ground. And it is especially bad news for Afghanistan's women and girls. I know many of my colleagues share my concern for our partners in Afghanistan and for the many Afghan women who have reclaimed so much of their freedom since 2001. So make no mistake, their future will be imperiled under Taliban rule.

Rhetorical support for Senate resolutions and hollow promises of assistance from afar might ease our consciences somewhat, but they cannot take the place of the coalition forces in supporting our partners and vulnerable populations in Afghanistan. That won't prevent the resurgence of al-Qaida, with whom a recent United Nations report found Taliban militants ''show no indication of breaking ties.''

So where is the plan? Where is the plan to deal with these challenges as we abandon our partners and leave them to the Taliban?

How does the administration intend to combat terror or support Afghan forces if we are hundreds of miles away? How does it intend to counter the negative influence of Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, and others who might see our departure as massive opportunity? Have we learned nothing from Russia's intervention in Syria?

So later this week, President Biden will meet in person with leaders of our NATO allies, many of whom have expressed concerns about the risks of a precipitous withdrawal from Afghanistan. But, of course, as we withdraw, they will, as well, because without us there won't be a NATO presence in Afghanistan.

So for the sake of American security and the strength of our partnerships, it is time for the President to finally offer some clear answers to advance our shared interest in combating terrorists who still mean us harm and to restore faith in our resolve to finish things that we start.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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.

CYBERSECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last week, we learned that global meat processing company JBS, one of the four meatpacking companies responsible for more than 80 percent of beef processing operations, had suffered a ransomeware attack. The attack temporarily shuttered the company's U.S. beef plants, threatening the beef supply and leaving ranchers wondering once again whether they would be able to sell their cattle.

The JBS attack highlights two important issues. The first is cyber security. The rise of ransomeware attacks

on critical industries and infrastructure represents a serious threat.

Less than a month before the ransomeware attack on meatpacking, ransomeware criminals hacked the Colonial Pipeline, which supplies gasoline and jet fuel to the east coast. The Colonial attack caused fuel shortages and drove up gas prices, with many consumers facing gas station lines that hearkened back to the oil crisis of the 1970s.

In today's society, where almost everything we do has a cyber component, ransomeware and other malicious cyber attacks carry the potential to seriously disrupt our way of life.

Cyber security needs to be one of our top priorities. Private companies need to invest in cyber security, to keep their systems and customer data secure, and the Federal Government has to invest in it as a matter of national security. We can't afford to let hostile individuals or hostile governments hack key government databases or functions.

I was proud to be a lead sponsor of the HACKED Act, which became law as part of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act. This legislation focuses on enhancing both public and private cyber security development. It bolsters science education and cyber security programs at multiple government Agencies, and enhances partnerships between universities and employers on cyber security workforce needs.

We need to continue to make cyber security training a priority. We also need to send a clear message to governments that harbor cyber attackers. It is obvious that Russia remains a haven for cyber criminals. Both the Colonial Pipeline and JBS attacks were the work of Russia-linked hackers, and we need to make it clear to Russia and other countries that we have no tolerance for the harboring of cyber criminals.

MEATPACKING INDUSTRY

The JBS attack also highlighted a second problem—the highly concentrated nature of the meatpacking industry. When one or more of a handful of companies controlling the meatpacking industry experiences a problem, whether that is a plant shutdown due to COVID transmission or a cyber attack, that creates a potentially serious problem for the entire U.S. meat supply.

We all remember seeing bare meat department shelves at times during the pandemic. Had meatpacking capacity been less concentrated, it is likely that we would not have seen such significant shortages.

This high level of concentration in the industry also creates a problem for livestock producers, who rely on meatpackers to buy and harvest their animals and get them to consumers.

If a meatpacker has to shut down a plant, that means that farmers or ranchers may lose out on getting their livestock to market.

The highly concentrated nature of the meatpacking industry also creates the opportunity for market manipulation. In fact, serious concerns have been raised about market manipulation in the beef industry, owing to the substantial and ongoing gulf between meatpacker profits and rancher profits.

I recently sent a letter to the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee requesting that the committee hold an oversight hearing into potential anticompetitive behavior and antitrust violations of the meatpacking sector. This followed on my letter to the Attorney General, urging the Justice Department to disclose the results of its investigation into the meatpacking industry, and my request to the Senate Agriculture Committee to hold a hearing examining the challenges livestock producers have been facing.

I will continue to work to make sure any anticompetitive behavior in the beef-packing industry is addressed.

I will continue to support efforts to increase competition in the meatpacking industry, like my legislation to support small meatpackers, the Strengthening Local Processing Act. I introduced this legislation in February, along with Senator MERKLEY, to help strengthen and diversify national meat processing capacity by providing new resources for smaller, more local meat processing operations.

As I said, more than 80 percent of the beef-packing industry in this country is controlled by just four companies.

Encouraging more companies to get into this marketplace and encouraging small meatpackers to expand will dilute the power of these four companies and create more competition for ranchers' cattle, which will lead to higher prices for ranchers—higher prices for ranchers—when they bring their cattle to the market.

Plus, spreading out and expanding our Nation's meat processing capacity will make our Nation's meat supply less vulnerable to interruptions in situations like the pandemic or other natural disasters or the JBS ransomware attack.

South Dakota cattle producers work hard every day to deliver top-quality beef to our Nation and to the world. I am proud to represent them here in the Senate, and I will continue to fight to enhance competition in the meatpacking industry so that ranchers and all livestock producers can receive a competitive price for their livestock.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. 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.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, the right to vote is the most fundamental and essential feature of our democracy. As Abraham Lincoln said, a government of the people, by the people, and for the people would not be possible if it weren't for citizens who cast their ballot at every available election.

From city councils, to school boards, to Presidents of the United States, the American people have a right and, I would argue, a duty to make their voices heard. In 2020, a record number of voters did just that. Nearly 160 million Americans cast their ballot, accounting for roughly two-thirds of all eligible voters. If you compare that to 2016, just 4 years earlier, 17 million more people voted in the last election. This included higher turnout across all racial and ethnic groups—African Americans, Caucasians, Hispanics, Asians. Each had a higher turnout this election.

When Congress originally passed the Voting Rights Act in 1965, the goal was to eliminate common discriminatory practices that were in place at that time. It was and it is a landmark piece of legislation. There is no question it has been an overwhelming success, and I think that is something we should celebrate as a nation.

In 2012, for the first time on record, turnout among Black voters was higher than for White voters. In 2020, both Asian and Hispanic voters turned out at the highest rate on record. We certainly have come a long way, as the preamble to the Constitution says, in our effort to form a more perfect Union, but we should not tire, nor falter, nor fail in our progress to make sure that everyone who has the right to vote has an opportunity to cast their ballot.

Before every election—and 2020 was no different—there is a widespread effort to register new voters and encourage more citizens to participate. In Texas, we set new records in registering and turning out voters. We turned out 11.3 million voters, 66 percent of those registered. In the years to come, I hope we will set new records and get more voters to the polls. I think that goal should be shared by every American.

But in addition to this work, we have a responsibility to protect the integrity of the ballot. This became a focus in particular after the 2016 election when we actually saw Russia try to interfere with the Presidential election that year.

In response, Congress provided hundreds of millions of dollars to shore up State election security measures and to help local officials safeguard future elections. Our intelligence community and particularly the National Security Agency and Cyber Command made sure that there were no cyber attacks or minimized the impact of potential cyber attacks on election voting systems, including voter registries and the like. The postmortem reviews were that they were pretty successful in deterring those sorts of attacks that occurred in 2016.

But it is not just up to the Federal Government; across the country, States are also fighting to make sure that those who are legally entitled to vote can do so and ensure the integrity of their own elections. They are looking at ways to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat, which I think should be our goal. But those election security efforts have been mischaracterized, unfortunately, by many of our Democratic colleagues and many in the news media who falsely claim that somehow there are efforts underway at the State level to suppress minority voters.

We saw this play out in the case of the Georgia election law in particular. Our Democratic colleagues tried to frame this legislation as a way to suppress minority voters, but that was completely contrary to the facts, and it was completely contrary to the election laws in their own States.

The Georgia law, for example, set a deadline of 11 days before an election to request a mail-in ballot. In the home State of the Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER from New York, voters only get a week—11 days in Georgia; a week in New York. And in New York, you have to give a reason for voting absentee. In Georgia, under the proposed changes to the State election law, you don't even have to give a reason to vote absentee.

Georgia also expanded early in-person voting to 17 days. In Massachusetts, represented by two of our Democratic colleagues, early voting lasts only 11 days.

The President's home State of Delaware won't even offer early voting until 2022. In other words, you can't even do it now, and it won't be available until 2022, and even then, voters will have only 10 days.

Well, I think this demonstrates the hypocrisy of some of the debate we are hearing and seeing.

New Jersey, represented by two Democratic Senators and a Democratic Governor, recently passed a law that expanded in-person voting to 9 days. As a reminder, Georgia just expanded theirs to 17 days. But the New Jersey Governor had the temerity to criticize Georgia for ''restricting the rights of Georgians to vote'' when it is more expansive than the voting laws in his own State.

We have heard similar lines of attack from many across the aisle who falsely try to brand this law as a form of voter suppression. Once you play the race card, it is hard for people to think clearly because it tugs at our emotions. It tugs at our collective, frankly, guilt, emanating from the earliest days of our country that we have come a long way to try to rectify.

But here is the bottom line: Each State has the authority to determine the ''times, places, and manner of holding elections.'' Where does that come from? Well, that is article I of the Constitution of the United States of America. But our Democratic colleagues insist on pushing for a one-size-fits-all mandate that turns federalism, including the Constitution itself, on its head.

Senator SCHUMER, the Senator from New York, has said that this month, the Senate will vote on a bill called S. 1, which is the Democrats' effort to commandeer control of elections from the States. The bill is so radical that Members of his own party have lined up against it, and it is easy, on superficial inspection, to see why.

In order to vote in person, 36 States require some form of voter identification. That was the recommendation of the Commission that former President Carter participated in, along with James Baker III—a prominent President, a Democrat, and a prominent Republican. They made a recommendation for voter ID, but this proposal, S. 1, would eliminate it.

In my State, Texas, there are several options to present voter identification. You can present a driver's license, a passport, a military ID, a citizenship certificate. If you don't have any of those, you can get another one issued by the State at zero cost. Those all work.

This Democratic proposal would stop States, would actually block the States from requiring voter identification—something you have to do when you buy a six-pack of beer or cigarettes, for those who still smoke, or get on an airplane or even enter a Federal building. You have to produce an identification to do so. But S. 1 would prohibit the States from making that requirement when exercising your most sacred right as a citizen. What would they require? Well, you sign a piece of paper saying you are who you say you are, and nobody can ask you any questions.

The invitation for fraud doesn't stop there because this proposed legislation also legalizes something called ballot harvesting. That means that mail-in ballots could be collected by political partisans, whether it is paid campaign staffers or anyone who has a stake in the outcome of the election—not an impartial third party but a partisan who has a stake in the outcome of the election. They could harvest those ballots.

It goes so far as to specify that the States ''may not put any limit on how many voted and sealed absentee ballots any designated person can return.'' So there are no limits on how many ballots a political operative could harvest and turn in and count in the election. Well, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out how this can go wrong. Maybe the ballots get turned in with thousands of others. Maybe some of the ballots are altered. Maybe some are falsified. Maybe some end up in the trash. It is tough to know exactly what might happen.

S. 1, this Federal commandeering of State-run elections, is rife with opportunities for fraud. It mandates things like automatic voter registration and ballot drop boxes, while making it more difficult for the States to maintain accurate voter lists.

It would even go so far as to make it harder for the States to remove dead voters from their rolls. My State, like many States, has an unfortunate legacy of having candidates and political parties cast a ballot on behalf of voters who are no longer alive—box 13, for example. Arguably, that is the way Lyndon Johnson beat Coke Stevenson, by voting the cemetery vote. And that is not unique.

Why would Senator SCHUMER and Speaker PELOSI be pushing this takeover of State-run elections? Well, it is pretty obvious. They think that our Democratic colleagues will reap the benefits of hijacking State election laws. That is really their goal here. They want to put a thumb on the scale of future elections. They want to take power away from the voters and the States and give themselves every partisan advantage they can.

Those are just some of the features of S. 1. There are others. It would make changes to the Federal Election Commission, which currently has six members, three from each political party. This is intentionally designed to protect the Commission from partisan politics. Regardless of which party controls the Senate or the White House, the FEC will always be fair and balanced. Well, that doesn't serve the interests of our Democratic friends, so they want to change it. The election takeover bill would remove one of the seats held by a Republican and turn the Federal Election Commission into a partisan body—no more equal representation, no more consensus building. Why bother with that when you can steamroll an agenda with no opposition?

Then there is the taxpayer funding of elections. Instead of political candidates going out and making the case to prospective voters, instead of supporters voluntarily backing their preferred candidates with their hard-earned dollars, this bill would force taxpayers to bear the financial burden, even to the point of channeling dollars, your tax dollars, to candidates whom you disagree with who support policies that you do not support. And it is not even a dollar-for-dollar match. I don't know who came up with the idea of $6 from the taxpayer for every dollar that is raised from voluntary donations, but that is the proposal. What a deal. That means if somebody gives a candidate 200 bucks, the Federal Government could match it up to $1,200.

Our Democratic colleagues even managed to get on the wrong side of the American Civil Liberties Union. This bill would implement a new disclosure policy that the ACLU says ''could directly interfere with the ability of many to engage in political speech about causes that they care about.''

But as bad as this proposal is, S. 1, if that doesn't work—and it is looking like, from reading the news recently, it is not likely to work because of defections, even among Democrats—our Democratic colleagues have a plan B.

I want to remind you of what I said at the outset, that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was one of the most important laws passed in modern American history. It has been reauthorized a number of times over the years, most recently in 2006. I proudly cast my vote in support of reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act. But a new bill introduced by our friend the Senator from Vermont, the senior Senator, sometimes invoking the name of that civil rights icon, John Lewis, his proposal would radically change the law as well, this time putting the Federal Government, not the State, in charge of new voting laws again.

Just a reminder: Back in 1965, part of the Voting Rights Act required States and jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to receive Federal preclearance before they could put new laws into effect.

In 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States struck down the portion of the law that set the formula for which States were included in that requirement. The Court ruled that it was unconstitutional because the coverage formula was outdated. The Court said history did not end in 1965.

Indeed, what happened when the Voting Rights Act was reauthorized in 2006, the proponents of that bill made no accounting for the tremendous progress in minority voting turnout that we have seen since that time. In other words, the Voting Rights Act worked. It worked miraculously, and thank goodness it did.

But the Supreme Court, in striking down the 1965 formula as opposed to the current-day rate of minority voting, the Court said the Congress based the law on 40-year-old facts having no logical relation to the present day.

Here is an example: The formula in 1965 required States to receive preclearance before they could put their own voting laws into effect if they had any test or device, as it was called, that restricts voting. That included things like literacy tests or subjective determinations of moral character. But thanks to the Voting Rights Act, those practices are nowhere to be found today.

The bill introduced by Senator LEAHY, the senior Senator from Vermont, would change the formula with language so broad that virtually every State in the Union and every local jurisdiction would have to get their election laws precleared by the Biden Justice Department before they could put them into effect. The trigger for that is a vague number of voting rights violations that wouldn't even require a finding of intentional discrimination. Nevertheless, these State and local governments would be required to get the sign-off of partisan bureaucrats at the Department of Justice to exercise their own constitutional authority.

I think it is important to keep in mind that the Framers of the Constitution wanted the States to chart their own course in elections, not Washington bureaucrats. To quote the Supreme Court of the United States, ''The Framers of the Constitution intended the States to keep for themselves, as provided [under] the Tenth Amendment [to the Constitution], the power to regulate elections.'' Yet, in any instance where your local election official wanted to make a commonsense change in the way your elections were actually carried out, you would have to ask ''Mother May I'' to the Department of Justice.

Based on this proposal, you would think there have been countless unenforced instances of voter discrimination that cry out for this sort of remedy, but you would be wrong.

The Department of Justice already has authority under section 2 of the Voting Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group. During the entire 8 years of the Obama—the Obama—Justice Department, they filed only four enforcement cases in the whole United States under section 2—four.

So the narrative of widespread voter suppression is nothing but a propaganda tactic designed to support a political outcome. The push for a Federal takeover of elections is not about voter suppression at all. It is about unconstitutionally seizing power and never letting go.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I come to the floor to talk about the crisis that is occurring at our southern border.

Joe Biden has been President now for about 4 months. In this time, illegal immigration at the southern border has more than doubled. We are now on a pace this year—this year alone—for the most illegal immigration in two decades. The numbers that we see, based on last month, we are talking about 2 million people coming to America this year illegally.

It seems to me that, on the first day in office, President Biden signed Executive orders that flipped on the green light that said: Come to America. He rolled out the welcome mat, and he sent a clear message that our borders are open. He shut down construction of the border wall, a wall that we have actually paid to have done, to be constructed. I have been there. The parts are lying on the ground and the workers stopped, on inauguration day, from putting up portions of the wall to close down the gaps.

He stopped all deportations for 100 days. He brought back the program known as catch-and-release. And since he took these actions—and I have talked to the Border Patrol on the ground, and they say the border has been overwhelmed.

Now, illegal immigrants are coming from all over the world. People say: Well, it is an issue between Mexico and the United States. The people coming here are coming from all over the world. At the time I was there, we heard that over 50 countries have been represented in the people who have been captured, including Romania, Armenia, Bangladesh. People are flying to Mexico who can't come to the United States because of paperwork, who they are, what their intentions may be. They aren't allowed to get tickets to come to the United States so they fly to Mexico to come into the United States illegally.

The entire world knows that the border is open because that is the message sent out by this administration. And that, of course, includes criminals. Border agents have already arrested 95 convicted sex offenders. Border agents have arrested 95 convicted sex offenders coming into the country illegally, and this includes the last number of months.

And I will tell you, the sex offenders include a man from El Salvador who was convicted of raping a child in Washington State. We are talking about people who have been convicted in the United States, who are now out of the country, coming back in—conviction in Washington State. It also included a man from El Salvador who was convicted of sexually abusing a 9-year-old girl. This abuse took place in New York City, which is a sanctuary city.

This is what happens when our borders are open and the message is sent out around the world. And for the open borders crowd who like this sort of thing, some of whom are Members of the Congress of the United States, this is just collateral damage. It is all part of a political agenda.

It has been more than 2 months since President Biden put Vice President HARRIS in charge of the border. She has found time to make it to the Canadian border but not time to make it to the border between the United States and Mexico.

This week, and right now, the Vice President has been on her first overseas trip in the role as Vice President. She is going to Central America and to Mexico but not to the border. She has announced new gifts of American taxpayer dollars given to people from other countries.

When reporters asked her—and she did; I saw the sitdown interview and the video of it—if she was going to the border, she actually laughed. She thought it was a joke. It was very disappointing to see the Vice President acting in that way. She said: ''I haven't been to Europe either,'' like it didn't matter. She hadn't been to Europe; there are a lot of places she hadn't been. The place the American people know she hasn't been is to the border between Mexico and the United States.

In reality, she knows. She knows that if she goes to the border—she knows that if she goes to the border between the United States and Mexico,

she knows that the news cameras will go with her. She knows that the media would broadcast the crisis that they see at the border to the whole world. She knows that, then, more and more Americans will see firsthand the truth for themselves. That is why the Vice President is not going to the border between Mexico and the United States.

The White House refuses to say it is a crisis. They refuse to say those words. They just want to use the word ''challenge'' instead of the reality of the crisis that I saw when I was there at the border with a group of Republican Senators. That is why they are doubling down on policies that caused the crisis.

Two weeks ago, the President released his budget for the coming year. It is the biggest budget proposal by any President in American history. It would nearly double Federal spending over the next decade. Yet the President's budget for the Department of Homeland Security, the Department that is supposed to keep our Nation safe, is flatlined. The President likes to say—and he has said it time and time again. He said it when he was in the Senate; he said it as Vice President of the United States; and now he says it as the President. He said: If you want to know somebody's values, just look at their budget.

Well, we have seen Joe Biden's budget, and we know his values. And his values are not those of supporting and promoting the security of our Nation through border security. The President's budget includes $800 million in aid for Central America. I don't know if Joe Biden thinks you can bribe people with our own tax dollars to not cross the border. It is an absolute surrender, and it leaves our borders wide open.

Our southern border is in crisis, but the crisis isn't limited to the border itself. President Biden has also tied the hands of our immigration officials all across America. The Washington Post came out with a story, and they put it this way. I want to make sure I have it absolutely accurate so I am going to read it to you.

It says: Under President Biden, ICE—Immigration and Customs Enforcement—''is an agency on probation.'' This is the Washington Post. It says:

> Biden has placed ICE deportation officers on a leash so tight that some say their work is being functionally abolished.

That is the Washington Post on the President of the United States and what he has done with regard to our borders and our immigration authorities with his very flatlined budget for the Department of Homeland Security.

The article goes on, and it says:

> ICE carried out fewer than 3,000 deportations last month. The agency's 6,000 officers currently average one arrest every two months.

One arrest every 2 months.

Hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens have court orders for deportation. Yet, despite these enormous numbers, deportations have never been lower, never been lower. No wonder the crisis is getting worse.

I heard about it all last week over Memorial Day as I traveled around the State of Wyoming. People are very concerned about this disregard for our borders and for the support that our Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers need. So it is no wonder to me that the people of Wyoming are concerned, and I imagine that people all around the country are concerned. My colleagues heard it as well, as they traveled their home States just in the last week.

The border really is one of the top issues that I am asked about every weekend in Wyoming. I will be heading home again tomorrow night for the weekend, traveling the State, and I expect to hear more and more about it this coming weekend. The American people want to keep the borders secure, and they want to be safe at home.

We know what to do. We know what works. The border agents told President Biden's transition team before he was inaugurated what we needed to do to keep the border secure, what works, what wouldn't work. They say enforce the law, close the loopholes, the loopholes that encourage illegal immigration. They say finish the wall, the wall that we have already paid for. And they say bring back the policy known as ''Remain in Mexico.''

Until we take these basic steps, the crisis is going to continue, the border is going to remain open, and the American people will continue to come to us to say there is more that can be done and should be done and must be done because the American people know that when the border is not secure, that people of America continue to be at heightened risk.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1520

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise for the sixth time to call for this entire body to have the opportunity to consider and cast their votes on the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act. This commonsense reform would ensure that people in the military who are subjected to sexual assault and other serious crimes have the opportunity to get the justice that they deserve.

Under the current system, fewer than 1 in 10 sexual assault cases that are considered for command action are sent to trial, and under the current culture, nearly 2 in 3 sexual assault survivors experience some form of retaliation for reporting that crime. That means a survivor of sexual assault is far more likely to face consequences than an assailant.

When a 2016 Pentagon survey showed that 58 percent of survivors perceived retaliation for reporting their assaults, commanders said it was unacceptable, and Congress demanded action; but instead of working to change the system or the culture, the response was to make retaliation a specific crime, despite the fact that it already was a chargeable offense under title 10, section 1034 of the United States Code. It was nothing more than window dressing. We know that is true because, in 2018, when the same survey came out again, the perceived retaliation rate went up to 64 percent.

The DOD estimates that 20,500 servicemembers are sexually assaulted each year. So you may wonder: How many documented prosecutions for retaliation did we see in the most recent year? The answer: One. Only one person has been charged for retaliation in the last year, and there have been zero convictions reported. To me, that seems more of a joke.

Under our bill, the ability to charge and prosecute retaliation would move outside the chain of command, giving survivors more confidence to come forward in knowing the prosecutors would be free to protect them. Under the status quo and under the chairman's proposal, the ability to prosecute remains in the wrong hands.

It is time to remove retaliation and other serious crimes from the purview of the chain of command. It is time to professionalize the military justice system to remove bias, protect our servicemembers, and deliver justice.

The numbers speak for themselves, and every single number represents a person—a survivor, a family member. We owe it to our survivors—those who have gone through the horrific experience of being assaulted only to experience retaliation from their fellow brothers and sisters in arms—to change this system. The Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act will make the changes that they need.

Every day we delay a vote on this legislation is another day we deny justice to our servicemembers—the people who do so much for and give so much to our country. There is no reason to make them wait any longer.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate Committee on Armed Services be discharged from further consideration of S. 1520 and the Senate proceed to its consideration; that there be 2 hours for debate, equally divided in the usual form; and that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the bill with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, the chairman of our committee and I have both agreed that we need to be debating this during our markup, and we intend to do that.

For that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise to support my colleague and friend from New York in the call for the consideration of the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act. This is an effort whose time is well past due.

For too long, our servicemembers have faced the threat and traumas of sexual assault in their own ranks. We must act to prevent these attacks and hold perpetrators accountable. Sixty-five other Members of this Chamber recognize the urgency of our servicemembers' plight. It is time for debate and consideration.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RUSSIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor in advance of next week's summit in Geneva during which President Biden will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin for the first time as Commander in Chief, and I would like to share my views on the current state of U.S.-Russian relations and how we must respond to the Kremlin's continued aggression.

I have spent years deeply engaged in efforts to hold Russia accountable for its aggressive and destabilizing behavior under Putin.

During the Obama administration, I worked to hold Russia accountable for its invasion of Ukraine. Indeed, I was sanctioned by Putin himself for taking up the cause of Ukrainian sovereignty and freedom.

During the 2016 election cycle, I sounded the alarm over Russian efforts to sow chaos in our elections long before we knew of the extent and sophistication of the Russian cyber campaign to undermine American democracy.

Throughout the previous administration, I called out President Trump for cowering to Putin at every turn. Trump's refusal to hold Putin to account for attacking our elections was a key motivator behind the Senate's passage of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, otherwise known as CAATSA. This comprehensive framework for oversight and accountability in U.S. policy towards Russia remains the law of the land and the guiding mandate for how the United States must respond to Kremlin aggression.

Now, I appreciate the Biden administration's desire for a stable and predictable relationship with Russia, but sometimes we don't get to choose the circumstances of our engagement. When we take stock of Russia's behavior in recent years, we see that in every arena Putin has chosen escalation over stability and predictability.

Next week in Geneva, I have every expectation that President Biden will be more assertive with Putin than his predecessor. I urge him to seize this opportunity to call out the Kremlin for its litany of aggressive actions and announce appropriate measures in response.

The President can start with Russia's growing aggression in cyber space, starting with last year's SolarWinds cyber attack. We know that Putin's foreign intelligence service orchestrated this attack and that he must be held accountable for it as well as the more recent hack of USAID and its network of contractors and grantees.

While I am unaware of any evidence that the most recent ransomware attacks on U.S. infrastructure were orchestrated by the Russian state, we know, however, that criminal gangs operate on Russian soil, and we believe that it is those criminal gangs that did such attacks. The United States has to make clear that harboring criminals who seek to attack American businesses, hospitals, pipelines, city governments, and other institutions is wholly unacceptable.

Let me move on to Ukraine. I urge President Biden to reiterate our policy of nonrecognition of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and a call for a serious return to the negotiations to end the war in the Donbas. The United States must have a seat at the table in the Normandy Format and make a concerted effort to end the war on Ukrainian soil that has gone on for far too long. An acceptable resolution to this conflict will not come without robust U.S. engagement the likes of which we have not seen for years.

I am glad that President Zelensky will visit Washington in the next month or so, and we look forward to meeting him in the Senate.

NATO, too, shares a responsibility to take concrete steps next week in support of Ukraine. The essential security assistance provided by the United States and others must be backed up by tangible progress towards NATO membership for Ukraine and Georgia. The door was opened 13 years ago at the Bucharest summit. We have seen little progress since then. As these countries continue to pursue the necessary reforms necessary for ultimate entrance into NATO, NATO has an obligation to start the membership action plan process.

On Nord Stream, the administration should reconsider sanctions waivers on NS2 AG and Matthias Warnig. If the pipeline is completed, the United States should work to ensure that it does not become operational. This pipeline is a bad deal for Europe and its energy security and strongly opposed by citizens across the European continent. Despite what some have said, it is not too late for the United States to make a tangible difference here. We can stop this malign Kremlin influence project if we act with resolve and real diplomatic strategy.

Last week, Putin said that Ukraine must show good will—Ukraine must show good will—if it wants gas to flow through to Europe. So what is Putin's definition of ''good will'' exactly? For the people of Ukraine to cease defending their sovereignty? Such bellicose statements tell us that Putin is confident; he is emboldened. Does anyone really believe that Putin would not cut off gas flow through Ukraine once Nord Stream is complete? The United States cannot accept this insidious behavior. We need a real strategy with respect to Nord Stream.

In Syria, Russia continues to aid and abet the brutal and criminal Assad regime only to secure its own interests; namely, military access to the Mediterranean through which it can threaten Europe's southern flank. Indeed, last year the United Nations accused Russia itself of war crimes in Syria for multiple incidents of launching indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas. In 3 years alone, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights estimated that Russian military activities in Syria caused nearly 18,000 casualties, including 8,000 civilians.

Let me be clear. These are war crimes, and there must be accountability. Even as President Biden looks for limited ways to cooperate with Russia in Syria to try to promote some stability and humanitarian access, he must not overlook this grim track record and seek to hold Putin to account. The world is watching whether the United States will stand up for the vulnerable and the voiceless.

Let me now turn to the ongoing and tragic repression of the Russian people. Earlier this year, the world drew inspiration from the courage of Russian protesters who rallied in support of Alexei Navalny and a democratic future. We know that it will be the people of Russia, not the United States or anyone else, who will steer their struggle for democracy and ultimately determine their own destiny. Yet, as Americans, we must stand in solidarity with the Russian people.

I applaud President Biden's commitment to make democracy and human rights the centerpiece of U.S. foreign policy, but what does that mean for our approach to Russia? First, we must respond to egregious chemical weapons attacks whenever and however they take place. The Chemical and Biological Weapons Act required the administration to announce a new round of

sanctions by June 2 in response to Russia's chemical weapons attack and poisoning of Alexei Navalny. This deadline has passed.

The Trump administration regularly missed congressionally mandated deadlines. I think back to the Skripal attack and how President Trump delayed a decision for months. However, I expect better from this administration. President Biden and his team must announce these sanctions this week, for Putin has shown no remorse for these vile actions, and Russia has taken no steps to rectify them.

A democracy- and human rights-centered foreign policy also means countering corruption, so I welcome the White House initiative announced last week. Since January, we have seen the President back up this commitment by imposing sanctions on corrupt actors from Bulgaria, to Albania, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. But, moving forward, we must do more to focus this tool on Russia, the primary source of so much of the corruption we see around the world.

The most effective sanction on Putin's inner circle of oligarchs is to deny them and their families access to the West. We must cut off their ability to travel and use the Western financial system to funnel the assets they systematically have stolen from the Russian people over the course of several decades.

Alexei Navalny and others, like the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, have done excellent work exposing Putin and his cronies. The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the European Union should evaluate their research and chart a course for action.

We must also directly engage with the Russian people and make clear that our problems are not with them but their government. I urge President Biden to make a direct appeal to the Russian people over YouTube, communicate our views and concerns to the Russian people, and provide his vision for what a positive U.S.-Russia relationship could look like. The United States should also increase exchange programs with Russia, assuming the Russian Government would allow its people to participate.

Unfortunately, everyday Russians' access to fact-based information and reporting is dwindling in the face of Kremlin crackdowns on journalism and pervasive propaganda. I am especially outraged by the Russian Government's decision to label Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Russia as a foreign agent, subject to fines and to being kicked out of the country, all for supporting Russian journalists who report on the truth—a commodity in short supply in Russia these days. These actions are disgraceful. And it is worth noting that, as legitimate news sources like Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty come under fire in Russia, Kremlin propaganda arms like RT and Sputnik continue to operate freely here in the United States. We allow them to freely operate, but they are Russia state-sponsored enterprises. Perhaps it is time we reconsider how easily the Kremlin can disseminate disinformation to the American people.

Meanwhile, several Americans remain unjustly detained in Russia, including Paul Whelan and Trevor Reed. The Kremlin's Kafka-esque treatment of American citizens must stop, and President Biden should make their return a priority of the visit.

Finally, our Embassy presence in Moscow faces increasing, growing pressure from the Russian authorities as they seek to restrict visas for Embassy staff. This has to stop. In my view, if Russian diplomats' visas expire here in the United States, then they must leave. Extensions should only be granted when we see reciprocity on the Russian side. No more games. We have tolerated Kremlin abuse of this process for too long, and it has to stop.

In the short time I have stood on this floor today, I have provided but a glimpse of some of the most challenging issues facing the U.S.-Russia relationship, most of which were ignored by the previous administration. President Biden has to correct course and forcefully press these matters in Geneva. However, there is one area that demands real negotiation with Moscow: the issue of arms control.

I supported the extension of the New START treaty. It advances U.S. interests, constrains Russia's strategic nuclear forces, requires stringent verification to ensure Russia meets its commitments, and affords us the flexibility needed to maintain a safe, secure, modern, and effective nuclear deterrent.

The question is, With New START extended, where do we go from here? I agree with President Biden that establishing a strategic stability dialogue with a country capable of destroying the United States is essential.

Russia continues to pursue new destabilizing nuclear systems and actively threaten our allies with shorter range nuclear weapons. However, we cannot view this challenge solely through a military lens. Diplomacy must lead our efforts to reduce nuclear tensions going forward, and this summit would be a good place to start.

Last week, in the Washington Post, former Ambassador to Russia Mike McFaul wrote that the Biden administration ''cannot freeze U.S.-Russia relations in place to focus on the greater challenge of China.''

I believe he is right. Addressing one challenge cannot come at the expense of other critical U.S. interests.

Whether we like it or not, the Kremlin clearly sees the United States as its primary adversary and remains intent on challenging us at every turn. Past administrations have tried to ignore or minimize the threat. It doesn't work. We need an assertive and comprehensive strategy, one that holds the Kremlin accountable and even puts them on their heels from time to time.

The United States of America always aspires to have a stable, predictable relationship with every country around the world. But stable and predictable partners do not use chemical weapons to wipe out their political opposition. Stable and political partners do not tear chunks of territory from their neighbors. Stable and political partners don't commit war crimes in places like Syria. Vladimir Putin has been President for 20 years now. After all this time, we know what we are dealing with; it is not a stable and predictable partner. We are dealing with a mafia state run by a vicious authoritarian and his inner circle of corrupt oligarchs, not a normal country. We are dealing with a criminal enterprise, not a democratic government. And as President Biden knows, and has said, when it comes to Putin, we are dealing with a ruthless killer. We should act accordingly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Iowa.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, you might have missed it, but without much fanfare, the White House quietly released the President's budget on the Friday before a holiday weekend. Maybe we weren't supposed to notice the plan at all, but the contents make it impossible to ignore.

President Biden is proposing higher taxes on working Americans and cuts to our national defense to pay for a massive expansion of the Federal Government, an enactment of the radical progressive demands, like parts of the Green New Deal.

What can't be paid for is simply put on the Nation's ''credit card,'' adding trillions of dollars of red ink. President Biden's budget can be summed up like this: higher taxes, higher spending, and higher debt.

And don't take my word for it. The New York Times wrote that Biden's $6 trillion budget would ''push federal spending to its highest sustained levels since World War II.''

Under the Biden budget, by 2028, Washington will collect more tax revenue as a portion of our economy than at nearly any point over the last 100 years. This tax-collecting scheme even includes a retroactive tax increase. That is right, folks, you may owe higher taxes on past earnings.

Plus, the President would allow the tax cuts for lower income and middle-class Americans to expire in 2025, and the result will be higher taxes for most Americans. Higher tax bills will add additional burdens to Iowa families and small businesses already struggling with the rising prices and inflation being caused by Bidenomics.

So what do you get in exchange for all of these new taxes? For the first time in nearly half a century, taxpayers would be forced to pay for abortions. The Biden budget contains $600 million for electric vehicles. That is a lot of money to subsidize a product

very few Americans, other than upper income individuals on the coasts, seem interested in purchasing.

President Biden would also spend your taxes to double the size of the IRS over the next decade, adding almost 87,000 new employees at a cost of nearly $80 billion. You heard it right, folks—87,000 new IRS agents.

But while the Biden budget promises a bureaucratic buildup at the IRS, his proposal is far less generous to our Armed Forces. The Air Force would suffer a substantial cut in its number of aircraft. The small number of new ships added to the Navy will not keep pace with the growth of Communist China's shipbuilding. This is especially concerning since the CCP now boasts the world's largest Navy and is attempting to expand its naval presence in the Atlantic. You heard that right—not the Pacific but into the Atlantic.

The Army budget would be slashed by more than $3 billion. The resulting troop reductions would leave us with the same sized Army we had on 9/11. While essentially freezing defense spending overall, $617 million of the military's budget would be diverted to fighting climate change.

Folks, who does the President think he will be able to call on should we need to fight off foreign threats—his new Army of IRS agents?

We face new threats around the globe, and lowering our defenses, as President Biden is proposing, will only embolden our adversaries. Americans may fear an IRS audit, but Red China won't.

When America last spent as much as President Biden is proposing, we built, essentially from scratch, the world's greatest military force. And all Americans were called on to play their part in the most noble of causes.

The entire free world will forever owe a debt of gratitude to the ''greatest generation.'' There is no denying that the sacrifices made by these Americans and the resources committed to their mission forever altered human history for the better. The same cannot be said about what is now being proposed, which leaves America weaker in the world, and the debt will be paid by future generations.

The Biden budget is a bust for taxpayers and a boon for DC bureaucrats and tax collectors.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as my colleague from Iowa just said, something mysterious happened just before the holiday weekend when the budget was released. So just before Memorial Day, the administration released its long-awaited fiscal year 2022 budget proposal.

Having reviewed the proposal, it is obvious why they chose this timing to do it—because they hoped most Americans would be too distracted by their backyard barbecues and tributes to fallen heroes to even notice how outlandish this budget proposal is. Thank God, Presidents only propose, Congress disposes because we have the power of the purse.

I have bad news for my Democratic colleagues about the release of this; that the American public won't have the wool pulled over their eyes as easily as this administration thinks so by putting this out late Friday before the holiday weekend. Americans will see this budget for what it is, a very unserious political document containing a laundry list of liberal wish list policies unmoored from economic or fiscal reality. It would be funny if not for the very serious issues we currently face in our country, and this budget makes them worse.

In response to the pandemic, Congress understandably took bold actions to help individuals keep the roof over their head and to help small businesses keep their lights on. As a result, our national debt exploded because of the pandemic. It now exceeds the entire output of our economy, and this budget is going to make that situation even worse.

As we enter the postpandemic world, we need to address the very real issues about rising debt and deficits posing for our country over the long term. Otherwise, to quote the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, ''a growing debt burden could increase the risk of a fiscal crisis and higher inflation as well as undermine confidence in the U.S. dollar.''

The President's budget completely ignores potential fiscal and economic challenges that we all know are on the horizon. Taking the concept of ''never letting a crisis go to waste'' to a whole new level, the Biden budget would put our country in a permanent crisis mode in terms of spending and debt levels.

In 2009, at the height of the financial crisis, the government spending peaked at 24.4 percent of GDP. Now, spending proposed under President Biden's budget would average even higher at 24.5 percent over the next decade. So what we had peaked in the 2009 year of the financial crisis is going to be just common for the whole next decade, and that is bad.

Moreover, the President's budget would set a new record for the debt as a share of the economy. According to the President's own rosy assumptions, debt as a percentage of GDP would reach 112 percent next year, shattering the World War II record of 106 percent of GDP. And by 2031, debt as a share of our economy would hit 117 percent of GDP. So how extraordinary a step this budget takes. At a time when inflation has been rearing its head, proposing sustained spending and debt at these levels is playing with fire, like pouring gasoline on a fire.

Even long-term Democrat economists and Obama administration alums, Larry Summer and Jason Furman, have begun to sound the inflation alarm. The President would be well-advised to start taking notice when leading economists like these two point to the dangers of inflation.

As problematic as the spending side of the budget is—and so far that is the only part I have covered—we now go to the tax side, and the tax side is equally dangerous. The President proposes enacting the largest tax increase in history.

Incredibly, even with the $3.6 trillion in new taxes he proposes, his budget still doesn't come close to putting our national debt on a sustainable path given the new spending. This shows his tax cuts aren't about fiscal responsibility. Instead, they are about punishing success and redistributing wealth.

Ultimately, this will prove disastrous for the economy and, of course, it is going to affect all Americans. Job-killing tax hikes will slow economic growth. These tax hikes will reduce business investment, and these tax hikes will result in lower wages and fewer jobs over the long run. As a result, then, the middle class is likely to suffer the most.

Higher taxes, excessive spending, and escalating debt are not a recipe for our economy to ''Build Back Better,'' those famous words of this President's economic program—''Build Back Better.'' Instead, they are just a recipe for government to ''Build Bureaucracy Better'' and at the expense of hard-working Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I am here to join my colleague from Iowa who just spoke and others to talk about the President's budget.

The budget is comprised of a couple of things. One is what the spending is going to be for the country. The spending, which is unbelievably high and at unprecedented levels of spending at a time of unprecedented deficits and a long-term debt that is at the highest level ever, is concerning.

The second is that the budget is about revenue. So on the spending side, we all expected it to be a very high number—over $6 trillion in new spending—but on the tax side, we also have huge new tax increases. The Senator from Iowa just said it is the largest tax increase in the history of the country. He is the former chairman of the tax-writing committee, chairman of the Budget Committee here, and he has been through a lot of tax increases over the years. This is the largest one in the history of the country. It is coming at a time when you don't want to raise taxes because we are coming out of this pandemic, trying to get the economy back on track.

One reason that we were in good shape before COVID–19 is because we actually put in place some tax reforms and some tax cuts that really worked. Let's be very specific about that. In the months just before COVID–19 hit, we had an economy that was hitting on all cylinders in every respect.

In February of that year—so February before the COVID–19 crisis hit—we had the 19th straight month of wage growth of over 3 percent. That was great news in my home State of Ohio, I will tell you, because we had years of flat-rate growth, even declining growth, when you take into account the effects of inflation. So we had really nice wage growth.

And guess who was made the beneficiary of that wage growth. It was lower and middle-income workers, which is also something you would all think people would hope for in this Chamber. That was partly because the tax cuts the government put in place in 2018 from the 2017 Republican bill provided tax relief to middle-class families, doubled the standard deduction, doubled the child tax credit, lowered the tax rates, and put more money into people's pockets. And the 2017 reforms also spurred needed investment in our communities, growing economic opportunities, particularly in low-income neighborhoods.

And the reforms on the corporate side—on the international side and on the corporate side—generally meant that more companies were investing in America, creating more jobs and investments here rather than overseas.

At the time, the Congressional Budget Office did an analysis of the lower corporate rate, as an example, and said that 70 percent of that benefit was going to go to workers in terms of their wages and salaries. That is exactly what we saw. So, again, there were 19 straight months of wage growth of over 3 percent in February before COVID hit.

By the way, also in that time period—the year before COVID hit—we had the lowest poverty rate in the history of the country. Let me repeat that because I think it would be a surprise for a lot of people to hear this who are so critical of the tax reforms in 2017 on the other side of the aisle, saying this is not going to help ordinary people. Of course, it did.

We talked about the wage growth, but also the lowest poverty rate in the history of our country. We also saw a 50-year low in unemployment. We saw record low unemployment among certain groups of Americans, including Hispanics, Blacks, and Asian Americans.

We also saw a situation where there were a lot of jobs being created that were higher wage jobs because wages were going up, and we had the kind of opportunity economy that everybody in this Chamber should hope for.

What is this budget saying? This is the budget, again, that President Biden has just put out. He has said: Let's get rid of all that tax reform and those tax cuts. Virtually, every one of the 2017 tax cuts expires under his budget or is ended now before it would normally expire. Let me repeat that: The budget that they put out wants to increase taxes, and that includes taxes on everybody, including the middle class. In only a few months in office, the Biden Administration is committed to spending about $6 trillion.

Again, just put this in context. That is bigger than the annual budget of the United States. When you add up all the plans the President has put out there, it is $6 trillion in new spending. One of the problems with that has been that it has primed the pump. In other words, it put so much stimulus into the economy that it has created inflation. That was something that was warned by Republicans, including me and others, but also Democrats, like Larry Summers, who is a Democrat, an economist, and former Secretary of the Treasury.

Unfortunately, it looks like that prediction was correct because inflation is up. If you ask folks back home about it, they will say: Yeah, I went to the gas pump, and it was $3.50 a gallon.

That is what I heard last weekend. That is what I experienced myself. Also, it is the price of food.

Certainly, it is the price of materials. If you are trying to build something today and you want to buy some plywood, good luck. The costs have skyrocketed.

This inflation is real and it is happening, and people are feeling it. In a way, that is a hidden tax, isn't it? If everything costs more, it is sort of a regressive tax that is built into the system. That is what is happening when we have inflation. We are also seeing pressure on interest rates, of course, which is going to make it harder on people to buy a home, buy a car, to be able to get by.

This $6 trillion has made a difference in the sense of sending a message out from the Democrats that we would like to spend much more, but they already did spend quite a bit that has primed the pump—$1.4 trillion in a COVID package, as an example.

By the way, that $6 trillion, when you add it up, is about six times more than the government spent in response to the Great Depression. That is adjusted for inflation. I am talking about inflation-adjusted terms. It is about six times more than the government spent in the 1930s in the Great Depression.

It is a very radical budget, really, both on the spending side and on the tax side. The philosophy of more and more spending at a time of record debt and record deficits isn't going to help our economy recover. I think it is simply going to drive inflation, as we talked about, put pressure on interest rates, keep people out of jobs, and put more financial pressure on everyday Americans.

Instead, what we ought to do is help people get back to work. COVID–19, thank God, is finally passing. In my own State of Ohio, we are finally opening up again because our COVID–19 rates are so low. The vaccines are working. I encourage people who haven't been vaccinated to step forward and do it because it helps you and your family and also our communities to be able to recover more quickly—get people back to work and back to school, get our children back to school and get back to our churches and our synagogues, and get back to our normal life. It is starting to happen, and it is exciting.

One of the problems is, again, higher inflation, higher interest rates, and also that there just aren't adequate workers out there, in part, because the government is paying more and more for unemployment insurance—$300 in Federal supplement on top of the normal unemployment in the States. There are still 25 States that have that, and this means that people often are making more on unemployment than they would be making at work. On average, about 42 percent of people, with the additional $300, are making more on unemployment than they were at work. That creates a little disincentive.

There are other disincentives, too, out there to go back to work. As a result, there are 9.3 million jobs open in America. That is the latest figure from the Department of Labor based on the April numbers. We don't have the May numbers yet, but 9.3 million is a record number of job openings in America. We never had this many jobs open.

This is a problem because if you don't get people back to work and filling these jobs, some of these companies are going to downsize. Some will leave our shores for elsewhere, where they can find workers. Others, frankly, are automating. You could argue that may be a more efficient, economic decision, but I don't like to see that. I don't like to see that. I think the technology and the automation, where appropriate, are great, but I want to see people get jobs where they get the dignity and self-respect that comes from working, and they get the opportunity to have a fulfilling life with work.

So 9.3 million jobs are open. Let's fill those jobs. Let's not do this incredibly high spending level talked about in this budget. Let's not raise these taxes at a time when we are finally seeing economies start to rebound after COVID–19. Let's get back on track. We had a great economy—an opportunity economy—before COVID–19. That is what we want to return to.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I come here, probably more than any other Senator, on this topic of budgets, and it ought to be called the ''lack of budgets.''

Thank goodness that, currently, we have the blueprint out there in black and white for what we intend to do—for what the President intends to do, and he is going to try to sell it to the American public.

We have been on this pathway for decades. During the Reagan years, we talked about enlivening the economy, bringing taxes down, letting people keep more of their own resources. That worked. I think that still makes sense.

It works in most States. It was driving the economy with that dynamic pre-COVID.

But what we did lose along the way is that—regardless of our revenues, which stubbornly average 17 to 18 percent of our GPD—when you raise rates, people don't produce as much. There is not as much income to tax. When you lower them, you get more revenue to tax, and you actually are gaining more revenue for the government, to boot. So we were there pre-COVID. We only need to look to see what was working just 1½ or 2 years ago. It was the best the economy was doing.

It was raising wages. We always should be interested in doing that but not through government—through the productive private economy. It was raising it in places that we had never been able to do it before. So rather than throw that blueprint out the door and go with something like this that has never worked in the past, whenever you get government becoming that large a part of your economy—and it used to be 20 percent. Even though we were only taking in 17 to 18 percent, regardless of the tax rates in our own government revenue, we got used to running deficits. That is what happened decades ago, and we have all gotten used to it. If you want to see a budget that takes the theory that it doesn't make any difference how much more you spend than you take in, this is it. If you like it, it is the best budget we have ever done.

Again, we shouldn't be calling it a budget because budgets mean that you live within your means from year to year like all other entities do. State governments do it and some that don't generally have issues in their own States' economies, but we cannot take all of these resources from the private sector, run them through government with the inefficiency that goes along with that, and expect to have a good outcome.

Senator GRASSLEY was here earlier and Senator PORTMAN. They gave you a bunch of statistics. I am going to describe how this shipwreck ends up on the shore over time. It is just a question of how much we buy into this as the way we need to run our government, which has not worked over the last two decades—from the Gulf wars and from all of the stuff that we have tried to do through government for which we used to at least have payfors.

The biggest drivers of our current deficits nobody wants to talk about. They are Medicare and Social Security. We knew decades ago that the Social Security trust fund was going to go bust and that it is going to happen here in a little over a decade. Will we do anything to try to change it? That takes political will. I have been here a little under 2½ years and have not found a lot of that.

The bigger driver of our structural deficits would be a broken healthcare system. I, more than any other Senator, have talked about that—not solving it through more government but reforming healthcare to make it become a true industry that believes in transparency, competition, and getting the healthcare consumer involved. We can fix that part of it, but we can't get any interest even in my own party for much of that because we defend a broken healthcare industry. We don't ask it to be transparent, competitive, and engage the consumer like most other industries do and do well and that provide a good service to the American consumer.

So government will end up doing what it always does. It is so easy to borrow from others and to spend the money. You are going to have a sugar high. You are going to feel good, but there is going to be indigestion down the road. The way it is going to end up is we are going to have calamities within our credit markets, and we are going to have people no longer willing to lend us money.

We have now taken these trillion-dollar deficits, which are going to be closer to $1.5 trillion, and this new budget—again, I hate even calling it a budget—is going to add to that, not lessen it. When you talk about raising revenues, there is even anxiety on the other side of the aisle because raising taxes never goes well. It is generally tough to get everybody to agree on it, and that means our deficits are going to be even larger.

Is it going to take our completely depleting the Social Security trust fund that we have been paying into since the thirties, and is it going to take depleting the Medicare trust fund, which now happens in 5½ years, and is the American public going to allow us here to keep spending more money than we take in year after year and end up where the Chinese won't lend us any money down the road? Others won't as well because our interest is going to be about as much as we pay for defense, and then you are going to have a calamity.

You can blame it on everyone here who thinks this feels good now. When you want to feel good in the future, you make hard decisions in the present. Any well-run organization or any well-run State or local government makes those tough decisions in the short run so they don't have to solve things through a calamity in the long run.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor to talk about our economy and link that to the budget that the President has introduced for our Nation going forward.

On Friday, the Department of Labor published its monthly jobs report. Just like the April jobs report, the May report is a cause for concern. There really wasn't any cause for celebration. Yet President Biden did exactly the same thing that he did in the previous month after that disappointing jobs report—he declared victory. He gave a speech in Delaware, and he called it ''historic progress.'' Even the President of the United States is stretching the language of our Nation right here.

Let's look at the facts.

What is Joe Biden calling ''historic progress''?

Over the last 2 months, about 850,000 fewer people were hired than the economists had predicted. In the month of May alone, 160,000 people left the labor force. The percentage of Americans in the labor force actually went down. Another month, another weak jobs report. It is disappointing but not surprising. We know why it has slowed down. President Biden and the Democrats have committed to paying millions of people more to stay home from work than to go to work. If you pay people more to not work than to work, that is what you are going to get. That is what they are being encouraged to do. In fact, I would say that these people are not being lazy; they are being logical with the incentives that the Democrats have put in front of them, which is money in their pockets to stay home from work.

There are 9.3 million jobs that are unfilled right now in the United States, a record high. As a result, small businesses—and I heard about it this weekend in Wyoming—are struggling to find people to work there. They are having a hard time finding people to take jobs. They have signs up: ''Help Wanted.'' ''We Need You.'' ''Offering Incentives.'' If people are getting paid more to not work than to work, that is what they are going to do.

At the same time, prices continue to rise. That is what I heard about as I was sitting, waiting to have my oil changed. It was a longer line than usual in Casper, not because we didn't have good workers but because we didn't have enough of them in a place that changed oil that had two bays set up but was down to one. They have to do that several days a week because they don't have the workforce. They can't find the people to change the oil. So it was a good townhall meeting as we sat around there, waiting for our oil to be changed, talking to people about their concerns. That is what we heard about: trouble finding workers, inflation.

Last week, the White House Press Secretary was asked about high gas prices—and I had heard about that in Wyoming as we were sitting around, waiting to get the oil changed: You know, it costs about $15 or $20 more to fill a tank than it did a year ago. People not only pay attention to how many dollars and cents it costs for a gallon of gas but how much it costs to fill the tank and how much less they have to spend for other things.

The White House Press Secretary said that gas prices aren't very high if you account for inflation.

If you account for inflation? It is inflation. Gas prices are high because it

is what happens when prices go up. That is inflation.

This should be a news flash for America. Inflation is the problem. The White House Press Secretary didn't seem to see the connection. It is caused by this administration. Gas prices have gone up about 70 cents a gallon in the last 4 months—since Joe Biden took the oath of office. It is no surprise when the President, on the day he takes the oath of office, paints a target on the back of American energy and pulls the trigger, which makes us more dependent on foreign sources of energy.

As the senior Senator from Alaska said in an Energy Committee hearing, we are, at this time in the United States, using more energy from Russia than we are from her home State of Alaska. That is a comment on the policies of this administration.

Summer is almost here, and the pandemic is almost over. What is going to happen with regard to the demand for gasoline? It is going to continue to go up.

There is a moratorium on the exploration of oil and gas in the United States, and we are making ourselves more dependent on foreign sources. What is the President doing? Imposing more taxes on American energy. Last week, he put more restrictions on the production of energy from Alaska. Now what does he want to do? Well, we have seen it in the Finance Committee right here. He wants to impose the increase of taxes on oil and gas producers. That is going to hurt the people who work in that industry, and it is going to make all of us pay more at the tank. This is basic economics. If you restrict the production of American oil and gas and if you raise the taxes on oil and gas, the prices people have to pay at the pump—the prices they pay to fill up their vehicles—are going to go up.

President Biden keeps declaring victory and keeps doubling down on policies that are slowing down the economy. Two weeks ago, he introduced his budget request for next year. To me, it is a blueprint for bankruptcy. He is proposing $6 trillion in Federal spending for next year. During the pandemic, the country hit about $4 trillion in annual Federal spending for the first time ever. This was during a national emergency, and we passed it in a bipartisan way with over 90 votes in the Senate. In five different coronavirus relief bills, we were able to deal with what needed to be done for our Nation at the time. The pandemic is behind us, and the President now wants to spend $2 trillion more than that every year even after the pandemic is over. This is only the beginning.

The Biden budget doesn't even include some of the most expensive campaign promises he made when he was running for President. According to one estimate, the Biden budget is missing about $1.5 trillion that he had promised to spend. It is not even included in the budget. What happens with all of this additional spending? Of course, it is going to cause inflation because more money will be out there to chase the goods and services that are available.

President Biden also wants to bring back the death tax. This would be devastating for farmers and ranchers who want to keep their farms in their families. I heard about it this past weekend in Sheridan, WY, with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. As for the families who have had the ranches or the farms in their families for over 100 years, we call them centennial families in Wyoming, and we celebrate them every year. They have all said, if this happens—if the Biden administration does this with what it wants to do with the death tax—when Grandma or Grandpa passes, every one of them is going to have to sell the farm just to pay the taxes. They have been able to keep them within the families for 100 years. Joe Biden is going to take the ax to them.

Get this. He wants to hire 87,000 more bureaucrats at the Internal Revenue Service. The Internal Revenue Service is the least accountable and most powerful Agency in the Federal Government. The Biden goal is to collect $700 billion more from taxpayers. What does he want to do with the money? Use it for additional socialist spending. We have seen the list. Under the Biden agenda, working families are going to be paying more at the pump, more at the grocery store, and they are going to end up paying more as well through taxes. They are seeing it now. Our jobs reports, our inflation reports, our gas prices have all been disappointing to all Americans.

This is a direct result of the policies that are coming out of this administration and out of this White House. It is time for the President to stop the attacks on American energy, to stop paying people more to not work than to work, and to stop this irresponsible spending spree as outlined in the budget.

We know what works. Let's return to the policies that work, to the policies that have been giving us the best economy in a half a century. Just 16 months ago, we had low taxes, reasonable regulations, and more American energy. The economy was booming until the coronavirus hit. We need to get back to that again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

(The remarks of Mr. SCOTT of Florida pertaining to the introduction of S. 1990 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The junior Senator from Rhode Island.

249TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "GASPEE" RAID

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am here for one of my favorite days of the year on the Senate floor because today is the 249th anniversary of the Gaspee raid. I can only imagine what I am going to do next year when it is the 250th anniversary of the Gaspee raid. I may bring pyrotechnics onto the Senate floor, in violation of every rule.

The Gaspee raid is what Rhode Island abolitionist and writer Frances Whipple McDougall called the "first blood" drawn in America's struggle for independence, and I come every year to mark this important but overlooked event in American history.

Our typical history textbook tells us that the Boston Tea Party sparked the American Revolution in December of 1773. Remember that date: 1773, December. Massachusetts folks in Boston protested English taxation by pushing tea into Boston Harbor. It was a memorable protest. We ought to remember it. But we Rhode Islanders contend that a different spark 16 months earlier out on Narragansett Bay ignited the Revolution. The date was June 9, 1772, and the central players in this saga were two ships, one a little sloop, the Hannah, embarking from Newport for Providence, and the other a British customs schooner, the HMS Gaspee; hence the Gaspee raid. The Gaspee was under the command of Lieutenant William Dudingston of His Majesty's Royal Navy, patrolling Narragansett Bay.

The meeting of the Hannah and the Gaspee and the act of defiance that followed would be explosive.

Before I describe the encounter of the Hannah and the Gaspee, it is important to set the stage.

England's King George had overextended his empire during the Seven Years War, especially in the war's American theater known as the French and Indian War. The conflict was expensive to win, and by its end, Britain had taken on vast new territory and the cost of governing that territory, and the British national debt soon doubled.

Meanwhile, over the course of the 18th century, Rhode Island had become a prosperous, major distiller and distributor of rum and trader of goods. Now, the rum trade was a corrupt and immoral enterprise, a leg of which profited off the labor of enslaved Africans, but it was profitable, and the British were thirsty for customs duties. So the Crown tried to crack down on Rhode Island's trade, including its rum-running, to collect more customs revenue to pay down the King's debts.

King George's zeal for tax collecting in Narragansett Bay got a little out of hand. British officers started seizing cargo without evidence, leaving the cargo's owners with no recourse. They commandeered Rhode Islanders' ships on flimsy grounds and then used those commandeered ships to collect more customs duties. British authorities even pressed Colonial sailors into service, essentially kidnapping them and forcing them to work on the ships of the Crown.

In one incident in July 1764, the customs ship HMS St. John seized cargo and a brig in Newport Harbor. Rhode Islanders deemed this outright theft. The Governor, Stephen Hopkins, later a signer of the Declaration of Independence, ordered the arming of a sloop to go out and take on the St. John in open battle on the bay.

The British got wind of it, and they reinforced the St. John with the powerfully armed, if meekly named, HMS Squirrel. So the Rhode Islanders scrapped their plans for a naval battle and settled for firing on the St. John from fortifications on Goat Island with 13-pounder canons.

When the HMS Maidstone impressed into servitude an entire crew of colonists, Rhode Islanders carried one of Maidstone's boats that they were able to seize from Newport Harbor to the city commons and burned it, with hundreds of onlookers cheering.

The Royal Navy impounded prominent merchant John Hancock's sloop, the Liberty, in 1768. Even after the charges of illegal wine importation that had justified the seizure supposedly were dropped, the British Navy kept his ship and used it for themselves for more customs enforcement. The next year, colonists in Newport reclaimed the Liberty by force.

These simmering maritime hostilities set the backdrop for the fateful meeting of the Hannah and the Gaspee in 1772.

As the Hannah sailed north up the bay on June 9, the Gaspee intercepted her and ordered the crew to stop for a search. The Hannah's captain, Benjamin Lindsey, was having none of it, and he did not comply. He held his course and continued sailing north toward Providence.

Warning shots were fired from the Gaspee. Despite them, Lindsey continued on. His smaller and more maneuverable vessel led the bigger Gaspee up north toward Namquid Point. Well, the waters off Namquid Point shoal, and there are shallows off Namquid Point. Lindsey, as an experienced navigator and sailor in Narragansett Bay, knew this, and he sailed his Hannah over the shallows and kept on up to Providence. Behind them, the angry Gaspee came surging in chase and ground into the sand and stuck.

Aground off Pawtuxet Cove, the Gaspee would need to wait for the next high tide before it could float free. Night closed in on the Gaspee. There was no Moon. Lieutenant Dudingston and his crew were left to wait in darkness and exposed.

Captain Lindsey sailed the Hannah on up to Providence, and up in Providence, he immediately arranged a meeting of local patriots in a tavern called Sabin's Tavern, which still exists under another name today, in what is now the East Side of Providence, just below Brown University. Together, and no doubt after refreshments, the group decided to end the career of the Gaspee once and for all.

Several boatloads of Rhode Islanders, led by John Brown—later to have Brown University named for him—and Abraham Whipple—an ancestor, I believe, of Ms. Whipple McDougall—disguised themselves and boarded longboats in the night and rowed the 6 miles from Providence down the bay to the Gaspee. There, they surrounded the boat, and Brown called on Lieutenant Dudingston to surrender his ship.

The lieutenant refused and ordered his men to fire on anyone who tried to board and warned the Rhode Islanders of that threat. Well, the Rhode Islanders were having none of that. They stormed the Gaspee in the dark, and a melee ensued. Shots were fired. Swords clashed. In the struggle, Dudingston was shot and wounded by a musket ball—the first blood there of conflict between the Colonies and the Crown; the first blood, one could say, of the American Revolution drawn right there off Pawtuxet Cove.

The struggle ended with the Rhode Islanders in control of the vessel. Brown and Whipple's men ferried the British crew safely to shore, sought medical treatment for Lieutenant Dudingston, and then returned to the abandoned Gaspee to make sure it never carried a Rhode Islander again. To get rid of it for good, they set it on fire and retreated from the boat to watch it burn and burn until the fire reached the powder magazines and, when the fire reached the powder magazines, explode into the Narragansett Bay night, blowing the remainder of the Gaspee to smithereens and leaving it all to burn to the waterline.

Today, we Rhode Islanders call the site of these events Gaspee Point. Every year in early June, we celebrate the spirit of Rhode Island defiance that blossomed that day in Narragansett Bay 249 years ago. We will walk a parade in honor of Gaspee Day this weekend, and we will always remember the Gaspee raid, how it preceded by over a year the Boston Tea Party, and how, while those noble Bostonians pushed tea bags off of British ships into Boston Harbor, we blew the boat up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Florida.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, nearly 5 years ago, our State, Nation, the city of Orlando, and Hispanic and LGBTQ communities were attacked, and 49 innocent and beautiful lives were lost. It was an evil act—an act of terrorism—designed to divide us as a nation and strike fear in our hearts and minds but instead we came together; we supported each other; and we persevered. We proved to the world what we in Florida already knew: Floridians are resilient.

The days I spent in Orlando following the shooting will always be with me. I talked to many parents who lost their children. I went to funerals and wakes. And I sat in hospital rooms. As a father and grandfather, it was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. It was heartbreaking.

But in this horribly dark time, the selfless courage of so many, from community members to law enforcement, to healthcare workers, provided a sense of hope. This incredible strength, love, and bravery lifted up Orlando and the State of Florida and helped us begin to rebuild.

This week, on the fifth anniversary of this unthinkable tragedy, the State of Florida comes together to honor the lives lost too soon. And we vow to always stand up and fight against evil and hatred in this world.

Now I yield the floor to my colleague from Florida, Senator RUBIO.

Mr. RUBIO. Most Americans remember that horrifying day 5 years ago. I certainly do. I remember it was a morning, and I started getting text messages that something horrifying had happened in our home State. As we turned on the news, we could see that it already had been the deadliest attack on American soil since September 11 of 2001.

And the full horror of that day, of that night, came into focus, as I remember jumping in my truck and driving 3 hours to be on the scene. And it would be a few more days, or a few more hours, before we learned that it was an attack that was inspired by an ideology of hatred by an individual inspired by—who had pledged allegiance to a foreign terrorist organization, and in that context appeared there on that evening. It was an evening of tragedy.

It was, as Senator SCOTT mentioned, Latin night at the Pulse nightclub. This was a well-known nightclub in the LGBTQ community in Central Florida. And one would think no one should ever be—the last thing someone is worried about when they go out for a night with their friends is that they are going to be attacked by a radical jihadist terrorist in the United States.

We had seen similar attacks in London and France. And the realization that that could happen in Florida, just down the street from a small business furniture store whose owners I had gotten to know shook everyone, shook me.

Like most terrorist attacks, it sought not only to bring death but division and fear, to terrorize; and, clearly, there is a tremendous amount of pain that 5 years later is still there.

But from it, what also occurred was that it brought Floridians together, particularly those in Central Florida—first, hand in hand to grieve and then to preserve the memory of those whose lives were lost. The outpouring of love and support came not only from Florida but from Americans from all across the United States who shared in our grief and drew inspiration from the State's resilience.

Five years later, the process of mourning continues. The process of remembrance continues, but so, too, is Orlando as united as it was 5 years ago. It is a reminder to us that even with

all the challenges and threats we face, the threat of a radical, hateful ideology that can inspire people living here to take such horrifying actions, is something we should remain vigilant about.

And I want to thank my colleague Senator SCOTT for allowing me to partner with him on this resolution to remember not just that tragic day and to support the national Pulse Memorial but also to extend our continued condolences to those who suffered so greatly on that evening and to remind a nation of how we must remain vigilant against those who seek to terrorize.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Florida for participating in this with me. It was a devastating day 5 years ago for all of us in Florida and around the Nation.

Today, I am requesting all my colleagues join us to honor the memory of the 49 lives lost and come together to say their nation will always stand against hate and evil in this world.

I will be asking consent for the Senate to pass a resolution honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack of the Pulse nightclub, cosponsored by my colleague from Florida, Senator RUBIO, and legislation designating the location of the Pulse nightclub in Orlando as the National Pulse Memorial to serve as a tribute to the victims and a reminder for us to always stand for love and kindness over hate and evil in this world. It is also cosponsored by my colleague from Florida, Senator RUBIO, and my colleague from California, Senator PADILLA. I hope my colleagues join us in the effort today.

DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL LOCATED AT 1912 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 1605 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1605) to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue in Orlando, Florida, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1605) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1605

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue in Orlando, Florida, is designated as the ''National Pulse Memorial''.

(b) EFFECT OF DESIGNATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The national memorial designated by subsection (a) is not a unit of the National Park System.

(2) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—The designation of the national memorial by subsection (a) shall not require or permit Federal funds to be expended for any purpose relating to the national memorial.

DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL LOCATED AT 1912 SOUTH ORANGE AVENUE, ORLANDO, FLORIDA, 32806

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 49 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 49) to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 49) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HEINOUS ATTACK AT THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB ON JUNE 12, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 265, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 265) honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack at the Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 265) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, it is with heavy heart that I stand here today and remember this dark day in Florida's history. I thank my colleagues for joining me to honor the 49 lives lost far too soon in a terror attack on Pulse nightclub nearly 5 years ago. While nothing can ever bring back the lives lost, I am glad we are able to come together to stand for love and kindness over hate and evil in this world.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, we have a tendency in this Chamber to talk about hindsight being 20/20, and I think that this is what we will be doing in 10 or 20 years when we look back on the Biden administration. I really expect that we will highlight all of the big talk here in DC that has led to some really bad ideas the White House has tried to legitimize through legislation and budget requests.

If you remember, even before the 2020 election, Biden's big talk on amnesty welcomed the hundreds of thousands of migrants who are currently flooding the southern border. He said: We expect to see these migrants at the border.

So, yes, they heard him say, ''Y'all come,'' and they are coming.

His big talk on Green New Deal programs got us the boondoggle of an infrastructure package that all but ignores roads, bridges, and broadband. The people in Memphis, TN, have not appreciated some of this talk of other items as infrastructure. They want bridge repairs immediately. Then, just before Memorial Day, we got some more big talk in the form of his $6 trillion budget request that reads like an instruction manual on how to make our country less secure, less free, and less competitive.

Back home in Tennessee, people looked at this thing, and they didn't believe what they were seeing. At church last Sunday, I had some friends ask me if the budget proposal was supposed to be a joke or if this were serious because, when they look around, they see real need. They see communities without broadband, small businesses that are struggling to get back on their feet, and crumbling roads and bridges.

Yet what did the administration choose to do with their first budget? They turned away from those needs. They decided to throw billions of dollars at the environmental lobby to make it happy. They put in money to

abortionists and to an already bloated Federal bureaucracy.

Tennesseans are looking at their own budgets and thinking about all of the ways they have had to make tough choices over the past year, and they are wondering why the Biden administration cannot seem to bring itself to show some fiscal restraint. Why is it that they just say: Crank up the printing press. Let's print more dollars. Let's put more money in the system. Let's give everybody a check—and no worries about who is going to pay the bill?

They are used to seeing the Democrats act in a very cavalier manner about spending, and they are very much concerned about what they see happening in Washington, DC. They know, without a doubt, that this is really going to cost them and that it is going to cost their children and their grandchildren, and as someone said this weekend, it is the great-grandchildren who will bear the brunt of the Biden extravaganza. They know better than to nod along with the administration's promises that only the rich and the megacorporations will be responsible for offsetting this massive spending program.

I will tell you that they know how this works. They have seen it before. They know that there are higher taxes at the top and that higher taxes at the top of this wish list and on the top earners will mean less investment in their communities, which will lead to stagnant economic development, which will land them in the exact same place that they were during the Obama-Biden years, except there will be the added expenses of having to comply with future mandates the administration is going to pile on them.

They know, when you take from the people who create the jobs and make the investments and provide the goods that drive our economy, that you are taking from the middle class, that you are taking from small businesses on every Main Street in this country. You are making opening that business too expensive to afford because you have taken those tax dollars and you are using those dollars to grow union membership, to show favoritism, and to pick winners and losers Washington, DC, style.

That is exactly how you destroy that competitiveness that makes companies want to do business here and to emigrate here, and that makes other countries a little nervous to stand toe to toe with us on the international stage. This international element is important, and I fear the Biden administration has lost that perspective.

If you look at the budget items related to immigration, it is clear that the White House still thinks they can make it out of this border crisis without having to admit that their policies have, indeed, caused this crisis at our Nation's southern border. Yes, indeed, this is the Biden border crisis. Instead of securing the border by investing in the technology, infrastructure, and manpower our Border Patrol agents have repeatedly asked for, the administration wants to focus on sending foreign aid to the Northern Triangle, foreign aid without accountability. This is a noble effort, but it will do nothing to mitigate the disaster on the border that has since bled into the communities that are now playing host to busloads of unaccompanied migrant children, like we see in Chattanooga.

At least they decided to invest in a few more immigration judges. Yet what we see them doing through this is making every town a border town and every State a border State. They are transferring the costs to our States and to our local communities—the costs for education, for healthcare, for children's services, for social services, for housing. The Federal Government doesn't want to admit they are incurring that cost.

So what are they doing? At taxpayer expense, they are putting these over a half-a-million illegal entrants onto airplanes, onto buses, and they are sending them to communities around this country. That is what they are doing, and that is what millions of Americans, including thousands of Tennesseans, are pushing back on.

I have to tell you, I had a telephone townhall last night. It was with some of the counties that are around Chattanooga, TN, in that area, and COVID–19 and the immigration policies of the Biden administration were the top questions that came up.

I will tell you that things don't look any better on the national security front. If you account for inflation, you find out that the topline request for the Department of Defense represents a $7 billion decrease compared to fiscal year 2021 funding levels. That is right, a $7 billion decrease for defense. Maybe they forgot that what we are responsible for, first and foremost, is providing for the common defense.

Talk about misplaced priorities. The Biden administration picked the absolute worst time to undercut the military and employ President Obama's demand to do more with less. We know from experience that it takes between 3 and 5 percent in annual growth to keep our military and national security programs competitive, and this budget doesn't even come close to hitting that mark. For reference, China increased their defense budget by 6.8 percent this year—oh, and who is our main competitor when it comes to great power competition? You are right. The answer is China, absolutely.

Biden's budget, on the other hand, asks for $112 billion in R&D spending, but it cuts procurement spending. Imagine that. This means, as of right now, the administration has no plan to put that R&D to good use. Keep doing the research and development, but by the way, we are not planning to purchase. Think about that. Think about the message that sends to our allies and the message it is sending to our adversaries.

They paid lip service to supporting our nuclear programs, but earlier this month, the Secretary of the Navy sent a strategic memo ordering the service to defund the development of the nuclear sea-launched cruise missiles that are essential for deterring China in regional waters. That is right. The Secretary of the Navy sent a strategic memo ordering the Navy to defund the development of the missiles that are essential for deterring China in regional waters.

The kicker? All of this is to be done before the Nuclear Posture Review is even completed. So don't wait for the report. We need an outcome, and the outcome is, Let's make ourselves less competitive.

This is astounding. Instead of following the directives that have clearly been laid out by last year's NDAA and investing in a combat-credible force, the budget guts and confuses the mission driving the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, and this has had bipartisan support. Keep in mind that this is the best set of tools we have against Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific region, and the Biden administration has decided to use it like some sort of slush account for projects that, in a normal year, would be funded under other categories.

They are going for an outcome. The outcome is not ''America first'' or an America able to defend. Their budget is cutting defense. Their budget is cutting these cruise missiles. It makes no sense.

And I can assure you, as we begin the NDAA negotiations, that this is something that will deserve and will get a full review.

I have said it before and I will say it again: The American people understand that elections do have consequences. They knew that some priorities would change with President Biden. Even my friends back home who voted for President Biden will tell me they liked what they heard on the campaign trail from him. But they will also tell you they did not vote for this.

They did not vote for what is happening, for the Executive orders that are coming out of this administration, for the ridiculousness that they see in this budget. They did not vote for tax plans that will stand in the way of local investment with small businesses. They did not vote to make things more expensive and scarce at the grocery store. They did not vote to fund a bloated and power-hungry Federal bureaucracy. They didn't vote to leave our border in shambles, to wreck our Nation's sovereignty.

They certainly didn't vote for a defense strategy that will allow the Chinese Communist Party to expand their influence into underdeveloped countries and threaten our allies in the Indo-Pacific. No, they did not vote for that.

Our National Guard men and women, our men and women who every day are in service there at Fort Campbell—God

bless them. And we worry about the lack of attention to defense.

I would remind my Democratic colleagues that any action they take on this budget proposal won't exist in a vacuum, and I ask them to reconsider their justification for asking the American people, who just survived a global pandemic and a near total economic collapse—I think they should reconsider their justification for asking them to bankroll an activist-driven, radical, fantasy budget that nobody really asked for.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

UNITED STATES INNOVATION AND COMPETITION ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the U.S. Innovation & Competition Act the Senate passed yesterday sends a loud, clear signal to the Government of the People's Republic of China and to the Chinese Communist Party: American foreign policy is grounded in our values, and we will work with our allies to defend our interests and to protect our friends. Enactment of this bill will place the United States in a much stronger position to thwart Chinese aggression, uphold human rights, increase U.S. competitiveness, and enhance our national security.

I am proud to have worked on a bipartisan basis with Chairman MENENDEZ and Ranking Member RISCH and other colleagues in both parties to put forward legislation ensuring that defense of human rights and good governance and upgrading our armory in the battle against corruption remains at the forefront of our national security policy.

This measure will complement the action President Biden took just last week to define the fight against corruption as a ''core U.S. national security interest.'' In the National Security Study Memorandum the President released on June 3, he ordered a high-level review of how our government, our partners, and others can work together to combat illicit, corrosive corrupt activity.

The interagency review that he directed the National Security Advisor to lead should yield a robust strategy that brings all the tools at the disposal of the United States to bear on one of the most consequential problems we face. I look forward to seeing the results of this high-level report and working with the Biden-Harris administration to target corruption wherever we find it. In the meantime, the legislation the Senate has passed will provide the Executive with more tools.

While corruption is a global issue—no country is immune from the disease that is corruption—it is important that we bring this fight directly to the Chinese Government. S. 1260 calls for a report to Congress on the corruption and corrupt activities of the senior officials of the Government of the People's Republic of China so that the United States can expose these individuals and hold them accountable.

Congress cannot—and must not—turn a blind eye to the People's Republic of China's shocking, systematic abuse of its Uighur population, as well as of ethnic Kazakhs, Kyrgz, and other Muslim minority groups in the Xinjiang Uighur autonomous region. This ongoing genocide demands a forceful U.S. response.

The U.S. Innovation and Competition Act protects the innocent victims of these atrocities by authorizing appropriations for protecting human rights to include programs that prioritize the protection and advancement of the freedoms of association, assembly, religion, and expression for women, human rights activists, and ethnic and religious minorities in China. The bill also authorizes and encourages the imposition of sanctions relating to forced labor and with respect to systematic rape, coercive abortion, forced sterilization, and involuntary contraceptive implantation in the Xinjiang Uighur autonomous region.

Beijing's plan to circumvent Hong Kong's independent legal system with a far-reaching, oppressive national security law is dangerous and in complete disregard of the principles of the ''one country, two systems.'' S. 1260 ensures that we stand with Hong Kong's citizens for their freedoms, democracy, and basic human rights by authorizing funding for the promotion of democracy in China and specifically in Hong Kong.

Until the Chinese Communist Party changes its behavior, we and our allies and partners must hold it accountable. This bill reiterates our strong, bipartisan commitment to working together to call out brutal regimes and use tools like the Global Magnitsky Act to hold individuals accountable for their violations of human rights and corrupt practices.

The bill permanently reauthorizes the Global Magnitsky Act, allowing the U.S. Government to continue to utilize this valuable tool. While this is a crucial step, I also hope we significantly expand the Global Magnitsky sanctions authority by adopting parameters used to implement Executive Order 13818.

The United States can counter Chinese threats to our national security by upholding our values, emphasizing transparency, and exposing corruption, but other nations must see that we live, as well as preach, our values.

I am gratified that S. 1260 includes my proposal to expand a ban on postemployment by senior State Department officials on lobbying the U.S. Government on behalf of any foreign governments and state-owned entities. Doing so ensures that the U.S. Government practices what we preach, removing the appearance that our diplomats might be doing less than their best on behalf of the American people in order to position themselves for immediate postemployment jobs advocating for foreign interests.

I was pleased to join many of my colleagues in supporting several specific initiatives to hold the Chinese Communist Party and other regimes accountable.

The Transnational Repression Accountability & Prevention, TRAP, Act, which I am proud to co-lead with my colleague Senator WICKER, who is also ranking member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, takes aim at the pervasive and pernicious problem of authoritarian abuse of INTERPOL. Dictators regularly submit to INTERPOL abusive red notices and diffusions based on false or trumped-up charges in an effort to coerce law enforcement agencies in democratic countries to harass and even extradite those who have spoken out against oppression and corruption.

Bill Browder, who ensured that Sergei Magnitsky's courage and integrity became known to the world and who worked closely with me on the Magnitsky Act, has been subject to no fewer than eight abusive INTERPOL red notices submitted by the Russian Government. While Bill Browder's case is emblematic of the wider problem, he is by no means alone. Countries such as Russia, China, and Turkey regularly file abusive red notices to go after those individuals who have fallen afoul of these regimes, despite this being a clear violation of INTERPOL's constitution.

Adding the TRAP Act to S. 1260 would do three things. First, it sets priorities for the United States in responding to INTERPOL abuse and promoting reform within INTERPOL. It is critical that the United States use its voice, vote, and influence within the organization to reestablish its rule of law foundation. Second, it identifies areas for improvement in the U.S. Government's response to INTERPOL abuse and mandates that the Agencies tasked with managing U.S. engagement at INTERPOL examine and determine who the abusers are, their tactics, and how the United States can best respond. Finally, it protects the

U.S. judicial system from the influence of abusive INTERPOL notices by clearly mandating that no person may be extradited solely because of a red notice or diffusion.

Thanks to the TRAP Act, autocrats will be much less able to abuse INTERPOL's information-sharing protocols, and dissidents can sleep better at night knowing that the long arm of dictatorship will be held at bay.

I am also pleased to have worked with Senator RUBIO to include in S. 1260 the South China Sea & East China Sea Sanctions Act. This measure authorizes the President to impose blocking sanctions and prohibit visas for Chinese individuals who contribute to construction or development projects and those who threaten the peace, security, or stability of the South China Sea, SCS, or East China Sea, ECS. China's military has been creating artificial islands in the South China Sea and thereby asserting that its sovereignty extends into the long-recognized territorial waters of other nations and they are using these creations as military outposts to threaten their neighbors further. The SCS & ECS Sanctions Act also imposes sanctions on foreign financial institutions that knowingly conduct or facilitate a significant financial transaction for sanctioned persons if China takes several actions in the SCS or ECS.

Finally, the measure gives the Executive authorization to curtail foreign assistance to countries that recognize China's sovereignty in the SCS or the ECS, with exceptions for Taiwan, counterterrorism, democracy support, counter-narcotics, global health, and humanitarian assistance.

Collectively, all of the provisions I have just discussed reinforce the values that drive our foreign policy. The U.S. Innovation & Competition Act will prove to be an important tool in countering the People's Republic of China and other authoritarian regimes around the world. I want to commend Senator SCHUMER for his persistence with respect to bringing this bipartisan bill to the floor, and for allowing its consideration under regular order.

REMEMBERING EARL MICHAEL WILLIS

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of a young man who was not only an intern in my congressional office but also a friend. Earl Michael Willis was born on May 29, 1993, in Baton Rouge and was the beloved son of Earl and Cristal Willis. He grew up in Brusly, LA, and attended Holy Family School and Catholic High School in Baton Rouge. Michael developed a strong connection to God during his formative years, especially through close friendship with Father Michael Allelo, and his Christian faith and values were an important aspect of his daily life. When Michael was in middle school, his sister Rachael Lynn passed away from cancer. From that point on, Michael's life was dedicated to his sister's memory, and he and his family participated in many Light the Night events. More recently, Michael and his wife Megan established a nonprofit foundation named ''Running for Rachael'' in honor of his sister.

Ever since working at River Road Day Care in Port Allen in high school, Michael was passionate about advocacy. At age 20, he became a legislative assistant to Cindy Bishop of Checkmate Strategies and went on to become the director of business development for the firm after finishing college. Michael graduated from Louisiana State University in May 2015 in political science. While at LSU, he was an active member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and vice president of policy for The Center for Development and Learning, where he led the center's ''Literacy and Economic Development'' summit and led a highly successful ''Literacy Day at the Capitol.'' Michael married the love of his life, Megan Voda, on April 17, 2020. He possessed an incomparable measure of love and devotion for his wife, his parents, and all of his family. Sharing quality time with them was always atop his list of priorities.

Michael is survived by his wife Megan, parents Earl and Cristal Willis, brother Nicholas Boudreaux, nephews Noah and Nicholas Boudreaux, mother- and father-in-law Cris and Tim Voda, sister-in-law Katie Voda, his honorary nephews Beau Seymour and Harrison Danna, his honorary nieces Lilly Seymour and Caroline Danna, and a host of aunts, uncles, extended family, and friends. Michael Willis was a truly loving and inspiring individual who always ensured that those around him felt loved, valued, and appreciated. He will be deeply missed, but his memory will live on forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACK BUELL

• Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, along with my colleague Senator JIM RISCH, I congratulate Jack Buell, of St. Maries, ID, on his extraordinary 46 years of public service as Benewah County commissioner. We thank him for contributing his time, talent, and resources to the people of St. Maries, Benewah County, and to Idaho.

Throughout his time in leadership, Jack has earned deep respect and admiration for his unwavering commitment to the community and county he loves. Jack Buell was first elected Benewah County commissioner nearly five decades ago in 1974, and he served steadily as commissioner until December 2020. Jack is known as someone who can be counted on to help meet the needs of the community. For example, Jack made his own property available to the U.S. Forest Service to use as a fire base. There are many other examples of his generosity and outstanding service, as he seems to never tire of doing what needs to be done.

Jack is truly a stalwart of our great State. He and his wife Eleanor own Jack Buell Trucking based in St. Maries. This business has long been a pillar in the community, providing jobs that support families and contributing to Benewah County's economic base. In addition to his business and service as Benewah County commissioner, Jack has supported and served on boards for many local and State organizations. He has been formally recognized for his contributions to the community and State, including his 2012 induction into the Idaho Hall of Fame and receiving the Idaho Distinguished Service Medal in 2021.

Jack is someone with great integrity, dedication, experience, wisdom, and institutional knowledge. He adds humor, curiosity, know-how, humility, and hard work to the countless challenges he has faced throughout his remarkable career. Jack has led by example for decades, and despite all he has done, he is not resting from service. We understand his ongoing efforts include increasing safety on the roads of St. Maries.

Thank you, Jack, for all you have done and continue to do for Idahoans. We are honored to join many others in expressing our gratitude to you for a lifetime of exceptional service.•

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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–1153. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Difenoconazole; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 10022–28–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1154. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation'' (RIN0790–AK41) received in the

Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1155. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Voluntary Education Program'' (RIN0790–AJ95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1156. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Expediting Contract Closeout'' (RIN0750–AJ52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1157. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Authorities for Minimizing the Use of Materials Containing Hexavalent Chromium'' (RIN0750–AL17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1158. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order declaring additional steps to be taken concerning the national emergency with respect to the threat from securities investments that finance Communist Chinese military companies that was declared in Executive Order 13959 of November 12, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1159. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Terrorism List Governments Sanctions Regulations'' (31 CFR Part 596) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*John K. Tien, of Georgia, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

*Robert Peter Silvers, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security.

*Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

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

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 (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1981. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify rules relating to donor advised funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1982. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for purposes of the tax on private foundation excess business holdings to treat as outstanding any employee-owned stock purchased by a business enterprise pursuant to certain employee stock ownership retirement plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. COTTON, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 1983. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to report to Congress an estimated number of jobs projected to be lost due to the Biden Administration revoking the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1984. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to improve the functioning of traffic signals through the implementation of innovative technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 1985. A bill to establish a Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success Initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 1986. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to expand and expedite access to cardiac rehabilitation programs and pulmonary rehabilitation programs under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1987. A bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to the deliberate concealment or distortion of information about public health emergencies of international concern, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1988. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect access to telehealth services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1989. A bill to reform pattern of practice investigations conducted by the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1990. A bill to establish processes to control inflationary pressures and the Federal debt, during Federal debt emergencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1991. A bill to authorize a new type of housing choice voucher to help achieve the goals of ending homelessness among families with children, increasing housing opportunities, and improving life outcomes of poor children; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 1992. A bill to adjust certain ownership and other requirements for passenger vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1993. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to address the responsibilities of fiduciaries with respect to the Thrift Savings Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 1994. A bill to enable passenger vessels that were not built in the United States to receive coastwise endorsement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1995. A bill to amend the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act with respect to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SMITH, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. KAINE):

S. 1996. A bill to protect human rights and enhance opportunities for LGBTQI people around the world, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1997. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that certain contributions by government entities are treated as contributions to capital; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 1998. A bill to exempt large cruise ships from certain requirements applicable to passenger vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 1999. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize the use of certain Federal funds for multiple substance impaired driving countermeasures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 2000. A bill to promote the United States-Greece defense partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 264. A resolution recognizing the importance of protecting freedom of speech, thought, and expression; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 265. A resolution honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack at the Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 266. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2021 as ''National Brain Tumor Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 70

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 70, a bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to authorize cybersecurity operations and missions to protect critical infrastructure by members of the National Guard in connection with training or other duty.

S. 98

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 98, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for neighborhood revitalization, and for other purposes.

S. 189

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 189, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 212

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 212, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 467

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 467, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program to improve the identification, assessment, and treatment of patients in hospital emergency departments who are at risk of suicide, and for other purposes.

S. 544

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 544, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to designate one week each year as ''Buddy Check Week'' for the purpose of outreach and education concerning peer wellness checks for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 631

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 631, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, to conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of SARS–CoV–2 or COVID–19, and for other purposes.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor 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'' .

S. 697

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 697, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth.

S. 706

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 706, a bill to modify a provision relating to adjustments of certain State apportionments for Federal highway programs, and for other purposes.

S. 730

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor 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.

S. 765

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 765, a bill to improve United States consideration of, and strategic support for, programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence from the onset of humanitarian emergencies and to build the capacity of humanitarian actors to address the immediate and long-term challenges resulting from such violence, and for other purposes.

S. 898

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 898, a bill to require reporting regarding certain drug price increases, and for other purposes.

S. 921

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 938

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 938, a bill to require the President to declare a national emergency relating to climate change under the National Emergencies Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1061

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1061, a bill to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 1147

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1147, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 1362

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1362, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from

Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1404, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company in recognition of their unique and distinguished service as a ''Ghost Army'' that conducted deception operations in Europe during World War II.

S. 1441

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1441, a bill to appropriate an additional amount to improve the Navy shipyard infrastructure of the United States.

S. 1511

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1511, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to payments to certain public safety officers who have become permanently and totally disabled as a result of personal injuries sustained in the line of duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1512

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1512, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1568, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a waiver of the cap on annual payments for nursing and allied health education payments.

S. 1578

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1578, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to relieve workforce shortages, and for other purposes.

S. 1784

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1784, a bill to amend the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act to modernize verification of contact lens prescriptions, and for other purposes.

S. 1833

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1833, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend the application of the Medicare payment rate floor to primary care services furnished under Medicaid and to apply the rate floor to additional providers of primary care services.

S. 1864

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1864, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require a section on reproductive rights in the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, and for other purposes.

S. 1904

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1904, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for Palestinian terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 252, a resolution unequivocally condemning the recent rise in antisemitic violence and harassment targeting Jewish Americans, and standing in solidarity with those affected by antisemitism, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1768

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1768 intended to be proposed to S. 1260, a bill to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1990. A bill to establish processes to control inflationary pressures and the Federal debt, during Federal debt emergencies; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, America is in a debt crisis. It appears, for Joe Biden and my colleagues across the aisle, reckless spending has only just begun. If left unchecked, this spending will be devastating for families in my State of Florida and all across our great Nation.

Washington's insane spending has our Federal debt rocketing toward $30 trillion. That is equal to $233,000 of debt for every American family. Think about that. America's debt crisis, caused by decades of wasteful and reckless spending by Washington politicians, has now grown to the equivalent of every American family owing a quarter of a million dollars in debt. Yet Biden and my colleagues across the aisle want more.

President Biden is pushing for trillions in wasteful spending, raising the U.S. Federal debt by 60 percent, to $39 trillion, and the debt-to-GDP ratio to 117 percent in 2030, the highest level ever recorded in American history.

Enough is enough. It is time to end the madness.

Today I am introducing the Federal Debt Emergency Control Act to help bring some accountability back to Washington.

On July 31, the current suspension of the Federal debt ceiling is set to expire, giving Congress a choice: Act responsibly to reduce Federal debt through structural reform to how we approach spending or suspend the debt ceiling again, allowing more reckless spending that will cripple our Nation with insurmountable debt.

Reckless spending has consequences. We are already seeing rising inflation. Let's remember, inflation doesn't hurt the rich, but it devastates our poorest families. It hurts families like mine growing up. It hurts poor families. It hurts people on fixed incomes. Just look around us. Milk prices are up. Bread prices are up. Gas prices are up. Meat prices are up. It seems like everything is up right now.

When inflation happened in the seventies, I watched. I watched what my parents went through. At that point, my mom was taking in ironing from other families to make ends meet. At the end of the day, whatever she had made that day, either my older brother or I would go to the grocery store, and we would watch—and she was worried about milk and food, all of the prices going up. She said, ''You only have this amount of money,'' and we had to know what everything cost before we went to the checkout counter.

It is not fair. No family should have to go through worrying about the price of bread and milk and things going up week after week.

We can get control of inflation. We can put our Nation on a fiscally responsible path, but we have to have real solutions that hold Congress accountable.

My Federal Debt Emergency Control Act aims to rein in Washington's out-of-control spending with concrete checks and balances, including the declaration of a Federal debt emergency anytime the debt exceeds 100 percent of GDP.

By the way, once debt equals 100 percent of GDP, it is very difficult to start paying down debt. You have to dramatically either reduce spending or dramatically grow your economy.

Declaring a Federal debt emergency would initiate commonsense debt reduction measures, including a requirement that two-thirds of Congress vote

to increase the debt before approving any bill with deficit spending.

It would also terminate any unobligated funding for the American Rescue Plan Act and any previous stimulus bills, sending it back to the Treasury General Fund for deficit reduction to reduce our debt.

Finally, it would ensure that any bill reducing the Federal debt by at least 5 percent over 10 years is fast-tracked through the legislative process.

Everyone can get behind these commonsense measures. That is why my bill is already endorsed by the National Taxpayers Union, the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, Americans for Tax Reform, Americans for Prosperity, FreedomWorks, and Club for Growth.

I am also proud to have the support of Senators CRUZ, BRAUN, BLACKBURN, JOHNSON, BARRASSO, ERNST, and TUBERVILLE as cosponsors of this important legislation.

With President Biden's budget proposal—and just to put that in perspective, his budget proposal is $6 trillion. This year, our Federal receipts are only going to be $3.5 trillion. How can we expect to run trillions and trillions and trillions of dollars of deficit year after year? With his budget proposal, we see how important the need is to get Washington's awful spending habits under control and start paying down our debt.

I did it before. I did it as Governor of Florida. I walked in with a $4 billion deficit. I started reducing taxes my first year. We reduced it every year in 8 years, and we cut over a third of the State debt. We did it by being responsible, by holding government accountable for watching how we spent every dollar. It can be done.

So getting back on track is possible, but it takes discipline. It takes accountability. It starts with taking concrete steps, like rejecting bloated budgets and passing commonsense legislation like the Federal Debt Emergency Control Act. We have the chance to do this. We know the vote over the debt ceiling increase is a tough vote for everybody. Let's take this opportunity to have real structural reform so we can start paying down our debt and not leave this debt to future generations.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 264—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING FREEDOM OF SPEECH, THOUGHT, AND EXPRESSION

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 264

Whereas freedom of speech is one of the most basic values of the United States;

Whereas the ability of all people of the United States to speak, protest, and express their opinions publicly is central to the democratic process and to a free society;

Whereas the principles of the freedom of speech and the freedom of expression are under attack by people with the desire and means to suppress opinions that those people regard as offensive or contrary to prevailing dogmas;

Whereas efforts to stifle debate and silence dissenters are compounded by cancel culture, a movement to impose severe social and economic sanctions on those who express unpopular opinions;

Whereas the freedom of speech should not be dictated by the majority, nor should it be restricted to the freedom to discuss uncontroversial topics;

Whereas the freedom of speech includes the freedom to express views that are unpopular, controversial, and even offensive;

Whereas these attacks on the freedom of speech have resulted in a chilling effect on free expression and created fear of social, economic, and deadly retaliation;

Whereas the stifling of free expression and the resulting fear has exacerbated social tensions and divided the people of the United States;

Whereas, in January 2018, a student at Liberty High School in Oregon was suspended for wearing a shirt that supported President Donald Trump;

Whereas, in January 2018, authorities from the People's Republic of China pressured Marriot International to fire an employee for using the company's social media account to like a Twitter post from a Tibetan separatist group;

Whereas, in July 2018, the People's Republic of China pressured airline companies from the United States to alter their websites to recognize the country's claim to the island of Taiwan;

Whereas, in October 2019, Blizzard Entertainment temporarily banned Ng Wai Chung from their esports tournament for wearing a mask supporting protests in Hong Kong;

Whereas, in October 2019, Blizzard Entertainment temporarily banned an American University esports team from their competition for displaying a sign critical of the company and supporting protests in Hong Kong;

Whereas, in October 2019, authorities in the People's Republic of China pressured Daryl Morey, the general manager of the Houston Rockets basketball team, to apologize for expressing support on Twitter for protests in Hong Kong;

Whereas, in September 2020, the University of Southern California placed Professor Greg Patton on leave after explaining a word in the Mandarin language that is pronounced similarly to an offensive word in English during his lecture;

Whereas, in December 2020, opinion editor Adam Rubenstein resigned from the New York Times 6 months after he faced backlash from the staff of the New York Times for editing an opinion piece by Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas; and

Whereas, in February 2021, Lucasfilm fired actress Gina Carano after she authored a social media post calling on people not to hate their neighbors for their political views: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes that freedom of expression and freedom of speech are sacred ideals of the United States and should protect the freedom to peacefully express thoughts and opinions without fear.

SENATE RESOLUTION 265—HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HEINOUS ATTACK AT THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB ON JUNE 12, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 265

Whereas, on June 12, 2016, a gunman inspired by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria targeted the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, where he killed 49 innocent victims and wounded dozens more in a despicable attack;

Whereas the attack at the Pulse nightclub was an attack on the LGBTQ community, the Hispanic community, the City of Orlando, the State of Florida, and the United States;

Whereas the Orlando community continues to mourn the tragic loss of life, but has demonstrated remarkable strength, unity, and resilience in the aftermath of the horrendous event;

Whereas June 12 is designated as ''Pulse Remembrance Day'' in the State of Florida to honor the victims and survivors of the senseless attack;

Whereas the people of the United States continue to pray for those affected by the tragedy; and

Whereas June 12, 2021, marks 5 years since the lives of the 49 innocent victims were tragically cut short by the senseless act of terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 49 victims killed in the attack at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, on June 12, 2016, and offers heartfelt condolences to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims;

(2) honors the dozens of survivors of the attack and pledges continued resolve to stand against terrorism and hate; and

(3) expresses gratitude to the brave law enforcement and emergency medical personnel who responded to the attack.

SENATE RESOLUTION 266—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2021 AS ''NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 266

Whereas more than an estimated 84,000 individuals will be diagnosed with a primary brain tumor in the United States in 2021, and an estimated 87,240 individuals in the United States were diagnosed with a primary brain tumor in 2020;

Whereas, in the United States, brain tumors are the—

(1) leading cause of death from cancer in children who are under 14 years of age and teens who are under 19 years of age; and

(2) third leading cause of death from cancer in young adults who are between 20 and 39 years of age;

Whereas the average 5-year survival rate for an individual in the United States following the diagnosis of a primary malignant brain tumor is only 36 percent;

Whereas it is estimated that 18,600 individuals in the United States will die as a result of a malignant brain tumor in 2021;

Whereas brain tumors may be malignant or benign but can be life-threatening in either case;

Whereas, as of the date of introduction of this resolution, approximately 700,000 individuals in the United States are living with a brain tumor;

Whereas treatment of brain tumors is complicated by the fact that more than 130 types of brain tumors exist;

Whereas the treatment and removal of brain tumors present significant challenges due to the uniquely complex and fragile nature of the brain;

Whereas brain tumors affect the primary organ in the human body that controls not only cognitive ability, but the actions of every other organ and limb in the body, leading to brain tumors being described as a disease that affects the whole individual;

Whereas brain tumor research is supported by a number of private, nonprofit research foundations and by Federal medical research institutions;

Whereas basic research may fuel advancements and development of new treatments for brain tumors;

Whereas obstacles to the development of new treatments for brain tumors remain, and there are limited strategies for the screening or early detection of brain tumors;

Whereas, despite the high number of individuals diagnosed with a brain tumor every year and the devastating prognoses for those individuals, only 5 drugs and 1 medical device are approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat brain tumors;

Whereas the mortality rates associated with brain tumors have changed little during the 30-year period preceding the date of introduction of this resolution;

Whereas there is a need for greater public awareness of brain tumors, including the difficulties associated with research on brain tumors and the opportunities for advances in brain tumor research and treatment; and

Whereas May 2021, during which brain tumor advocates nationwide unite in awareness, outreach, and advocacy activities, is an appropriate month to recognize as ''National Brain Tumor Awareness Month'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2021 as ''National Brain Tumor Awareness Month'';

(2) encourages increased public awareness of brain tumors to honor the individuals who have lost their lives to a brain tumor or currently live with a brain tumor diagnosis;

(3) supports efforts to develop better treatments for brain tumors that will improve the quality of life and the long-term prognoses of individuals diagnosed with a brain tumor;

(4) expresses its support for individuals who are battling brain tumors, as well as the families, friends, and caregivers of those individuals; and

(5) urges a collaborative approach to brain tumor research, which is a promising means of advancing understanding of, and treatment for, brain tumors.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I have 13 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 COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC POLICY

The Subcommittee on Economic Policy of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2021 AS NATIONAL BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 266, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 266) expressing support for the designation of May 2021 as ''National Brain Tumor Awareness Month''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 266) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Thursday, June 10; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Quraishi nomination; further, that the cloture vote on the Jackson nomination occur immediately following the cloture vote on the Quraishi nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the Quraishi nomination, all time expire at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that if any of the nominations are confirmed, that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

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

I wish everyone a nice evening.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 10, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JAYME RAY WHITE, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (WESTERN HEMISPHERE, EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST, LABOR, AND ENVIRONMENT), WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, VICE MICHAEL N. NEMELKA.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 10, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 15

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Army in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC–217 immediately following the open session.
SD–G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Agriculture.
SD–124

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine 21st century communities, focusing on local leaders on the infrastructure needs facing America's states, cities, and towns.
WEBEX

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Energy.
SD–366

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine mental health care in America, focusing on addressing root causes and identifying policy solutions.
SD–215

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Todd D. Robinson, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), Brett M. Holmgren, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary (Intelligence and Research), and Daniel J. Kritenbrink, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), all of the Department of State.
SH–216/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine H.R. 6, to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens.
SD–106

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
SD–192

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
To hold hearings to examine Army modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2022.
SR–232A

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine protecting competition and innovation in home technologies.
SD–226

Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

3 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion
To hold hearings to examine the state of outdoor tourism, recreation, and ecotourism.
SR–253

JUNE 16

Time to be announced
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Gwen Graham, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education, Rajesh D. Nayak, of Maryland, Taryn Mackenzie Williams, of the District of Columbia, and Douglas L. Parker, of West Virginia, each to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Dawn Myers O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, and Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, both of the Department of Health and Human Services.
TBA

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Robin Carnahan, of Missouri, to be Administrator of General Services, Jen Easterly, of New York, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and Chris Inglis, of Maryland, to be National Cyber Director.
SD–342

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of the Interior.
SD–124

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Education.
SD–138

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for military construction and family housing.
SD–192

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider S. 66, to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, S. 1747, to provide for an equitable management of summer flounder based on geographic, scientific, and economic data, S. 1890, to require the Federal Trade Commission to conduct a study on scams that target travelers during the COVID–19 pandemic, S. 1995, to amend the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act with respect to sport fish restoration and recreational boating safety, an original bill entitled, ''Regional Ocean Partnership Act'', an original bill entitled, ''Surface Transportation'', the nominations of Pamela A. Melroy, of New York, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Carlos Alberto Monje, Jr., of Louisiana, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, and Richard W. Spinrad, of Oregon, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.
SR–253

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey M. Prieto, of California, and Jane Toshiko Nishida, of

Maryland, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Alejandra Y. Castillo, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

SD–406

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the President's fiscal year 2022 budget.

SD–215

2 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

SD–430

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH–219

2:15 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. Capitol Police following the January 6th attack on the Capitol.

SR–301

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Transportation.

SD–192

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Government Operations and Border Management

To hold hearings to examine improving security, trade, and travel at land ports of entry at the southwest border.

VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on the Constitution

To hold hearings to examine the Women's Health Protection Act.

SD–226

3 p.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

To hold hearings to examine S. 173, to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, S. 177, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to establish the Cerro de la Olla Wilderness in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and to modify the boundary of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, S. 182, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 455, to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, S. 554, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study on the establishment of, and the potential land that could be included in, a unit of the National Forest System in the State of Hawaii, S. 567, to provide for conservation and economic development in the State of Nevada, S. 569, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain National Forest System land to the State of South Dakota, S. 609, to withdraw the National Forest System land in the Ruby Mountains subdistrict of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the National Wildlife Refuge System land in Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Elko and White Pine Counties, Nevada, from operation under the mineral leasing laws, S. 904, 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, S. 1008, to require the Secretary of the Interior to develop a modeling tool, conduct a study, and issue reports relating to the tax equivalent amount of payments under the payment in lieu of taxes program, S. 1076, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned oil and gas wells and surrounding land, to provide funds to State and Tribal government to plug, remediate, and reclaim orphaned oil and gas wells and surrounding land, S. 1128, to provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance to the University of Alaska of certain public land in the State of Alaska, S. 1222, to designate and adjust certain lands in the State of Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and S. 1686, to amend the Wilderness Act to allow local Federal officials to determine the manner in which nonmotorized uses may be permitted in wilderness areas.

SD–366

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 and 2023 advance appropriations requests for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SR–418

4:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

To hold hearings to examine United States nuclear deterrence policy and strategy.

SR–222

JUNE 17

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Defense.

SD–106

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3999–S4022

Measures Introduced: Twenty bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1981–2000, and S. Res. 264–266. **Pages S4017–18**

Measures Passed:

National Pulse Memorial: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of S. 1605, to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue in Orlando, Florida, and the bill was then passed. **Page S4013**

National Pulse Memorial: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 49, to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806, and the bill was then passed. **Page S4013**

Honoring the Memory of the Victims of the Pulse Nightclub Attack: Senate agreed to S. Res. 265, honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack at the Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016. **Pages S4013, S4020**

National Brain Tumor Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 266, expressing support for the designation of May 2021 as "National Brain Tumor Awareness Month". **Pages S4020–21, S4021**

Quraishi Nomination—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Zahid N. Quraishi, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. **Pages S3999–S4013**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, June 10, 2021; that the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, occur immediately following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Zahid N. Quraishi; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Zahid N. Quraishi, all time expire at 1:45 p.m., on Thursday, June 10, 2021. **Page S4021**

Nomination Received: Senate received the following nomination:

Jayme Ray White, of Washington, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Western Hemisphere, Europe, the Middle East, Labor, and Environment), with the rank of Ambassador. **Page S4022**

Executive Communications: **Pages S4016–17**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S4017**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4018–19**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4019–20**

Additional Statements: **Page S4016**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S4021**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 5:02 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 10, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4021.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: USACE AND USBR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation, after receiving testimony from Jaime A. Pinkham, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon, USA, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, Army Corps of Engineers, both of the Department of Defense; and David Palumbo, Deputy Commissioner of Operations, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: EPA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and

justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Environmental Protection Agency, after receiving testimony from Michael S. Regan, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

APPROPRIATIONS: HHS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Health and Human Services, after receiving testimony from Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health And Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS: DOJ

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Justice, after receiving testimony from Merrick B. Garland, Attorney General, Department of Justice.

MISSILE DEFENSE STRATEGY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine missile defense strategy, policies, and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Leonor Tomero, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy, General Glen D. VanHerck, USAF, Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, Vice Admiral Jon A. Hill, USN, Director, Missile Defense Agency, and Lieutenant General Daniel L. Karbler, USA, Commanding General, Army Space and Missile Defense Command, Commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, all of the Department of Defense; Robert M. Soofer, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy; and Ankit Panda, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Policy concluded a hearing to examine building a stronger financial system, focusing on opportunities of a central bank digital currency, after receiving testimony from Neha Narula, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Digital Currency Initiative, Cambridge; Lev Menand, Columbia Law School, and J. Christopher Giancarlo, Willkie Farr and Gallagher, both of New York, New York; and Darrell Duffie, Stanford University Graduate School of Business, Stanford, California.

NCAA ATHLETE NIL RIGHTS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine NCAA athlete NIL rights, after receiving testimony from Mark Few, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington; Mark Emmert, National Collegiate Athletic Association, Indianapolis, Indiana; Rod Gilmore, ESPN, Bristol, Connecticut; Wayne A.I. Frederick, Howard University, Washington, D.C., on behalf of Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference's Presidents and Chancellors; Michael McCann, University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law, Concord; and Matthew J. Mitten, Marquette University Law School, Los Angeles, California.

PFAS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine PFAS, focusing on the view from affected citizens and states, after receiving testimony from James C. Kenney, New Mexico Environment Department, Santa Fe; Scott Mandirola, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection; Charleston; Joanne Stanton, Buxmont Coalition for Safer Water, Harleysville, Pennsylvania; and G. Tracy Mehan, III, American Water Works Association, Washington, D.C.

U.S. POLICY IN BELARUS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine United States policy in Belarus, after receiving testimony from Julie Fisher, Ambassador-Designate to Belarus, Department of State; Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, Democratic Belarus, Vilnius, Lithuania; and Jamie Fly, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Prague, Czech Republic.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia, Maria E. Brewer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho, Tulinabo S. Mushingi, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Elizabeth Moore Aubin, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Eugene S. Young, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo, and Christopher John Lamora, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of John K. Tien, of Georgia, to be Deputy Secretary, Robert Peter Silvers, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, and Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Homeland Security.

NOMINATION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Bryan Todd Newland, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Peters, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Eunice C. Lee, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, who was introduced by Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Veronica S. Rossman, of Colorado, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, who was introduced by Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper, and David G. Estudillo, Lauren J. King, and Tana Lin, each to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, who were introduced by Senator Murray, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a review of the small business investment company program, including S. 1759, to establish a MicroCap small business investment company designation, after receiving testimony from Stacey R. Wittelsberger, Patriot Capital, Baltimore, Maryland; and Ivelisse Rodriguez Simon, Avante Capital Partner, Los Angeles, California.

INVESTING IN VA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a system to better serve America's veterans, focusing on investing in the Department of Veterans Affairs infrastructure, after receiving testimony from Brett Simms, Executive Director, Office of Asset Enterprise Management, Department of Veterans Affairs; Andrew Von Ah, Director, Physical Infrastructure, Government Accountability Office; Patrick D. Murray, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Washington, D.C.; and Donald Orndoff, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc., Oakland, California.

NOMINATIONS

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Christine Abizaid, of Maryland, to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Robin C. Ashton, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency, who was introduced by former Senator Daniel Coats, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet in Pro Forma session at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, June 11, 2021.

Committee Meetings

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Member Day". Testimony was heard from Chairman Kilmer, Chairman Meeks, and Representatives Timmons, Auchincloss, Mrvan, Crow, Tlaib, Mast, Trahan, Levin of Michigan, Fletcher, McGovern, Pressley, Wilson of South Carolina, Jackson Lee, Sherrill, Soto, Schrier, Fitzpatrick, Sherman, Cloud, Steel, Bowman, Lamb, Van Drew, Carter of Georgia, Garcia of Texas, Suozzi, Kelly of Illinois, Kahele, Rodgers of Washington, Tenney, Scanlon, Ruiz, and González-Colón.

APPROPRIATIONS—OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a budget hearing on the Office of Management and Budget. Testimony was heard from Shalanda Young, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET REQUEST FOR MILITARY READINESS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request for Military Readiness''. Testimony was heard from General Joseph M. Martin, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, 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 of the Air Force, Department of the Air Force; General Gary L. Thomas, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, U.S. Marine Corps; and General David D. Thompson, Vice Chief of Staff of Space Operations, U.S. Space Force.

THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The President's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget''. Testimony was heard from Shalanda Young, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor''. Testimony was heard from Martin J. Walsh, Secretary, Department of Labor.

A HUMANE RESPONSE: PRIORITIZING THE WELL-BEING OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''A Humane Response: Prioritizing the Well-Being of Unaccompanied Children''. Testimony was heard from JooYeun Chang, Acting Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services.

UNIVERSAL VOUCHERS: ENDING HOMELESSNESS AND EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Universal Vouchers: Ending Homelessness and Expanding Economic Opportunity in America''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC IN AN ERA OF STRATEGIC COOPERATION

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation held a hearing entitled ''Democratic Values in the Indo-Pacific in an Era of Strategic Cooperation''. Testimony was heard from Scott Busby, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, Department of State; Craig Hart, Acting Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for East Asia and the Pacific, U.S. Agency for International Development; Dean Thompson, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State; and Francisco Bencosme, Senior Advisor to the Acting Assistant Secretary, East Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau, Department of State.

UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE COVID–19 PANDEMIC

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations and Global Corporate Social Impact held a hearing entitled ''United States Leadership in the International Response to the COVID–19 Pandemic''. Testimony was heard from Gayle E. Smith, Coordinator for Global COVID Response and Health Security, Department of State; and Jeremy Konyndyk, Executive Director, COVID–19 Task Force, U.S. Agency for International Development.

CYBER THREATS IN THE PIPELINE: USING LESSONS FROM THE COLONIAL RANSOMWARE ATTACK TO DEFEND CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Cyber Threats in the Pipeline: Using Lessons from the Colonial Ransomware Attack to Defend Critical Infrastructure''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUILDING REGIONAL INNOVATION ECONOMIES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled ''Building Regional Innovation Economies''. Testimony was heard from Elizabeth Hutt Pollard, Secretary of Science and Innovation, Oklahoma; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEAURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee began a markup on updated subcommittee roster; H.R. 1915, the ''Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021''; and H.R. 3684, the ''INVEST in America Act''.

Joint Meetings

GENDER WAGE GAP

Joint Economic Committee: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the gender wage gap, focusing on breaking through stalled progress, after receiving testimony from Marlene Kim, University of Massachusetts, Boston; Michele Holder, City University of New York John Jay College, and Ai-jen Poo, National Domestic Workers Alliance, both of New York, New York; and Romina Boccia, Stonebrick LLC, Salt Lake City, Utah.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: business meeting to consider the nomination of Janie Simms Hipp, of Arkansas, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 9:30 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Food and Drug Administration, 10 a.m., SD–124.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold open and closed hearings to examine the Department of Defense budget posture in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, with the Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues, to hold a joint hearing to examine atrocities in Xinjiang, 11 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider S. 1927, to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robin Carnahan, of Missouri, to be Administrator of General Services, Jen Easterly, of New York, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and Chris Inglis, of Maryland, to be National Cyber Director, 10:15 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 601, to amend section 3661 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the consideration of acquitted conduct at sentencing, S. 1014, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, and the nominations of Deborah L. Boardman, and Lydia Kay Griggsby, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, Tiffany P. Cunningham, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, Margaret Irene Strickland, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, Ur Mendoza Jaddou, of California, to be Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, and Ronald L. Davis, of California, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service, David H. Chipman, of Virginia, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Anne Milgram, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement, and Kenneth Allen Polite, Jr., of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General, all of the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, budget hearing on the Department of the Treasury, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled ''FY22 Budget Request for Nuclear Forces and Atomic Energy Defense Activities'', 11 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Eucation and Labor, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, hearing entitled ''Ending Child Hunger: Priorities for Child Nutrition Reauthorization'', 12 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on H.J. Res. 34, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review''; H.R. 2928, the ''Cyber Sense Act of 2021''; H.R. 2931, the ''Enhancing Grid Security through Public-Private Partnerships Act''; H.R. 3078, the ''Pipeline and LNG Facility Cybersecurity Preparedness Act''; H.R. 3119, the ''Energy Emergency Leadership Act''; and H.R. 2668, the ''Consumer Protection and Recovery Act'', 11 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations, hearing entitled ''Unaccompanied Children at the Border: Federal Response and the Way Forward'', 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation'', 10 a.m., CVC–200 and Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure, hearing entitled ''Utilization of Small Contractors in the Infrastructure Plan'', 1 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, continue markup on updated subcommittee roster; H.R. 1915, the ''Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021''; and H.R. 3684, the ''INVEST in America Act''.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures; and Subcommittee on Oversight, joint hearing entitled ''Minding the Tax Gap: Improving Tax Administration for the 21st Century'', 12 p.m., Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:30 a.m., Thursday, June 10

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Zahid N. Quraishi, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nomination of Zahid N. Quraishi, and on the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Zahid N. Quraishi, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11:30 a.m., Friday, June 11

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11:30 a.m.

Congressional Record

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087–390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at *www.govinfo.gov*, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202–512–1800, or 866–512–1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, *contactcenter@gpo.gov*. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197–9000, or phone orders to 866–512–1800 (toll-free), 202–512–1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202–512–2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.