The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who alone spreads out the heavens and rules the raging of the sea, give our lawmakers wisdom to draw near to You. May they daily seek Your presence as they reflect on Your sacred Word. Guide them with Your instructions, keeping them from falling in life’s slippery places. May they strive to please and honor You by living with integrity.

Mighty God, since we have You, what else could we possibly want on Earth? We pray in Your matchless 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
President pro tempore,
Washington, DC, July 12, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. HIRONO 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 legislative clerk read the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, 6 months ago, the Democratic majority began this Congress by aggressively confronting the COVID crisis. We passed the American Rescue Plan—one of the largest Federal stimulus measures in history—to help bring an end to the economic downturn and prime our economy to come roaring back. Now, millions of Americans have come off the unemployment rolls, and small businesses have reopened from coast to coast. More than 150 million Americans have been fully vaccinated. We need, of course, to keep up the effort to inoculate the rest of the country, but suffice it to say, we are well on our way to bringing the country out of chaos, out of crisis, and back to normal. But the task is not done.

As our country reopens and Americans return to work, we must turn our attention to laying a foundation for the future. This upcoming work period will focus on exactly that: building a foundation for future American prosperity for years and decades to come through smart and bold investments in our Nation’s infrastructure.

As I have said for weeks, the discussions about infrastructure legislation continue along two tracks. On the bipartisan track, our committees are getting closer to turning the recent agreement between the White House and the bipartisan infrastructure group into legislation. I am pleased to report
we are making very good progress toward that goal. On the second track, the Senate Budget Committee is close to finalizing a budget resolution, which will allow the Senate to move forward with the remaining parts of the American Jobs and Families Plan. The Senate needs a budget resolution and an eventual budget reconciliation bill with or without Republican support.

The fact of the matter is, brick-and-mortar infrastructure is very important, but it is no longer the only type of infrastructure that matters in the 21st century. Human infrastructure—what many might call family support as our families come under increasing pressure in this modern society, things like childcare, family leave, education, healthcare—are just as essential to giving our citizens opportunity as building roads and bridges and railways. Both are very important. Twenty-first century investment in broadband internet, roads, schools, and retrofitting our economy to fight climate change in bold ways are just as important as roads and bridges and railways. We must do both. It is not one or the other, and we are going to do both.

Before the week period is over, it is my intention for the Senate to hold votes on the bipartisan infrastructure bill and a budget resolution. Members should prepare for a busier work period than usual, with the possibility of late-weekend votes and changes to the August schedule. It is not going to be easy, but it is certainly going to be worth it.

The Federal Government has not made a significant stand-alone investment in infrastructure in decades. We have the world’s largest economy, and yet our infrastructure ranks 13th. America has less generous family support policies than so many of our peers who are not as wealthy as we are. It is time to rebuild infrastructure and create millions of good-paying jobs—particularly to those who haven’t been able to get good-paying jobs—and help American families keep up with rising expenses. If and when we succeed, the benefits—the benefits—will reverberate across the country for generations to come.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on nominations, the Senate will also continue to confirm highly qualified nominees to the Biden administration.

This week, the Senate will confirm Uzra Zeya to serve as Under Secretary of State and Julie Su to serve as Deputy Secretary of Labor. Both Ms. Zeya and Ms. Su will add to the expertise, dedication, and diversity of President Biden’s administration. As the week progresses, Members should be advised there will be additional votes, in all likelihood, on additional nominees.

Judicial appointments remain one of our highest priorities. Later this week, the Judiciary Committee will vote to advance five additional judges: two circuit court nominees, including Ms. Eunice Lee—one of the great public defenders not only in New York but in the country whom I am proud to recommend to the Second Circuit—and three district court nominees.

The Senate has already confirmed more federal judges, in fact, before July 4 than during the first year of any Presidency in recent history. We will continue this critical work in the months to come and restore balance, much needed balance, to the Federal judiciary.

CHILD TAX CREDIT

Madam President, on one final matter, the child tax credit—this, the biggest effort in over 50 years to reduce childhood poverty in America—begins on Thursday. Later this week, tens of millions of American families are going to see extra money hit their bank accounts when the first payments of the newly expanded child tax credit are disbursed across the country

When Senate Democrats passed the American Rescue Plan in March, we included a provision to provide the majority of parents $3,600 per year for every child under 6 and $3,000 for every child between 6 and 17. These payments, I am happy to say, are going to make a big difference. As the White House said on Thursday, most families with kids will start receiving $300 each month for each child under 6 and $250 each month for each child 6 to 17.

I want American families to know, if you filed your taxes in either 2019 or 2020 or both, you will get these payments automatically; you will see them in your bank accounts without lifting a finger. For those who for whatever reason didn’t file taxes in the past 2 years, I strongly urge you to go online and register at irs.gov/childtaxcredit—let me repeat that: irs.gov/childtaxcredit—or contact your representative for assistance.

These payments are going to make an immediate and large difference for millions and millions of American families struggling with the cost of childcare and groceries and housing and healthcare. Recent estimates by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities predict that more than 4 million children—4 million children—will be lifted out of poverty. Childhood poverty in America cut almost in half—what an amazing thing that is.

Just this morning, I met with a group of parents in New York whose lives would dramatically improve thanks to this policy. Listening to their stories, I was moved to hear the relief in their voices that an extra little help is coming their way and the hope in their voices about giving their children a better future.

This is an example of the difference between a Democratic and a Republican majority in the Senate. As Leader McConnell, openly reminds everyone, not a single Republican voted in favor of our child tax credit through the American Rescue Plan.

I am so proud that Democrats found a way to help American families, help American kids with a brighter, stronger future despite unanimous Republican opposition. I believe that now we must press on and make these expanded payments a permanent part of our Tax Code.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam 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.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today is the first day of what could be a productive and maybe even historic few weeks in the Senate. I hope we can live up to the challenges we are facing.

July 6 was a historic day in the State of Illinois. For the first time in 476 days, Illinois went 24 hours without losing a life to COVID-19. During the deadliest days of this pandemic, Illinois was losing more than 150 people a day to COVID. As our Governor, J.B. Pritzker, said on the 6th, ''The vaccines have done the work. Thank God for the vaccines.'’ I couldn’t have said it better.

Seventy percent of eligible Illinois residents have received at least one dose in the COVID vaccines, including 90 percent of seniors. But we are at a critical moment in Illinois and across our Nation. With the new, more dangerous Delta variant now spreading rapidly across the Nation, people who are unvaccinated are at greater risk than ever of becoming sick and even facing death from COVID. I hope we can stop the division and disinformation and figure out how to protect the people from this deadly foe.

I want to say a word about an issue that I read this morning in an article in the New York Times. The author of the article, Tiffany Hsu, titled the article ‘‘Anti-Vaccination Rhetoric Creeps From Fringe to Fox Prime Time.’’ It is a lengthy article, and I commend it to everyone to read it on their own. It raises some important questions.

If our sacred right to free speech can be limited by the time-honored test of ‘‘clear and present danger’’ in a democracy, is there any limit to extreme political rhetoric in the midst of a pandemic?

We know the Republican Party is enthralled by Donald Trump. They have bought the Big Lie. A half to two-thirds of Republicans believe that he actually won the last election, and he didn’t. Twenty-nine percent of Republicans believe that Donald Trump will be reinstated as President, triumphantly returning from exile to take over the White House again. Many of them believe that he will return to Washington soon.

Well, there was an interesting scene on the grounds of the Capitol when I
returned today from Illinois. For the first time since January 6, the fence that was erected to hold back the insurrectionist mob was removed. We hope that we are prepared now to protect this Capitol and can get back to business, but we have to recruit additional Capitol Hill Police to be prepared, we have to work with the National Guard units to be prepared, and we have to realize the obvious. There was a decision made on the floor of the U.S. Senate by the Republican Senate leader just a few weeks ago to stop any bipartisan effort to establish a Commission to ask what happened on January 6 and how it can be avoided in the future. Senator McConnell objected to a bipartisan, evenly-split Commission to investigate that terrible day. The GOP Senate leader killed that idea several weeks ago.

I want to commend Speaker Pelosi, who is trying her best through a special committee in the House of Representatives to have a bipartisan investigation. It should have been done through this Commission. Senator McConnell stopped it.

There is one other element I would like to raise when it comes to free speech. As we emerged from the time of pandemic that caught my eye in this morning’s paper, as I mentioned earlier, was this article about FOX Primetime. They recounted the fact that over the last several months, FOX had been losing ground to CNN, and they were questioning the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccines because of a split decision at the FOX network.

Some of the leaders at FOX obviously believe strongly in the vaccine, and I commend them. I do too. Rupert Murdoch was vaccinated in December.

When a list of those who supported the effort to encourage the use of vaccines across America was taken at FOX, they put together a 30-second spot featuring host and anchor Steve Doocy, Harris Faulkner, Dana Perino, and Laura Ingraham. They have been referring, of course, to Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham for the statements they have made in opposition to vaccines.

I want to commend those at FOX who have stood up and said the right thing about these vaccines, but I also want to take issue with those who are using this vaccine, for whatever purpose, to mislead and confuse American people about its necessity, its effectiveness, and its safety. They are not doing America any favors, and I hope that FOX will come to its senses.

If there are things that can remove you from the air for being said on a program, I certainly hope that the management of the station will caution Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham for the statements they have made in opposition to vaccines.

Fox News had ‘contributed substantially and directly’ to ‘the unnecessary deaths of many Americans by fueling hesitation and doubt about the efficacy and safety of lifesaving Covid-19 vaccines.’ He singled out the channel’s prime-time opinion programs for blame.

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When a list of those who supported the effort to encourage the use of vaccines across America was taken at FOX, they put together a 30-second spot featuring host and anchor Steve Doocy, Harris Faulkner, Dana Perino, and John Roberts. Ms. Faulkner said in that ad by FOX: ‘If you can get the vaccine.’ Bret Baier, chief political anchor at FOX News, said in an Instagram post that he was grateful for the shot of vaccine. The hosts of ‘FOX & Friends’ spoke of the relief they felt in becoming vaccinated. Sean Hannity himself said:

I do believe in science, and I believe in vaccines. Talk to your doctor. You don’t need to talk to people on TV and radio that aren’t doctors.

Which goes to the point of this message. There are two hosts of programs on FOX Primetime who can only be characterized as anti-vax quacks. I am referring, of course, to Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham. They have been spreading what I consider to be irresponsible information about vaccines across America and about the effort of this Nation to deal with them.

Here is the reality. We have millions who have died across the world from this virus. We may never have an accurate count. We have hundreds of thousands who have died in the United States. Now it is said repeatedly that those who are headed to the hospital with the most serious strains of COVID–95.5 percent of them were not vaccinated. So the facts are obvious here.

I know it is an individual decision on whether to be vaccinated, and I am sure there may be some Senators who have decided not to do it, but I was happy to do it as soon as I could. I think the vaccines are protecting me and my wife and my family. But in the meantime, they have been running TV shows at FOX, in prime time, peddling this nonsense about vaccines being unnecessary and COVID–19 being no threat can only be summarized in a statement which concluded this article:

In a recent opinion essay for The Daily Beast by Preston Padden, a former high-level executive at Fox Broadcasting wrote that Fox News had ‘contributed substantially and directly’ to ‘the unnecessary deaths of many Americans by fueling hesitation and doubt about the efficacy and safety of lifesaving Covid-19 vaccines.’ He singled out the channel’s prime-time opinion programs for blame.

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Gun Violence

Madam President, the Fourth of July, of course, is a night when you may not be able to get to bed early, with a lot of fireworks in celebration of our Nation’s birthday, and it is celebrated from one corner of America to the next. But sadly, in many places on this Fourth of July, the noise you were hearing was not fireworks; it was gunfire.

One hundred and four people were shot in Chicago. One hundred and four people were shot in Chicago on the Fourth of July weekend, and 23,000 gun violence deaths in America any favors, and I hope that FOX will come to its senses.

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If there are things that can remove you from the air for being said on a program, I certainly hope that the management of the station will caution Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham for the statements they have made in opposition to vaccines.
The Republicans like to make a big thing about the statements from some people about defunding the police. I never supported that, and most of the people I know had nothing to do with it. But here they are defunding the police themselves and voting against the American Rescue Plan.

That plan is going to provide law enforcement more resources. We want that money to be spent properly, and we certainly want law enforcement to discharge their duties in a professional way. But additional resources can be and will be used effectively. I am sorry that not one single Republican Senator voted for that plan. I think it is not defunding the police; it is defending the police with the American Rescue Plan provisions.

President Biden’s American Jobs Plan, which we are now going to consider soon, is an opportunity for us to consider $5 billion to fund community violence prevention programs. I have introduced the Equity and Anti-Trauma Act, which would implement the proposal by funding trusted members of the community to tackle trauma and the pain that is at the root of violence.

Last month, the President announced the creation of a new strike force, to be headed by the Justice Department, that will crack down on illegal drug trafficking in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay area, and Washington, DC. I support this step.

Madam President, we have before us a nomination. I am not sure when it will be called, but it was a product of our Judiciary Committee. David Chipman was nominated by President Biden, to serve as the next Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Madam President, you know the answer to this question but don’t tell me! When was the last time thatAgency had a Director chosen by Congress through the orderly process? Well, it was about 6 years ago. That was the last time. It turned out to be the only time in the history of the Agency.

But why would an Agency of the government go on for years without a duly selected Director? Well, it was an intentional strategy by those gun groups to make sure that this Agency, as important as it is, didn’t have a leader, and as a consequence, the RISE from the Firearm Industry was able to accomplish its goals.

David Chipman was born in New Hampshire and has a B.S. from American University and an M.S. from Johns Hopkins. In our committee, we recognized the fact that he had 25 years of law enforcement experience. He is a responsible gun owner himself, and he has advocated for commonsense gun safety measures.

I think he will qualify to serve as the head of the ATF. He spent decades working in that Agency, including serving as a special agent in Virginia, Texas, and Michigan. He would be the first former ATF agent to head the Bureau, and this experience has equipped him with the skills he needs.

Chipman would only be the second confirmed Director in the Agency’s history, as I mentioned. A lifelong gun owner himself, he has the responsibility of gun ownership and the commonsense safety measures that go hand in hand with it.

He is uniquely positioned to counter a false narrative, pushed by the gun lobby, that he has a radical or somehow contrary to the Second Amendment view.

Chipman’s knowledge of firearms and gun policy is unparalleled. He gained his insight not only working in law enforcement but also as an adviser to one of the Nation’s top violence prevention organizations.

Congress and the Biden administration must take action to address gun violence in the city of Chicago, in the state of Michigan, and all across this Nation. It is an urgent issue for all of us. That is why we should pick, as quickly as we can, a leader like David Chipman to lead the ATF Agency.

CLIMATE

Madam President, I will conclude by saying that this has been an unusual weather time in our country. We have seen things happening that are unparalleled in history—extreme weather in the Chicago area, tornados, to the baking 120-degree heat of the Northwestern states, to the north and west, to even a warning of a tornado here in Washington, DC. Strange things are occurring.

When you hear about these wildfires in California and Oregon, there is a natural inclination, if you don’t live in that area, to dismiss them, to say: That didn’t happen in my backyard—not in my backyard. Well, I have to say, we ought to wake up to the reality. Extreme weather and the results of global warming are coming to every corner of the country. We have to come to the realization that it is time for us to prepare this Nation to turn back the impacts of climate change and global warming. Those fires are burning in California and Oregon, but they reflect the situation which is dangerous for all of us.

We are waiting to investigate and bring in engineering groups with the Surfside, FL, building collapse, that terrible tragedy which claimed, I am sure, 96 lives. We have to come to the realization that it is time for us to prepare this Nation to turn back the impacts of climate change and global warming. Those fires are burning in California and Oregon, but they reflect the situation which is dangerous for all of us.

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July 12, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S4813

Senate is prepared to confirm this highly qualified nominee on a bipartisan basis. I certainly look forward to working with her and with my friends on both sides of the aisle here in Congress to shore up cyber security vulnerabilities and keep American families, businesses, and the Federal Government secure.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination. Calendar No. 176.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jen Easterly, of New York, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening debate and that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. PETERS. Madam 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.

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

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

CUBA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, this weekend, the people of Cuba rose up in opposition to their repressive socialist government. I think it is important to be clear on that point because much of the mainstream media that is reporting on these protests makes it sound as if everything is pandemic related, but what is happening in Cuba is not an economic fluke, and every single person serving in this body, working in the media, and analyzing the policy implications knows better than to say otherwise.

This isn’t the pop socialism touted by the American left. It is not fashionable. There is no empowerment or equality in the socialist regime; there is just starvation, shortages, violence, and failure. For 62 years, the ruling Communists have bled the Cuban people dry, and now armed thugs have taken to the streets to repress the opposition at any cost.

Make no mistake, this is a test for President Biden. He must draw a line in the sand.

I call on my colleagues in the majority and on President Biden and the members of his Cabinet to join me in supporting all who would risk their lives to expose the ravages of socialism in Cuba.

We must lead in discussions with the U.N. and the EU and coordinate opposition to this violence being carried out against the people of Cuba.

We must demand that the Cuban Government allow for a free and open internet and initiate investigations into if and how Havana used technology supported by the Chinese Communist Party to cut off access to the internet just as the protests started gaining mainstream attention.

We cannot stand by while Communist thugs gun down their own people. We cannot let this become another Venezuela.

Just as we stand with the freedom fighters suffering in Hong Kong, on mainland China, and in other socialist regimes around the world, we must stand with the people of Cuba.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Madam President, while we are 6 months into a new era in American politics, the Biden administration is still treating government like a graduate seminar, and the American people are still wondering when their President is going to stop catering to the radical left and start doing his job.

As I was back home in Tennessee, I found out many Tennesseans are absolutely disgusted. They have decided that our Democratic colleagues are not serious about doing serious work. Their priorities and the President’s priorities have never been further apart.

They are looking at those line items the administration is checking off, and all they can see is what the administration refuses to acknowledge; that there are very real consequences to this out-of-control agenda.

When President Biden killed the Keystone XL Pipeline, Tennesseans did not cheer. All they saw on the horizon were higher gas prices and a vulnerable fuel supply chain.

Not 4 months after Biden signed the Executive order, the Colonial Pipeline hack showed us what can happen when something interrupts the supply chain. When President Biden opened the border, they had heard him to believe all the hype about this so-called solution to our immigration crisis, and their instincts were spot on. Now the chaos tearing apart communities in the American South is bleeding into communities in Tennessee.

For Democrats here in DC, all of those line items came with zero consequences. Instead of focusing on reality, they are making policy based on a perfect world scenario where consequences are simply collateral damage.

Of course, here in the real world, when you talk about collateral damage, you are really referring to the people who pay the price for all of these absurd policies.

You know, we read a lot in the news these days about what a struggle it is for the Senate to act to get their bills to the President’s desk.

No struggle over legislation or pay-fors will ever compare to what you are putting the average American through.

If we want to talk about pay-fors, let’s talk about how Americans are supposed to pay for gas to get to and from work. What happens when they just can’t afford it anymore?

Inflation is already taking a toll on the average family’s ability to pay for their weekly groceries. Supply chain problems have made concerns over paying for raw materials like lumber obsolescent. There is nothing to pay for.

The American people have lost so many simple things they were used to not easy but manageable. But now, when they ask Washington to shape up and give them a break, all they get in return is the assurance that struggle and loss is all part of the plan.

It is July, and we still haven’t seen a reasonable infrastructure proposal. No, instead, what we have is a truly insulting two-bill scheme that Senate Democrats concocted in lieu of a mandate for their radical environmental agenda.

What will the American people get from this scheme? Well, just a fraction of what could be the largest spending initiative in history will go toward the roads, bridges, and broadband connections that people actually need and are willing to pay for.

If Democrats want the more radical line items, they will have to force it through by abusing the reconciliation process. In a sane world, this wouldn’t even be a choice. They used to be not easy but manageable. But now, when they ask Washington to shape up and give them a break, all they get in return is the assurance that struggle and loss is all part of the plan.

Meanwhile, Senate Democrats have all but ignored their duty to keep the country secure. In May, Customs and Border Protection caught more than 180,000 people trying to cross our southern border. Drug seizures were up 18 percent across the Nation. As of the end of June this year, CBP has arrested more than 1 million migrants trying to come into this country. That is right. By the end of June, CBP has arrested more than 1 million migrants trying to come into the country.

This is a vulnerability, and I would ask my Democratic colleagues and President Biden why they are not more concerned about it.

I would also ask why you are not more concerned about the impending collapse in Afghanistan. The dominos are falling. Iran wasted no time stepping in to negotiate a deal between the Afghan Government and the Taliban.
Let's be clear what the Biden administration has done here. By turning their backs on 20 years of hard work and sacrifice in Afghanistan, they created a power vacuum in a strategically important region, knowing that the world's most belligerent state sponsor of terror doesn't do well in the power vacuum. It is time for President Biden to start listening to the people paying the price for his radical agenda. They feel like they are losing their country. They are talking to us about their fear of losing their way of life and their freedoms. They are out of time, and I will tell you what, they are about to be out of patience.

If you bothered to ask them what they want, they would tell you get the spending under control; keep this country and our allies safe; and stop distracting yourself with wish list projects that serve no one but the most radical elements of the Democratic Party. They are not willing to pay for that.

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 proceeds to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, ahead of the last work period, Senator SCHUMER, the majority leader, outlined his designed-to-fail agenda. He forecasted a series of votes on legislation that stood zero chance of actually passing—legislation to exploit the cause of pay fairness to line the pockets of trial lawyers, to erode Americans’ Second Amendment rights, to force schools and hospitals to comply with “woke” social norms, and, of course, the marque is a partisan takeover of our elections.

It was obvious from the outset that this agenda wasn’t designed to achieve results. It takes bipartisanship. It takes rolling up your sleeves and working to build bipartisan consensus to get things done in the Senate—especially so in an equally divided Senate as we have now.

Rather than put forward a number of bills that would earn that sort of bipartisan support and actually pass, Senator SCHUMER chose to spend most of the Senate’s time last month putting on a show for the so-called progressive base of his party, and I expect even more political theater this month.

So in the few weeks we have told, our Democratic colleagues will put their dual-track legislative approach to the test. One of those tracks will include a heavy dose of bipartisanship, and that is something I applaud.

Contrary to public opinion, Republicans in the Senate spend a lot of time working together. So far this year, we have worked together to counter threats from China, support small businesses impacted by the pandemic, and combat the increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans. We have done all of that together in a bipartisan way. Bipartisan solutions are also being crafted to address other major issues, from the border crisis, to drug pricing, to police reform.

In the coming weeks, the Senate is expected to vote on one of those bipartisan agreements; that is, to rebuild and maintain our Nation’s infrastructure. The President himself put the fate of that agreement into question. He said he wouldn’t sign the bill unless Democrats paired it with a multimillion-dollar reconciliation bill that would include a host of spending priorities and trillions in higher taxes and more debt for Americans. Talk about whiplash. Both Republicans and Democrats were caught off guard. That hadn’t been part of the discussions or negotiations. But I submit what they said they agreed to.

Well, the reversal and unexpected announcement from the President that, even though they were announcing a deal, they didn’t have a deal, prompted the President to issue a lengthy statement clarifying that it was not a veto threat. But we have no reason to suspect that the larger sentiment has changed.

In a letter to his Democratic colleagues last Friday, the majority leader, Senator SCHUMER, said the Senate will consider both the bipartisan deal on infrastructure and the partisan budget resolution with reconciliation instructions. The bipartisan deal is very similar to the outline of a completely partisan reconciliation bill, notwithstanding President Biden’s cleanup after his unexpected announcement at the White House.

Our Democratic colleagues don’t have to listen to me, but I do believe they would be wise to avoid this path. They already went on a nearly $2 trillion spending binge earlier this year and sidelined every single Republican in the Congress during the process.

They took bipartisan legislation as COVID–19 relief, but we all know that only around 10 percent of the bill was directly related to the pandemic and only 1 percent was tied to vaccinating the American people. The rest, 90 percent, was exactly the type of thing you would expect to see in a bill that has only the support of our Democratic colleagues—funding for climate justice, backdoor money for Planned Parenthood, and more funding for state and local governments than they know how to spend. But the public is using that money to pay down old debts with the funding. Our Democratic colleagues claim that money was necessary for pandemic relief, but that is not what it is being used for.

So how are we faring after Democrats passed this bill? Did the American Rescue Plan truly rescue America? Well, when it comes to the virus, the answer is clearly no. As I said, only a small portion of this massive spending binge supported our fight against COVID–19.

When this bill was signed into law, the majority of frontline workers had already been vaccinated, and vaccines were working as quickly as possible to supply the rest of the American people who wanted them with shots. Today, two-thirds of adults in America have received at least one dose of the vaccine—two-thirds. That progress came because of the bipartisan work that happened last year, not this year.

This legislation certainly didn’t rescue our already sluggish economy. In fact, it has created more hurdles for our economy. Democrats created an Inflation Reduction Act that would prop up workers to remain on the sidelines of the labor market through the end of September by offering enhanced Federal bonuses to State unemployment.

In Texas, for example, businesses of all sizes have struggled to find willing workers. For every industry, from hospitality, to retail, to manufacturing, to energy, “Help Wanted” signs can be found everywhere across my State, and we are not alone. One restaurant owner said the government has been its biggest competitor when it comes to finding workers.

The labor squeeze has become so tight that half of the States, including Texas, ended the supplemental unemployment benefits early because they were not compensating people who couldn’t work or couldn’t find work but paying people more than they would earn if they did work when jobs were readily available.

There are just too many problems that have been created with the labor market. Families across the country have felt the sting of inflation as they have paid higher prices on everything from gasoline to groceries. This is exactly the scenario outlined by economists across the country, including those who call themselves Democrats, people like Larry Summers, who served as Treasury Secretary under President Clinton and Director of the National Economic Council under President Obama. He was among the first to warn about inflation or rising costs for consumers, and, boy, you must have thought he was a skunk at the garden party.

You would think this might serve as a lesson to our Democratic colleagues about shoveling money out the door as fast as they can, even when it creates massive debt and the threat of more inflation, but here we are once again. Our Democratic colleagues are preparing to spend trillions more dollars on top of the trillions of dollars we have already spent on a bipartisan basis to combat the virus but then afterwards to spend...
more money on their chosen political priorities and not on the pandemic. They want to now add additional trillions of dollars to that debt and to that spending, risking even more dangerous and volatile inflation.

The details of what this round of spending might look like are still coming together, but we know that if the chairman of the Budget Committee, BERNIE SANDERS, has his wish, the price tag could come out as high as $6 trillion. The $4 trillion dollars is a quarter of our gross domestic product. If you convert our country’s World War II spending to today’s dollars, it only comes out to $4.4 trillion. So the Democratic chairman of the Budget Committee wants to spend more money than we spent to defeat Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan during World War II.

But I want to be clear about another thing. This so-called human infrastructure plan, which is just made-up words indicating that they are trying to mask the reality of what they want to spend money on—it is not about bridges and roads. It is not about broadband, things that we all understand are truly infrastructure. It is about a long list of political spending preferences, and it certainly can’t be compared to spending the money we needed in order to win World War II.

For example, they want to spend trillions and trillions of dollars more on Medicare for All. They say we need it, but they are happy to debate those but not to jam them in a $5 trillion spending package. All of this spending would be in addition to the more than $1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill that apparently is currently being drafted. I know we have been talking for weeks about a bipartisan infrastructure bill, but I have not heard them talk about it. I don’t think there is no bill text, but the Congressional Budget Office that scores these bills has not done so yet so we can determine whether the so-called pay-fors are, indeed, legitimate and stand up to scrutiny.

Our national debt is at the highest level since World War II. This is not the time to spend and spend and spend until our grandkids are left sitting in a pile of debt so deep that they will have no hope of getting out of it. We certainly can’t tax and spend our way to prosperity. We need to take a hard look at our spending habits and make some tough choices, like most American families. They have to decide: What are my priorities, and what are the means that I have available to spend to fund those priorities? And that is exactly what we need to do here in Congress.

Folks on both sides of the aisle want to rebuild our Nation’s infrastructure. Rebuilding resilient roads, bridges, and broadband are top of mind for Republicans and Democrats. I know our colleagues are still working on text, as I said, for the bipartisan infrastructure deal, and I am eager to see the details on how this massive investment is paid for. But, again, this is only one-half of the so-called dual-track process announced by Senator SCHUMER.

The exorbitant pricetags being floated for the second track have raised serious concerns not just among folks on this side of the aisle but on both sides of the aisle.

I sincerely hope that some of our colleagues on the other side will stand up against irresponsible spending. As we know, it takes just one Democratic Senator to stand in the way of this abuse of the reconciliation process, and I hope one or more of them will have the courage to do so.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

The remarks of Mr. LEAHY pertaining to the introduction of S. 2311 are printed in today’s Record under “Statements on Proposed Bills and Joint Resolutions.”

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators SCOTT of Florida, MENENDEZ, TUBERVILLE, and SCHUMER be allowed to complete their remarks prior to the vote. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, last week, when we were all back home, we all got to celebrate the Fourth of July. Cooking out, spending time with our family and friends, watching fireworks is always special. Sitting there with my family, I thought about how blessed we are to live in the United States of America. We get to live in the most free and prosperous country in the history of the world. We owe that freedom and prosperity to the people who declared their independence on July 4, 245 years ago. They fought and won their freedom for an idea called America. That American idea lives on two-and-a-half centuries later, thanks to the generations of men and women who, like many before them, put on the uniform to defend this great country. Many gave their lives, the ultimate sacrifice, to defend the United States. But many more are still with us, and future generations must continue to protect the freedoms and liberties this country affords us every day.

Today we have got almost 20 million veterans in the United States, and 400,000 of them call Alabama home. I have had the honor and pleasure to meet many Alabama veterans the past few years. I am always heartened to talk with them about their service to our great country, but what I hear over and over again is that there is more we can do for all of our veterans: better access to care, and better opportunities to reenter civilian life.

I am proud to cosponsor that legislation, and I will be working with Ranking Member MORAN to get this bill passed.

We also need to do more to address the scourge of veteran suicide. It is absolutely tragic that more than 18 veterans take their own life every day. I have partnered with groups like America’s Warrior Partnership, who are gathering data on veteran suicide across our country to determine how we can combat this terrible epidemic, leveraging both the VA and community resources.
At the same time, we must do more to make additional treatments available to veterans who haven’t had success treating their traumatic brain injuries or post-traumatic stress disorder. One step we can take is to pass my Hyperbaric Access Act. HBOT stands for hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

My bill would permit HBOT as a treatment option for those veterans who have tried other evidence-based treatment options for TBI or PTSD but have not seen substantial improvement from veterans and service organizations that point to HBOT as a treatment that has produced positive results for individuals suffering from severe head and brain injuries. Many former football players, including ones who played for me, found success with HBOT in treating their head injuries after suffering from concussions.

HBOT is already approved by the Food and Drug Administration as a treatment option for more than a dozen different conditions, including severe burns, infections, and decompression sickness. But the FDA does not recognize HBOT as an approved treatment option for TBI or PTSD, meaning veterans can’t receive care at the VA facilities or elsewhere and must pay for it out of their own pocket if they do use it. My bill would change that.

If veterans are saving they have improved after using HBOT and if veterans service organizations have seen similar success, I say we listen to them. We should not leave quality options on the table while the veteran suicide crisis worsens.

I want to thank my colleagues Senators Hoeven and Cramer as well as the American Legion and the Patriot Angels for supporting this important legislation. I hope my fellow colleagues will join me in passing this commonsense bill.

Finally, we need to improve resources for veterans to find jobs after their service in the military. Too many face unnecessary hurdles in rejoining civilian life. They have some of the best skills you can ask for. Yet sometimes our veterans, like so many others, can fall prey to addiction, homelessness, or just be flat out down on their luck.

Thankfully, we have got quality organizations that are doing good work helping veterans in need. One of these organizations is Three Hots and a Cot, based in Clay, AL. Three Hots is a small nonprofit organization founded by veterans for veterans. They get funding mostly through donations but also through a Veterans Affairs supportive housing grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Three Hots offers temporary assisted housing to 18 veterans at a time. They will drive the veterans to healthcare appointments at the VA, to grocery stores, to job interviews, and to church until they can get back on their feet.

And the job doesn’t stop once the veterans are settled in an apartment on their own. Three Hots will help with the transition by doing tasks like stocking their pantry, getting them furniture, and checking on them regularly.

In their 10 years of operation, Three Hots has helped more than 1,600 veterans and family members with an 83 percent success rate. This is the holistic type of approach to a tough issue that we need more of. They meet veterans where they are at in the community and help them find the resources available.

There are more great organizations across the country offering to help veterans in need, but oftentimes our veterans don’t know these resources are available. I will be working closely with my colleagues to better connect veterans with the resources that are out there so they can be equipped with the skills they need to succeed at home.

Folks, simply, without the brave men and women who wear the uniform, we wouldn’t have the freedoms we enjoy and sometimes take for granted every day. Our service men and women risked their lives by joining the military. The least we can do is to repay their service and sacrifice by taking care of them when they return home to the country they gave so much to defend. That is what I will be doing on the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee and throughout my time here in the Senate.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE SACRIFICES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, in that spirit, I want to call up my bipartisan Senate resolution honoring the "greatest generation." S. Res. 238.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 238.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 238) recognizing and honoring the sacrifices and accomplishments of the Greatest Generation. The resolution was agreed to. The preamble was agreed to. The motion was agreed to. The resolution (S. Res. 238) was printed in the Record of May 26, 2021, under "Submitted Resolutions."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 121.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 122.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2026. (Reappointment).

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 121, Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (Reappointment).


LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Seema Nanda, of Virginia, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of J. Nellie Liang, of Maryland, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.


LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 154.

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 171.

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

The motion was agreed to.

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of J. Nellie Liang, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Donald Michael Remy, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.


NOMINATION OF UZRA ZEYA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I rise today to express my support for the nomination of Uzra Zeya to be the next Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights.

Ms. Zeya is immensely qualified to lead U.S. efforts to recenter our most fundamental values in our foreign policy efforts and to strengthen the Bureau she will lead. Her experience and the more than 20 years as a Foreign Service officer, including as the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor in the State Department, make her the perfect fit for this position.

The previous administration abdicated our global responsibility, but we now have the opportunity to restore U.S. leadership in the fight for democracy, human rights, and rule of law around the world. It is an exciting prospect for us, but more importantly, it will give hope to those still fighting for their rights, the millions of people...
around the world who look to the United States for inspiration and support in their own democratic struggles.

We see that in places like Cuba today. Looking around the globe, we see China stripping away Hong Kong’s autonomy and democracy at an alarming pace. Military dictatorships are cementing their illegitimate rule in places like Burma and Mali, eroding and eliminating the institutions of democracy, while Russia and Belarus have imprisoned political opponents without accountability.

At the same time, an unprecedented 80 million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes, communities, and countries. We must look no farther than our own southern border to see the destruction, desperation, and displacement wrought by violence, climate change, and lack of economic opportunity.

All of these developments negatively impact American national security interests. Any victory of state and creed, our country need senior human rights leadership of the caliber of Ms. Zeya.

The fact that the nomination of Ms. Zeya, a confirmed and superbly qualified and whom leadership is so essential to rebuilding the State Department—has languished for 82 days is a travesty. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm her to the position of Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, and hope my Republican colleagues will stop blocking qualified and critical nominees to the Nation’s foreign policy and national security mission from moving forward.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

CUBA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I rise today to talk about the new day coming in Cuba and the brave Cubans marching for freedom across the island. For decades, the Cuban people have suffered atrocities, oppression, and misery at the hands of the communist Castro regime.

I have repeatedly told the story of Sirley Ávila León, a Cuban woman who was attacked by Cuban security forces in 2015. They cut off her hand and stuck her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected. Her crime? She complained her arm in the mud to make sure it got infected.

What we are seeing in Cuba should send a clear message to the world. Communism is a failed ideology that has brought ruin to their nation for more than 60 years. The message from the Cuban people to Diaz-Canel and Raul Castro has never been more clear: Your time is up. And the regime is terrified of the Cuban people. They are attacking peaceful protesters in an effort to silence them. Right now, José Daniel Ferrer, members of his family, and other leaders from his group are reportedly missing, likely kidnapped by the regime.

This disgusting assault on the people of Cuba cannot go unchecked. We cannot ignore this historic moment in the fight for freedom. We understand the value and importance of freedom in our everyday lives, and it is our duty to support and stand up for those who are oppressed by dictators and denied the right the live freely.

Today, I stand proudly with the heroic freedom fighters across Cuba who have taken to the streets, determined to regain their freedom and put an end to the Castro dictatorship.

Now, the Biden administration must lead the freedom-loving nations of the world in loud and unequivocal denunciation of the brutal communist Castro regime and in support of the liberty, democracy, and human rights the Cuban people call for and rightfully deserve.

We must be clear. For decades, Cuba has been the root of instability in Latin America and represented a terrible threat to the national security of the United States. The Castro regime harbors terrorist groups; has gotten rid of free and fair elections; threatens and arbitrarily arrests critics, journalists, and political activists; and props up other ruthless dictators, like Maduro in Venezuela and Ortega in Nicaragua.

Today, the American people must join freedom-loving Cubans in saying that the oppression ends now. We cannot lift sanctions or restore diplomatic relations with the Cuban dictatorship. We should not offer another lifeline to this brutal communist dictatorship.

I urge the Biden administration to impose further sanctions on the tyrannical Cuban regime. We cannot let up. There must be consequences for this heinous oppression and attacks on peaceful protesters.

To the people of Cuba: You are not alone. I stand with you in this fight. Florida stands with you in this fight.

The freedom of Cuba is closer than ever, and we are not going to stop until we see a new day of freedom, democracy, and “Patria y Vida” in Cuba.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate in Spanish.

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

(English translation of statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

To the people of Cuba: You are not alone. I stand with you in this fight. Florida stands with you in this fight. The United States of America stands with you in this fight.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).


The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 71, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Ex.]

YEAS—71

Baldwin
Benning
Bennet
Bennenthal
Blunt
Brown
Burr
Cassatt
Carter
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Cortez Masto
Cowan
Crapo
Duckworth
Durbin
Feinstein
Fischler
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hassan
Hassan
Hirono
Hyde-Smith
Kaine
Kelly
Klobuchar
Leahy
Leahy
Klobuchar
Lopez
Murphy
Markley
McDonnell
Menendez
Merkley
Moran
Murphy
Murray

YEAS—71
Because of Miss Elsie and her fellow mothers’ advocacy, the Court ordered the schools to integrate and paved the way for integration in other northern cities. Her activism showed us why ordinary students and ordinary citizens—what they can achieve when they join together to fight for justice.

It is a reminder of how far we have come, how much work we have to do to achieve justice and opportunity for all children in our country. Three years ago, Elsie Steward Young was inducted into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. That fall, we honored the Marching Mothers of Hillsboro and the children—of course, now adults—who marched. We honored them with our office’s Canary Award at our annual Ohio Women’s Conference.

Then-Senator Kamala Harris, now the Vice President, was supposed to speak. We were going to present Miss Elsie with the award. But I was already past 100 at that point. We both had to stay in Washington at the last minute because of Supreme Court votes.

So many Ohioans at that conference told me later that, frankly, I am not sure that the Vice President—the future Vice President—I were missed that much, not with Miss Elsie there. She not only filled the void, she provided so much energy with her forceful, inspiring words; and during that conference, throughout the conference, people lined up to get pictures with her. When the video played depicting the bravery and determination of the marchers and when Miss Elsie spoke accepting the award, of course, there was hardly a dry eye in the audience.

She talked about how she and other mothers only did what any mother would do for her children. So many Ohioans will miss Miss Elsie Steward Young. Our thoughts are with her surviving sons, and, get this, her 36 grandchildren.

We know her legacy lives on through the Redford Young Award that her family set up, the video played depicting the bravery and determination of the Marching Mothers of Hillsboro, and the children—of course, now adults—who marched. We honored them with our office’s Canary Award at our annual Ohio Women’s Conference.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. President, for the first time in decades, workers are beginning to gain some power in our economy.

Because of President Biden’s leadership, because of the American Rescue Plan, America’s economy is roaring back. We have had record job creation. We gained more than 3 million jobs since this President took office, more jobs created in the first 5 months of any Presidency in modern history.

It is not just the jobs numbers—those are important—but those, of course, don’t tell the full story. It is the quality of those jobs.

We are starting to see signs of increased bargaining power for American workers: power to negotiate higher pay, solid working conditions, better benefits, more control over their schedules, opportunities for career advancement, all the things that turn into good, stable, middle class jobs.

I want to see employers competing for workers. That is a good thing. It is how you get rising wages, which get spent in the community and then create growth for everyone, whether in Steel or Columbus.

For decades, corporations have had all the power in our economy. It is going to take a lot of work to undo those decades of bad trade and tax policy that gave corporations every single day the upper hand.

We are starting to see glimmers of progress. Wages are starting to go up. Wages have been rising all year. They are surging for workers who have been paid too little for decades, working tough jobs in restaurants and hotels and other service jobs.

Last week, the Washington Post declared “Welcome to the year of wage hikes.” They reported, in the past 3 months, rank-and-file employees have taken one of the largest wage growth sprees in 40 years. Think about that, the fastest wage growth since Ronald Reagan said it was morning in America. It is what should happen—what happens when you invest in people who make this country and this state work, not multinational corporations, not money that never really trickles down.

We invested in America’s greatest asset, our workers. Putting money directly in people’s pockets, putting kids back in school, putting workers back in jobs, that is starting to unleash the true potential of our economy.

We don’t stop here. On Friday, President Biden issued a sweeping Executive order to increase competition in the economy. It is one more way we start to tilt the job market toward workers. Capitalism without competition is just exploitation.

It is just common sense, when you have a tiny number of corporations, a shrinking number of corporations that get bigger and bigger, that control entire industries and huge portions of the economy, it drives up prices, and it drives down wages.

Research shows that industry consolidation decreases worker pay by as much as 17 percent. Companies force workers to sign noncompete agreements as a condition of getting a job, even in jobs like fast food and construction. They tack them into the fine print of job contracts, making it harder for workers to switch to better paying options.

Sometimes they are not even enforceable, but employers put them in there anyway because it scares workers away from taking another job. We are putting a stop to this. No company should be allowed to tell you you can’t take a job offering higher pay. President Biden is cracking down...
on corporate mergers. Towns all over Ohio have seen what happens when companies merge and create just one employer in a community. It often means plant or store closures. It means workers have no competitors in town to go to for higher wages. Even towns in Ohio and across the country watch companies come in, knowing they are the only game in town, and they offer workers a take-it-or-leave-it offer at rock-bottom wages that don't even pay the bills, but it is the only place to go.

Sometimes that is the whole point of the merger, to cut what corporations call labor costs, what the rest of us call jobs, paychecks, or livelihoods.

Now the President is making it clear that when we review mergers, we need to look at and take into account whether they will lead to lower wages for workers.

All actions come down to the same goal, increasing workers' power by cutting through the rackets that keep workers' wages down.

We build on this progress, these important steps, by passing the Protect the Right to Organize Act. To have a strong, growing middle class, we have to have strong unions. The Protecting the Right to Organize Act would start to level the playing field and finally give workers a fighting chance against corporate union-busting tactics.

We all saw what happened with Amazon a year ago. One of the most powerful corporations in the world, and they would not be raking in profits without the hard work and dedication of its hundreds of thousands of American workers. Yet it unleashed all of its billions and billions and billions of dollars’ worth of power to fight its own workers.

When workers try to organize in 21st century America, it is never a fair fight. This bill would strengthen the penalties against companies that violate workers’ right to organize and that retaliate against union organizers.

It would close loopholes that allow employers to misclassify their employees as supervisors and independent contractors, often stripping them of their overtime they have earned and avoiding paying their fair share and giving workers the benefits they deserve.

A union card is a ticket to middle-class life. We just need corporations to let workers take control over their career and their families.

In closing, last week, I was up in the far northwest corner of my State in Bryan, OH, visiting the Spangler Candy Company. It is a family-owned business more than a century old. They have had success for all these years by treating their workers and the Teamsters Union, which represents their workers, as partners. They have the same goal: to make a great product, to make the company successful. They work together.

We in this body, with the American Rescue Plan, saved their union pensions in that plan. Now the company is expanding production and hiring 40 more union workers. That is what we can achieve when we invest in the people and places that make this country work.

When you love this country, you fight for the people you want to make it work. That is what President Biden is doing. It is what all of us must continue to do to respect the dignity of work, so all work pays off and workers finally have real power in this economy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, the world and the country yesterday watched these images out of Cuba. It is really unprecedented. In 62 years of communist tyranny on the island of Cuba, we have never seen and there has never been what now is up to 40 cities in which people took to the streets—organically, unorganized, grassroots—to go after the regime. They asked for the end of that tyranny. And I think it is important for a lot of people that are new to the issue to sort of understand what that means and what it is all about.

I think the first lesson we need to take away from it is that Marxism, socialism doesn’t work. The way socialism, the way Marxism has always worked—the way it has always empowered itself—is it goes to a people and it immediately divides them. It says: There is the suppressor class, and then there is this victim class. And these evil oppressors—capitalists, in the case of socialism or traditional Marxism—they come down hard on the people that are new to the issue to sort of understand what that means and what it is all about.

And what you wind up with is a country of people that hate each other, and that hate is anger. A significant portion of the people in the country have to leave, have to flee, go to jail, because they are the oppressor class. Their lives are destroyed. Their family lives are destroyed.

But the socialism can’t deliver the security. And when it can’t deliver the security, you don’t get your freedom back. And, in fact, when you start to complain about that, that is when the repression comes.

Well, that is what happened in Cuba. Socialism and Marxism has done to Cuba what it has done everywhere in the world that it has been tried. It has failed. It is destroyed. They ask for security in exchange for freedom. That is always the price that socialism asks for—security. And what you wind up with is a country of people that hate each other, and that hate is anger. A significant portion of the people in the country have to leave, have to flee, go to jail, because they are the oppressor class. Their lives are destroyed. Their family lives are destroyed.

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Well, that is what happened in Cuba. Socialism and Marxism has done to Cuba what it has done everywhere in the world that it has been tried. It has failed. It is destroyed. They ask for security in exchange for freedom. Or they were told: Give up your freedom in exchange for a world-class healthcare system.

It is not a world-class healthcare system. In fact, it is a healthcare system that does not even have the ability to deal with COVID at its very basic level. They said: Give up your freedom for economic security.

What economic security? People are hungry, homes are crumbling, and there is no economy. There is no real economy in Cuba.

Give up your freedom and you will have an education—free education for everybody.

That education—No. 1, you are a doctor, but you can drive a taxicab in Cuba and make more money. Or, No. 2, you get sent, forced to go, overseas and work basically on slave wages, no pay—barely any pay, all illegal human trafficking, as our own Department of State found when it looked at the Cuban doctors’ program and how it has been abused.

So what has happened in Cuba is that socialism has failed. It has to repress people who complain about it. You don’t get your freedom back.

And like socialists always do, they have to find someone to blame. And whom do they blame? No. 1, they blame the U.S. embargo that hasn’t existed for 53 years. They don’t agree with them. You are immediately a counterrevolutionary. You are immediately a pawn of the imperialists. And, then, of course, they always blame the United States.

The problem in Cuba for the regime is: That the people aren’t falling for those lies anymore. They are not. The embargo, that is the first thing they blame: It is the embargo. The embargo is causing all of this.

Why aren’t fishermen and farmers in Cuba allowed to fish or grow things and sell it to people? It is not the embargo that keeps them from doing that. It is the regime.

Why can’t Cubans own a small business? Why can’t a Cuban do in Cuba what they can do in Miami, what they can do in Washington, and what they do in countries all over the world, and they can’t do it in Cuba? They can’t open a small business. That is not the embargo that keeps them from doing it. The embargo allows us to trade and to do commerce with small businesses that are independently owned by Cubans. Do you know why Cubans can’t own small businesses? It is not the embargo. It is not the United States. It is the regime that doesn’t allow it.

People have seen these lies. How can they afford to build luxury, four-star, world-class hotels for tourists, but they cannot afford to deal with the crumbling homes that Cubans are living in with roofs falling in over their heads and with water leaking into operating rooms at hospitals?

Look at what they do with the money. Oh, it is because you don’t allow more money to be sent. When an American or a Cuban American sends money to their family members in Cuba—in the past, through Western Union—the regime takes 10 percent off the top, and then they take those dollars you sent and they force the Cubans to convert it into worthless Cuban currency. And, then, guess what: If you want to buy anything, you have to buy it from a government store, and guess what the
By the way, no one in Cuba has guns, except the military. So why are these repressive forces walking around with these rifles and people are getting shot? They are shooting people that literally are unarmed.

They should be able to do that, and it should be clear. We should be clear in our language. We don’t just condemn this tyranny. We condemn this communist, this Marxist, this socialist tyranny. Call it for what it is.

No. 2. And I think it is clear that nothing is going to change. There is not going to be any sanctions changed as a result of this. On the contrary, I hope the Biden administration will now announce that they have finished their review of Cuba policy, and everything that is in place is staying in place.

To the extent we change policy, No. 3, I hope we make it a top priority to allow the people of Cuba to have free, unfettered, and open internet access. And the technology exists to do that. We should put the best minds to work on getting that done because if the Cuban people have free and unfettered access to the internet—the first thing the regime shut down yesterday was the internet. And they share information with each other, and they can receive information and communicate with the world. Ninety miles from our shore, you should be allowed to do that.

No. 4, for all of those who believe and have faith in the international community—and I still hold hope that one day it will work again—where is Spain? Where is the EU? Where are all these countries that for years have given cover and protection to the Cuban regime and condemned America? They should speak out clearly that what is happening there is wrong and that repression is wrong. We should rally that. We should use our position of strength and power in the world and our influence in diplomatic circles to make that happen.

And, No. 5, I hope the President will be very clear with the regime in Cuba that we will not tolerate them encouraging a mass migration event—because I am warning you, this is what they do. They have done it twice already. They step back and they say: Look, if you don’t lift sanctions, if you don’t go back to the Obama-era policies, and if you don’t get rid of the embargo, it is inevitable that you are going to have 50,000 people. The ocean and head toward the United States.

They have used that against us twice. They did it in 1994, and they did it in 1980 with the Mariel boat lift. President Biden needs to be clear, whether it is through private channels or saying it publicly—he abundantly clear that we will treat the encouragement of mass migration toward the United States as a hostile action and act accordingly. That cannot—cannot—go on.

I want to close with this. I recognize that most of the Members of this Chamber, most of the people here in Washington, and, frankly, most of the people in the country do not pay attention to Cuba on a daily basis. I get it. I really do. But if you are not following the issue of Cuba, you can be forgiven for not knowing that what we are seeing, what we saw yesterday, what we are seeing today, and recently—none of this—was started by politicians. It wasn’t started by me. It wasn’t started by anybody in Miami or in Florida. It wasn’t started by any think tank in Washington. It wasn’t even started by political activists inside of Cuba.

Do you know who started what is happening in Cuba? Artists, poets, songwriters, writers, actors, musicians. They are the ones who started it—the San Isidro Movement—because they came after them.

And there is a song. A lot of people don’t realize it. There was a song that came out earlier this year—a song that, by the way, if you play in Cuba, you go to jail. The song’s name is “Patria y Vida.” Now, the slogan of the Cuban regime is “Patria o Muerte,” meaning “Fatherland or Death.” This song played on that, and it says, “Patria y Vida,” which means “Fatherland and Life.” Instead of “Fatherland or Death.” And the song is extraordinarily powerful because it was written by people and sung by people who have lived this reality and are living this reality. It so powerful. As I said, you will go to jail in Cuba if you play it.

What the song basically says in its lyrics is: Why can’t people think in different ways and not be treated as enemies? Why is life so good for party insiders and their families but there is no food for average Cubans? There seems to be no embargo for the Cuban regime and their family members. Why can you build luxury hotels while our homes are crumbling? Why do Cubans have to suffer the indignities—the indignities—the simple things like not being able to bathe with soap, not having toothpaste—why do they have to deal with these indignities? And who—the song also asks—who told the regime that Cuba belongs to them and only them? Shouldn’t it belong to all 13 million Cubans?

The chorus I will read first in English, and then I will translate it in Spanish, because it actually plays on “dominoes.” Dominoes is a very popular game played by Cubans. It is played by everybody, but Cubans, in particular. It is a big game there.

The chorus reads:

(English translation of statement made in Spanish is as follows):

And how it translates is that it basically says:

It’s over. Your 59—

Meaning 1959, the year that Castro took over—

But I have double twos.

And everyone knows that in the dominoes game, if, at the end of a chain,
both dominoes, no one has any dominoes to put down, the game gets locked, and you count numbers and count dots to see who won.

So it says:
It’s over. Your 59, but I have double twos. It’s over. Sixty years with a domino game locked up for you.

Now, I know this is a very colloquial Cuban way of expressing it, but this is incredibly powerful. The people in Cuba understood what that means, and that was new for all this ideology, all this stuff they talk about, and all these lies of the regime that worked out really well for them, people don’t believe it anymore, and they are not afraid anymore. Meanwhile, their lives are ruined. Young people in Cuba, artists in Cuba who realize that the only country on this planet were Cubans are not successful is Cuba, and they are tired of it, and we should stand with them.

I yield the floor.

Mr. PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1520

Ms. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise today to once again call for every Senator to have an opportunity to vote on a generational bill to fix how the military deals with sexual assault and other serious crimes.

It is the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act. This bill will ensure that men and women who serve in our military have the opportunity for a basic justice, basic civil liberties, and basic protection under the law.

I want to start by recognizing the monumental advance toward military justice reform made during our Senate work week. The Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military released their recommendations, which included removing the prosecution of sexual assault and related crimes from the chain of command. This is a historic sign of progress after decades of obstruction.

The Secretary of Defense has agreed with the Commission’s findings that the removal of sexual assault prosecutions from the chain of command and the professionalization of the military justice system would benefit survivors and in no way diminish good order and discipline. It is also a historic sign of progress that President Biden has endorsed all of these recommendations.

After generations of pushing for these types of reforms, this change is incredibly powerful and important. The military justice system is not capable of addressing the epidemic of sexual assault among our ranks and that it is not providing justice for our servicemembers. As President Biden said, “This is the beginning, not the end of our work.” While I welcome the IRC’s recommendations, I am deeply heartened to see that Secretary Austin and President Biden both endorse the recommendations and will happily work with us to make them a reality. We also have to recognize that the IRC was provided a very limited task—to review only sexual assault and harassment in the military. Now, other crimes were also under their supervision. Unfortunately, they were also not asked to look at other serious crimes that are related, such as murder.

We as a Congress have been tasked with the responsibility to ensure that the military writ large works for every servicemember. The recent scandals at Fort Hood, the murder of Vanessa Guillen, and the deep racial disparities in prosecutions have made it plain that the need for reform in the military justice system goes far beyond sexual assaults. Vanessa Guillen was murdered, and she was harassed. Serious crimes such as murder deserve the consideration of military lawyers who are trained with expertise, not commanders.

For those who worry about the impact that this reform would have on command authority, I would point to the head of the IRC, the chairwoman, Lynn Rosenthal, who said:

The IRC rejects the notion that, by removing legal decisions about prosecution from the command structure, that commanders have no role. It’s simply not the case. Commanders are responsible for the climates they create. They’re responsible for working to prevent sexual assault and sexual harassment, and they’re responsible for making sure that victims are not victimized when they come forward to report. So, the idea that they won’t have an interest in solving this problem if they are not making [technical, legal, decision] judgments, I think, is simply false.

The same logic extends to all serious crimes. Commanders will still be responsible for setting the culture that prevents them, for protecting victims, and for maintaining an interest in solving these problems even if they are not making the technical decisions about whether or not a case should go to trial. And in a great number of these cases that do not go forward to trial, they come back to the commander for the commander to use his discretion—nonjudicial punishment, summary court-martial, or special court-martial—the many tools he still has.

We must guarantee that we have a professional, unbiased system for all servicemembers. It is our constitutional duty to provide oversight and accountability over the Department of Defense. We are the authors of the military justice code. We are the ones who put it in place. It is Congress’s duty to update it and to make sure it works. We can do that by taking this momentum and building upon it and passing the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act this year. We have the votes to pass it in committee, we have the votes to pass it on the floor. They that have been fighting for and talking about and having hearings on for 8 years.

I began calling for a full vote on the floor on this bill on May 24. Since then, an estimated 2,744 servicemembers will have been raped or sexually assaulted. More will have been victims of other serious crimes. All of them deserve justice, and it is our responsibility to provide it.

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 Armed Services Committee 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 PRESIDENT. Mr. President, I object to the Senator’s request for the reasons that I have previously stated.

As the Senator from New York acknowledged, on July 2, President Biden announced that he “strongly supports” the recommendations put forth by Secretary Austin based on the work of the Independent Review Commission that would reform how the military prosecutes sexual assault-related crimes.

In keeping with the President’s statement, the administration forwarded to the committee their legislative proposals to implement this reform.

I support and commend the President, the Secretary, and the IRC leadership and staff for the work they have done and I look forward to working with them and the administration and my colleagues, particularly my colleagues on the Armed Services Committee, to enact this historic and momentous change to the Department of Defense.

Sexual assault is an unconscionable crime and a pervasive problem in the military and in American society. While the military has taken steps to stop sexual assault in the ranks, it simply hasn’t been enough.

The IRC rejects the position that this reform would have on command authority, I would point to the head of the IRC, the chairwoman, Lynn Rosenthal, who said:

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victim is subject not just simply to sexual assault but to other crimes in that incident, all those crimes are to be tried together. So the need to import crimes like murder and arson and other nonsexual related crimes is, in my view, not going to accomplish the goals that Senator Gillibrand has been focused on, particularly over the last 6 months or so.

I intend to include the administration’s proposals in next week’s markup at the annual Defense bill, subject to amendment that I think is important to know—subject to amendment, that the UC as proposed would not allow amendments. It would not allow colleagues on the floor to come up and say: I have a better idea. We will do it in the committee, as we have always done it in the committee or at least tried to do it in the committee.

I look forward to working with Senator Gillibrand and my other colleagues in the committee as we consider and vote on this and other proposals, but I still must reiterate my objection to the unanimous consent request.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the 10th anniversary of South Sudan’s independence. July 9 is a bittersweet day for the resilient people of South Sudan. For decades, South Sudanese fought a brutal war with the government in Khartoum in which 2 million people lost their lives. After decades of bloody struggle, in 2005, the warring parties signed the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, CPA, which provided for self-determination for the South and paved the way for South Sudan’s independence in 2011, with the diplomatic support of the United States and others in the international community.

Yet the promise of South Sudan’s independence has turned into tragedy. Deep fault lines that emerged during the country’s long struggle for independence, accentuated by rivalry and conflict, including the country’s corrupt political elite, brought about catastrophic violence. A little over 2 years after independence, 400,000 people were killed and more than 4 million were displaced during the 5-year civil war between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and his rival Riek Machar. Unspeakable atrocities were committed against civilians during the conflict, including women and children. In 2017, the war induced a famine that brought hundreds of thousands more to the brink of disaster.

The United States and its international partners have invested heavily in diplomatic efforts to support and end to the conflict in South Sudan. Despite failed cease-fire agreements and the intransigence of the warring parties, in 2018 regional leaders working through the InterGovernmental Authority on Development, IGAD, were finally able to obtain agreement on what is need a reboot. The lack of progress on implementation of the R-ARCSS has created significant concern about elections now slated for 2022—if they are even held. And if they are held, without prior implementation of core components of the agreement and other key actions, the polls could be a flash point for conflict and violence.

In order to prevent this outcome, South Sudanese leadership, the United States, and international partners must take urgent action.

Political leadership in Juba must immediately organize a process for robust and inclusive negotiations over a new constitution in a process that involves all South Sudanese stakeholders, including civil society and holdout rebel groups. The United States, and local administration, and genuine power-sharing at the national level are necessary ingredients to address the win-

ner-take-all calculus that has served as the invisible hand of rival national political elites. Kiir’s security apparatus continues to violate the human, civil, and political rights of the South Sudanese people. Overruling all of these problems is an urgent humanitarian crisis—driven by conflict-induced food insecurity, displacement, and COVID–19—made all the more pressing by longstanding efforts by the Government of South Sudan to undercut humanitarian access.

It is clear that South Sudan’s stalled peace process needs a reboot. The lack of progress on implementation of the R-ARCSS has created significant concern about elections now slated for 2022—if they are even held. And if they are held, without prior implementation of core components of the agreement and other key actions, the polls could be a flash point for conflict and violence.

In order to prevent this outcome, South Sudanese leadership, the United States, and international partners must take urgent action.
on South Sudan issues. This must change. Capitols in Africa, working through the African Union, AU, and IGAD, must ensure that peace in South Sudan is at the top of the agenda for policymakers. Working with the Europeans and other partners, the United States has supported the AU and IGAD in their efforts to habilitate South Sudan’s broken peace process.

The United States also has a prominent role to play in helping the AU to fulfill its responsibilities. The United States has been a leading donor to South Sudan, including major contributions from U.S. civil society. U.S. diplomacy has long supported the United States and other donors, and the AU has failed to fulfill its responsibilities, and the Hybrid Court remains in limbo. Justice delayed is justice denied. With our allies in tow, the Biden administration must make clear to relevant stakeholders at the AU and in Juba that further delay on the issue of transitional justice is unacceptable. If these parties do not act, the Biden administration will have to consider alternative justice and accountability mechanisms.

Mr. President, I congratulate the people of South Sudan on this milestone. Their independence was hard won. Their leaders had treated them better. At this critical moment, the United States must stand with all South Sudanese in their pursuit of justice, democracy, and equitable development.

TRIBUTE TO TODD CROUCH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service of Todd Crouch. Todd served in my office and the U.S. Senate on June 30, 2021.

Todd has spent nearly 22 years as a valued member of my staff. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Todd started as an assembly staff in 1997 as an intern. By a stroke of luck on both of our parts, Todd was assigned to my office to complete his coursework. He would later tell me that he didn’t know much about me and my work in the assembly but was impressed with my hard work, my good humor, and a good listener. I quickly learned that I could say the same about Todd.

After my election to the U.S. House of Representatives in late 1998, Todd joined my office as a field representative. Todd worked directly to serve constituents in our Madison area district, visiting organizations and businesses and serving as my representative at countless community events. He ran a mobile office throughout the district and staffed me at those events. Some listening sessions presented special and occasionally dramatic challenges. Todd nimbly navigated us through the occasional unexpected attendee with creativity and good humor.

In 2001, Todd transitioned to a role as our district office manager and district scheduler. This dual role highlighted some of Todd’s greatest skills. An organizer, he handled sticky situations with great care, including delayed flights, last minute cancellations, and many competing demands on limited time. He ran our district offices with a close attention to detail, ensuring their smooth operation. He provided our State staff with a steady hand to turn to when trouble arose.

Todd remained in this dual role until my election to the U.S. Senate in 2012. I was fortunate to have Todd continue on my U.S. Senate staff. Initially serving as my Madison office director, which had expanded far beyond the size of our district office, Todd’s role eventually grew to encompass all of our State operations. He managed our offices in Madison, Milwaukee, La Crosse, Eau Claire, and Green Bay, as well as our mobile office, affectionately known to us as The Beast. Todd also added several additional support roles, including two short stints as a pinch-hitter State scheduler, as well as coordinating our Grants and Special Projects portfolio.

Outside of the office, Todd is a devoted husband and father. He and his husband James Bond are the proud parents of their energetic young sons, Derrion and S.J. Todd and James are also longtime committed foster parents who have an open door to a welcoming and loving home.

I am fortunate to have had Todd as a valued member of my staff for these past many years, and I know that my staff, both past and present, feel the same. He has a sneaky and delightful sense of humor, which relieves a tense or difficult situation. He is diligent in his approach to his work and to public service and leads by example. Along with my entire U.S. Senate staff, I wish him all the best as he begins a new chapter with his well-deserved retirement.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GLC MINERALS

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of GLC Minerals, a fifth-generation, family owned company that has contributed to the growth and success of the city of Green Bay and Northeast Wisconsin since 1871.

Wisconsin’s indigenous Tribes lived in this area for thousands of years and recognized the strategic importance of the bay of Green Bay. The confluence of river and lake contributed to the success of their thriving communities. In 1634 the first European explorer, Jean Nicolet, arrived on the shores of Green Bay, and told the Huron of this city on our country’s western frontier was launched. As the community of what is now greater Green Bay grew, eager, hard-working settlers with an entrepreneurial spirit arrived to build an economy rooted in iron smelting, timber, and cheesemaking. Fred Hurbult, Sr., was one of these industrious settlers and in 1871 established the Hurbult Calcium and Chemical Company. These generations that followed honored the vision of Fred Hurbult, Sr., and as the economy grew and changed, so did the company. In 1940, the company moved to the shores of the Fox River. In 2015, the business received its first name change to GLC Minerals. And today, as we celebrate the 150th anniversary, GLC Minerals remains an anchor of our Green Bay community as a successful manufacturer of calcium and magnesium carbonate products. These products are used in animal feed, mineral fillers, pollution filters, and soil conditioners.

Mr. President, in Wisconsin, we make things. We are known for our brats and...
cheese and paper, but our economy is so much more diverse. GLC Minerals represents that diversified economic base that has propelled our State forward as a great place to work, live, and raise a family. As a custom manufacturer of minerals and applications, GLC Minerals contributes to our consumer goods: poultry, glass, paper, construction, and agricultural sector. I applaud fifth-generation family member Wesley Hurlbut Garner, II, for his wise stewardship of this vital Wisconsin business and wish GLC Minerals continued success.

Edwin was hired by the Immigration Services—was hiring a Criminal Investigator/Special Agent. Edwin was hired in the Los Angeles Times United States in July of 1986. The same store, and one of his duties was to investigate shoplifters. Two years later, he became Immigration Services Officer tasked with arresting violators of the law. In November 1987, he saw an advertisement in the Los Angeles Times for a job in L.A. was difficult and frustrating for him as the spouse of a U.S. citizen. Edwin is no stranger to the legal immigration process. In January of 1981, he married a young beautiful woman from the Philippines, as a new immigrant with no work experience in the United States in addition to his marriage and her approved immigration petition, the U.S. Embassy in Manila, Philippines, issued an immigrant visa for him to become a citizen of a U.S. citizen.

In September 1982, he and his wife, along with their then-10-month-old son, arrived in Los Angeles, CA. Finding a job in L.A. was difficult and frustrating as a new immigrant with no work experience in the United States in addition to not having a vehicle.

In November 1982, an experience he credits to the grace of God and answered prayer, he was hired by the Broadway Department Store, sister company of Neiman-Marcus, as a merchandise handler. His job was to unload merchandise from the semi-trucks to the stockrooms. A year later, he was promoted to a plainclothes loss prevention officer tasked with arresting shoplifters. Two years later, he became the loss prevention manager of the same store, and one of his duties was to apprehend dishonest store employees. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States in July of 1986.

In November 1987, he saw an advertisement in the Los Angeles Times that the legacy INS—now the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services—was hiring a Criminal Investigator/Special Agent. Edwin was hired and became an INS Special Agent, attended the Immigration Officer Basic Training Course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, GA, and was assigned to various units—Fraud, Employer Sanctions, Anti-Smuggling, Criminal Alien Apprehension, and the Violent Gang Task Force—within the INS Investigation Branch.

Nine years later, he transferred to the INS Investigation Branch in Charleston, WV, eventually named Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE. During his time as an ICE Senior Special Agent, he was assigned to investigate child pornography cases, import and export law violations, and human trafficking/smuggling cases.

After more than 20 years of combined and exemplary service with legacy INS and ICE, Edwin retired on September 29, 2008. Three days later, he was hired on a government contract as a Special Deputy U.S. Marshal with the U.S. Marshals Service Charleston, WV. On January 30, 2012, he became an Immigration Services Officer for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Application Support Center office in Charleston, WV. Edwin and his wife of 40 years, Christine, are the parents of two children, Adrian and Jeremy. In retirement, they will enjoy time with family, riding their road bikes, traveling and walking the trails along the Kanawha River. Edwin truly believes that wherever God leads him and however he serves Him, he can be used by God to help others shine His light. We thank Edwin for his service and for shining his light for those on the immigration path. It is a pleasure to call Edwin DeQuiros a fellow West Virginian.

TRIBUTE TO MAURICE MAILHOT

• Ms. HASSAN, Mr. President, I am proud to recognize Maurice Mailhot of Berlin as June’s Granite Stater of the Month. Maurice, a veteran who served in the Korean war and received two Purple Hearts during his service, worked diligently to help redesign Veteran’s Memorial Park in Berlin. Starting with the memorial for the Spanish American War, Maurice worked through northern New Hampshire’s grueling winter and into the spring to place the stones in the correct order in chronological order in the park, creating a tribute worthy of New Hampshire’s veterans.

The story of how Maurice came to redesign the park is a testament to his service to his community and his indomitable spirit. A lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, Maurice was asked by his fellow VFW members to lead and coordinate efforts to redesign Veteran’s Memorial Park in downtown Berlin. As one of the oldest members of the group, Maurice could have said no and enjoyed his well-deserved retirement, but instead, he not only organized the redesign but almost singlehandedly completed the construction himself.

Maurice, working mostly alone, dug holes around each memorial so that it could be lifted by machinery to a more optimal spot in the park. Maurice also designed and built a new signpost for the memorial park, replacing an older, wooden sign that failed to reflect the reverence that each of the war memorials is intended to convey. The new sign, made of solid, local granite, was donated by Maurice to honor Berlin’s veteran community.

Maurice embodies what it means to be a Granite Stater. Long after his brave service to our country, Maurice continues to serve his community and has gone to extraordinary lengths to honor his fellow veterans. I am grateful not only for Maurice’s service but also for his dedication to his community, and I am honored to recognize him.

REMEMBERING MARCIA PINDER

• Mr. RUBIO, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the following article printed in the RECORD. The material follows:

[From the Daily Coach, June 30, 2021]

REMEMBERING A FLORIDA SIDELINE LEGEND

Some major names have stalked the sidelines of South Florida’s high school basketball gyms over the years, including Frank Martin, Anthony Grant and Shakey Rodriguez. But few have done it with the sustained success of Dillard Women’s Coach Marcia Pinder.

She served 44 seasons on the bench, winning 996 career games while guiding the Lady Panthers to 10 state titles, according to the Miami Herald.

She was inducted into the National High School Athletic Association Coaches Hall of Fame in 2014. Few high school coaches have won as many games as Pinder, but based on the number of positive tributes that flooded social media following her death, it would seem safe to say that not many have touched as many lives.

“She was more than just a Coach!” Auburn Women’s Coach Johnnie Harris tweeted.

“She was a mentor, an advocate, a second mom to many of her players,” Florida Rep. Omari Hardy wrote on Facebook. “She taught generations of young women how to excel on and off the court.”

She was inducted into the National High School Athletic Association Coaches Hall of Fame in 2014.

Pinder died last week. She was 70. Beyond any of her in-game schemes or pre-game speeches, Pinder was a trusted confidant to hundreds of teenaged girls over the better part of five decades.

“She was a mentor, an advocate, a second mom to many of her players,” Florida Rep. Omari Hardy wrote on Facebook. “She taught generations of young women how to excel on and off the court.”

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“She was more than just a Coach!” Auburn Women’s Coach Johnnie Harris tweeted.
“My biggest thrill,” Pinder told the Herald in 2014, “comes from the girls getting into college and pursuing their degrees. When you constantly see these girls get to college, it makes you feel good. You don’t think about that last loss or last win. Some of them have turned out to be teachers and doctors. That is my Hall of Fame, right there.”

May Coach Marcia Pinder rest in peace.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON JUNE 24, 2021

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 14. A bill to identify and combat corruption in countries, to establish a tiered system of countries with respect to levels of corruption engaged in by their governments and their efforts to combat such corruption, and to evaluate foreign persons engaged in grand corruption for inclusion as specially designated nationals under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

S. 65. A bill to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Res. 67. A resolution calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed, a United States citizen who was unjustly found guilty and sentenced to 9 years in a Russian prison.

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, with an amendment:

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

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1041. A bill to advance the strategic alignment of United States diplomatic tools toward the realization of free, fair, and transparent elections in El Salvador and to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the people of Nicaragua, and for other purposes.

S. 1086. A bill to encourage the normalization of relations with Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 2000. A bill to promote the United States-Greece defense partnership, and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS ON JUNE 26, 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION 291—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SOONERS SOFTBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2021 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WOMEN’S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. Res. 291

Whereas, on June 10, 2021, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team (referred to in this preamble as the “Sooners”) won the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women’s College World Series;

Whereas, the second game in the championship series was viewed by more than 2,600,000 people on television, setting a new record for the Women’s College World Series; and

Whereas the Sooners bring pride to the State of Oklahoma and the entire softball community; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Oklahoma Sooners softball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Women’s College World Series;

(2) racking up more than 1,300 wins in her coaching career at the University of Oklahoma;

Whereas the University of Oklahoma softball program and their role in guiding and mentoring young women at the University of Oklahoma, including Patty Gasso, Jennifer Rocha, JT Gasso, Erin Arevalo, Kelsey Arnold, and Sydney Romero;

Whereas head coach Patty Gasso has become a distinguished coach and leader in the softball community, which is evidenced by her—

(1) leading the Sooners to each of the 5 national championships in the history of the University of Oklahoma softball program; and

(2) having never lost consecutive games all season, home runs, and runs scored on their way to a fifth national championship;

Whereas the Sooners coaches should be applauded for their outstanding contributions to the University of Oklahoma softball program and their role in guiding and mentoring young women at the University of Oklahoma, including Patty Gasso, Jennifer Rocha, JT Gasso, Erin Arevalo, Kelsey Arnold, and Sydney Romero;

(1) leading the Sooners to each of the 5 national championships in the history of the University of Oklahoma softball program; and

(2) having never lost consecutive games all season, home runs, and runs scored on their way to a fifth national championship;

Whereas, during the 2021 season, the Sooners set records for team batting average, team slugging percentage, games won, home runs, and runs scored on their way to a fifth national championship;

Whereas Giselle “G” Juarez was named Most Outstanding Player of the Women’s College World Series, throwing 218 pitches and 2 complete games to sweep the Florida State Seminoles in the final 2 games of the championship series;

Whereas Jocelyn Alo was named the USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year and the Jim Thorpe Oklahoma Athlete of the Year, hitting 34 home runs and maintaining a 6.757 batting average during the 2021 season;

Whereas the Sooners should be applauded for their outstanding contributions to the University of Oklahoma softball program and their role in guiding and mentoring young women at the University of Oklahoma, including Patty Gasso, Jennifer Rocha, JT Gasso, Erin Arevalo, Kelsey Arnold, and Sydney Romero;

(1) leading the Sooners to each of the 5 national championships in the history of the University of Oklahoma softball program; and

(2) having never lost consecutive games all season, home runs, and runs scored on their way to a fifth national championship;
MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 28, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 409. An act to provide for the availability of amounts for customer education initiatives and non-awards sanctions of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Whistleblower Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1340. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial districts of North Carolina.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the enrolled bills were signed on June 28, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tem (Mr. Kaine).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 28, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House had passed the following joint resolutions, without amendment:


S.J. Res. 14. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Comptroller of the Currency relating to “National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders”.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, of which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 239. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 391. An act to authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to strengthen global health security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 339. An act to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1443. An act to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses.

H.R. 1500. An act to direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit to Congress a report on the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on United States Agency for International Development basic education programs.

H.R. 2225. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2391. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 for the National Science Foundation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2226. An act to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3281. An act to amend title I, division T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116–260), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Minority Leader appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum Council: Mrs. Jackie Walorski of Elkhart, Indiana.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 104(c)(2)(C)–(D) of title I, division T of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116–260), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Mr. and Mrs. Kucinich, Co-Chair; Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Cleaver of Missouri, Mr. Veasey of Texas, Mr. Gallego of Arizona, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, Mr. Aderholt of Alabama, Mr. Hudson of North Carolina, and Mr. Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 535(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346d(e)), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund Advisory Board: Mr. Robert Wexler of Potomac, Maryland.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 239. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

H.R. 391. An act to authorize a comprehensive, strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to strengthen global health security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 567. An act to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1443. An act to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQ-owned businesses; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1500. An act to direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit to Congress a report on the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on United States Agency for International Development basic education programs; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 3684. An act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

S. 3558. An act to provide guidance for and investment in the research and development activities of the Department of Energy Office of Science, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on June 28, 2021, she had presented
to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:
S. 409. An act to provide for the availability of amounts for customer education initiatives and non-awards expenses of the Community Futures Trading Commission Whistleblower Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1349. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial districts of North Carolina.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on June 30, 2021, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolutions:


S.J. Res. 14. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review”.

S.J. Res. 15. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Comptroller of Currency relating to “National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders”.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator Ron Wyden, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Melanie Anne Egorn, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Sarah C. Arbes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 688. A bill to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-208).

By Mr. Durbin, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 601. A bill to amend section 3661 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the consideration of acquitted conduct at sentencing.

S. 1014. A bill to reform sentencing laws centers of excellence; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. Warner (for himself and Ms. Collins): S. 2308. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the threshold for small start projects under the fixed-guideway capital investment program, to allow certain environmental review expenditures to count for purposes of non-Federal matches, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. King:

S. 2310. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study regarding codes and standards for use of energy storage systems across sectors and demonstrate certain second-life applications of electric vehicle batteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. Leahy:

S. 2311. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. Schatz:

S. 2312. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. Feinstein (for herself and Mr. Padilla):

S. 2313. A bill for the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Lee:

S. 2314. A bill to ensure the safety of work- ers of contractors that serve and supply the Armed Forces and the accountable use of taxpayer dollars; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. Warner (for himself, Ms. Baldwin, and Mr. O’sullivan):

S. 2315. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program to provide health care coverage to low-income Americans that have not expanded Medicaid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. Tester:

S. 2316. A bill for (for herself, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Tester, and Mr. Cramer):

S. 2317. A bill to expand eligibility for certain programs for qualified volunteer first responders; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

S. 65. At the request of Mr. Rubio, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. Murray) were added as cosponsors of S. 65, a bill to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes.

S. 368. At the request of Mr. Scott of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. Murkowski) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema) were added as cosponsors of S. 368, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make permanent certain telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program related to the COVID–19 public health emergency.

S. 377. At the request of Mr. Cotton, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) was added as a cosponsor of S. 377, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 452. At the request of Ms. Stabenow, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Leahy), the Senator from Maine (Ms. Collins) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Heinrich) were added as cosponsors of S. 452, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O’Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 651. At the request of Mrs. Gillibrand, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer) was added as a co- sponsor of S. 651, a bill to reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries caused by underride crashes, to improve motor carrier and passenger motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes.

S. 634. At the request of Ms. Collins, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Portman) and the Senator from California (Mr. Padilla) were added as cosponsors of S. 634, a bill to support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world, and other purposes.

S. 638. At the request of Mr. Van Hollen, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Scott) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 638, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to include a payment and performance security requirement for certain infrastructure financing, and for other purposes.

S. 657. At the request of Mr. Boozman, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) was added as a cosponsor of S. 657, a bill to modify the presumptions of service connection for veterans who were exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

S. 744. At the request of Ms. Klobuchar, the name of the Senator from California
accurately reflects the vital role of wildland firefighters.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. Padilla, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1271, a bill to reauthorize the Clean School Bus Program, for other purposes.

S. 1273

At the request of Ms. Collins, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Marshall) were added as cosponsors of S. 1378, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research, and for other purposes.

S. 1451

At the request of Ms. Collins, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. Brown) were added as cosponsors of S. 1451, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. Grassley, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Hawley) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 1596

At the request of Mr. Rounds, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. Padilla) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1596, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, and for other purposes.

S. 1625

At the request of Mr. Blumenthal, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1625, a bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish consumer product safety standards for firearm locks and firearm safes, and for other purposes.

S. 1672

At the request of Ms. Ernst, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. Kelly) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) were added as cosponsors of S. 1672, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Army Rangers Veterans of World War II in recognition of their extraordinary service during World War II.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. Peters, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Moran) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1941, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to create a classification that more accurately reflects the vital role of wildland firefighters.

S. 2057

At the request of Mr. Thune, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Cramer), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Duckworth) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. Boozman) were added as cosponsors of S. 2057, a bill to appropriately limit the size of the population required for urban areas of metropolitan statistical areas.

S. 2102

At the request of Mr. Cramer, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2102, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mammography screening for veterans who served in locations associated with toxic exposure.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. Boozman, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2103, supra.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. Moran, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. Padilla) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of General Services from establishing per diem reimbursements rates for travel within the continental United States (commonly known as “CONUS”) for certain fiscal years below a certain level, and for other purposes.

S. 2177

At the request of Mr. Bennet, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2177, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to ensure sufficient bonding and complete and timely reclamation of land and water disturbed by Federal and Indian oil and gas production, and for other purposes.

S. 2221

At the request of Mr. Cruz, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. Johnson) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2221, a bill to restrict executive agencies from acting on the advice of Executive Order 13950, and for other purposes.

S. 2287

At the request of Ms. Baldwin, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Booker) were added as cosponsors of S. 2287, a bill to improve Federal population surveys by requiring the collection of voluntary, self-disclosed information on sexual orientation and gender identity by certain surveys, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. Barrasso, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Padilla) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 979, a bill to amend the Consumer Product Safety Act to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish consumer product safety standards for firearm locks and firearm safes, and for other purposes.

S. 1079

At the request of Mr. Heinrich, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Burr), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. Stabenow) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn) were added as cosponsors of S. 1079, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the troops from the United States and the Philippines who defended Bataan and Corregidor, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service during World War II.

S. 1221

At the request of Mr. Daines, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. Lummis) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1221, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to create a classification that more accurately reflects the vital role of wildland firefighters.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. Padilla, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1271, a bill to reauthorize the Clean School Bus Program, for other purposes.

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Like many other Senators, I thank them for their service. But unless Congress acts, the National Guard will be forced to cut training they need to prepare for overseas deployments and responses at home to make up for the costs incurred as a result of January 6.

Federal, forest fires, hurricanes, and floods that hit our individual States, we are going to want to call on the National Guard. But what we are seeing now, if we don’t pass this bill, is this: Gee, come when we call you, and the check may be in the mail a year or 2 or 3 years later or never at all.

Now, we don’t budget for an insurrection, but it has been 187 days since the violent mob stormed the very Chamber we are standing in now, sitting in the same President Officer’s chair where our distinguished President Officer now sits. My memory of the growing roar of that mob echoing down the hallway as the Capitol Police whisked us to safety has not faded. It hasn’t faded from the consciousness of the American people or the rest of the world.

It has been 53 days since the House passed its own security supplemental, and I was shocked that not a single Republican voted for it. So I provided my Republican friend in the Senate with a proposal to address these pressing needs and many others. I did that over a month ago, and I urged that we begin negotiations in earnest. Only now have they come to the table with a retread that has reiterated what it is bringing something, it is a pretty small something. It is a proposal that does not provide the appropriate resources to secure the Capitol or address the urgent needs that have arisen since January 6.

The images of the mob breaking through windows and forcing their way through doors exposed the truth. The Capitol and its office buildings are not impenetrable. It is not a fortress. The windows that the doors can be breached. This complex is no longer shrouded with the protection of belief that it is not possible to storm these Halls. Much like the windows, that protection was shattered, and it was broadcast to the whole world on January 6.

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I am tired of hearing people saying we are in favor of law and order and law enforcement, but we just don’t want to pay for it. It should not be lost on us that we were not the ones to sweep up the shattered glasses, scrub the floors and walls of this building on that day and throughout the night. We cannot turn our backs on the dedicated public servants, the women and men who had to press that traumas they boarded up shattered windows and broken doors. And it is a trauma that came at the end of a yearlong pandemic.

It should not be lost on us that during the darkest hours of the pandemic, these are the same public servants who came to work to clean our offices, ensuring our safety and the safety of our staff. We have a responsibility to pay for these and other costs that were incurred in the response to the urgent call, and we are all.

Now, of course, we did not budget for an insurrection. We don’t budget for a global pandemic. We have been forced to rob Peter to pay Paul to keep our congressional community safe and healthy. The scars of COVID have not healed in our own Capitol community, and they have not been addressed in the other party’s proposal.

But we can’t also ignore the world around us. We have another emergency brewing. This one is in Afghanistan, and we have a moral responsibility to address it. I have been talking for 2 years now of an imminent departure from Afghanistan. Now it is happening, and we must ensure that the brave Afghans who stood with America are not abandoned as we conclude our mission in that country.

I am fortunate that there is bipartisan support for this effort. I think that we have a responsibility to support those who have served their country.

The bill I am introducing today includes funds to care for the inevitable flood of Afghan refugees to neighboring regions. The FBI, the U.S. Marshals, the DC Metropolitan Police Department, and numerous other law enforcement agencies hurried to defend the Capitol at the urgent call, and we are all thankful for that.

I am very clear saying over and over and over again that I don’t want to call on the National Guard. We owe them more than just a paycheck. These police officers stood with us that day.

I have been making this call for 2 months now. I am frustrated and beginning to feel a little bit like a broken record. Just days before this Chamber left for the July 4 recess, I sounded the alarm that time was running out. It is even more so today. The Senate has only a few weeks to act. If we do nothing, the Capitol Police will deplete salaries funding sometime in August. And for anybody who hasn’t looked at the calendar, that is next month. This means that the men and women who protect the seat of democracy and Members of Congress and their staff in this building and the support staff who keep the building running may face furloughs and significant impacts to this building and the support staff who keep the building running may face furloughs and significant impacts to the congressional community safe and healthy. The scars of COVID have not healed in our own Capitol community, and they have not been addressed in the other party’s proposal.

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countries and an increase in the number of Afghan special immigrant visas. They must be included in this package because the crisis is unfolding now.

There is no dispute about the urgency and the importance of standing with our Afghan allies. My colleagues on the other side do not address it in their proposal. I hope they will.

So where are we? A violent insurrection that none of us thought we would ever see in our lifetime happened. A pandemic that we thought we would never see in our lifetime happened. And the President has announced the withdrawal of the American troops from Afghanistan. These events created urgent needs that require action.

My Republican colleagues are proposing that we deal with these problems piecemeal, address some of them now and others sometime, somewhere, someday. But a piecemeal approach that jumps from one problem to the next is no way to govern. I have been here long enough to know that a promise to do it later is no promise at all.

It has been 53 days since the House passed the supplemental, and only now are my Republican colleagues coming to the negotiating table. I don’t want to wait another 53 days more before we address these pressing matters. We can’t govern by crisis, and we can’t legislate at the convenience of either party. So I am introducing my comprehensive proposal today.

To make sure it is not a surprise to anybody, I shared this proposal with my Republican colleagues more than a month ago—a month ago—and I am sharing it with the full Senate today. It addresses all the needs arising from the tragic events of January 6 and the global pandemic.

This is the best way forward. We owe it to our Afghan allies. We owe it to our Afghan allies. We owe it to our staff. We owe it to the Capitol Police. We owe it to the National Guard, and we owe it to numerous others. We must act, and we must act in a comprehensive way. We have only one shot at this. We have a responsibility right.

With that, Madam President, at the end of my remarks, I introduce a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes. I ask to have it held at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill is received.

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

S. 2313. A bill for the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am reintroducing a bill for the private relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera and her parents. Ms. Bueso is a Guatemalan national living in Concord, California. She has a rare medical condition, and her removal from the United States would deprive her of life-saving medical care.

Ms. Bueso suffers from a rare, life-threatening disorder called Mucopolysaccharidosis Type VI (MPS-VI), a rare genetic condition caused by the absence of an enzyme that is needed for the growth of healthy bones and connective tissues. Ms. Bueso uses a wheelchair for mobility, has a shunt in her brain, and requires a tracheotomy to help her breathe.

In 2003, Ms. Bueso and her family came to the United States at the invitation of doctors who were conducting a clinical trial for her condition. That trial led to Food and Drug Administration-approved treatment for MPS-VI. Ms. Bueso now receives this life-saving treatment every week at UCSF Children’s Hospital in Oakland, CA, where she undergoes a 6-hour infusion of a prescription drug that replaces the enzyme that people with MPS-VI lack.

Ms. Bueso has participated in six other medical trials. For the past 10 years, Isabel and her family requested deferred action from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services so that she could continue receiving the treatments that keep her alive. This treatment is not available in Guatemala.

On August 13, 2019, USCIS notified Ms. Bueso and her family that their extensions of deferred action were denied, and that they would be deported if they did not leave the United States within 33 days.

This decision was effectively a death sentence for Ms. Bueso. USCIS ultimately reconsidered its decision and granted Ms. Bueso and her parents an additional extension of deferred action.

Ms. Bueso has beaten the odds because of the life-saving treatment that she has received in the United States. She is now 26 years old and a 2018 graduate of California State University, East Bay. She has become an outspoken advocate on behalf of people with rare diseases. Her family pays taxes, owns a home, and is active in their community.

The Bueso family should be allowed to remain in California, where they will continue to enrich their community, and where Isabel will be able to receive the care that allows her to survive and thrive.

The legislation that I am introducing today would provide a permanent solution for Isabel and her parents. I ask my colleagues to support this private bill, which makes the Bueso family eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status.

I also ask unanimous consent that a copy of the bill be included in the Record.

S. 2313

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ISABEL, MARIA ISABEL BUESO BARRERA, ALBERTO BUESO MENDOZA, AND KARLA MARIA BARRERA DE BUESO.

(a) In General—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso shall each be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) Adjustment of Status.—If Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, or Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso were considered to have entered and remained lawfully in the United States and shall be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) Application and Payment of Fees.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the applications for issuance of immigrant visas or the applications for adjustment of status are filed with appropriate fees not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) Reduction of Immigrant Visa Numbers.—The Secretary of State shall implement the provisions of this Act that provide for a reduction in immigrant visa numbers or permanent resident status to Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)); or

(2) if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of birth of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, and Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso under section 202(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(e) PAYGO.—The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement or report titled ‘‘Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation’’ for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee for which the statement or report was submitted prior to the vote on passage.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 297—RECOGNIZING AND COMMEMORATING NATIVE HAWAIIAN DELEGATE JONAH KUHIO KALANIANA’OLE’S LIFELONG ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF HAWAI’I AND THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN PEOPLE ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS PARAMOUNT CONGRESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT—THE HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT, 1920

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

Mr. President:

Whereas Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole was born on March 26, 1871, in Kāa‘i, Ka‘u in the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, the youngest of 3
Hawai'i's modern government structure by and Haleakalā, shaped the foundation for Park covering land on Kīlauea, Mauna Loa, Lighthouse, established a Hawai'i National Hawaiian Protective Organization (commonly known as McKinley signed the Act of April 30, 1900 (31 Stat. 141, chapter 339) (commonly known as the "Hawaii Organic Act") to set aside roughly 200,000 acres across the Hawaiian Islands for exclusive homesteading by eligible Native Hawaiians and continues to guide the Federal Government's fulfillment of its trust responsibilities to Native Hawaiians as a distinct and unique indigenous people with a historical continuity to the original inhabitants of the Hawaiian archipelago; therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate—(1) recognizes and commemorates Prince Jonah Kānālanui, a Native Hawaiian Delegate from Hawaii and lifelong advocate for Hawai‘i and the Hawaiian people, including his work to pass the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 108, chapter 42); (2) commits itself to affirming and upholding the special political and trust relationship that Congress established between the United States and the Native Hawaiian people through more than 150 separate statutes; and (3) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate Prince Kūhio’s legacy and the 100th anniversary of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 108, chapter 42);

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, July 12, 2021, at 6 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2311 AND H.R. 3684

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their reading on bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the consideration of the Senate.

A bill (H.R. 3684) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 13; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Zeya nomination, postcloture; that the postcloture debate time expire at 11:30 a.m.; further, that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Su nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that if cloture is invoked on the Su nomination, all postcloture time expire at 2:30 p.m.; finally, that if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator MORAN.

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

Mr. MORAN. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Kansas.

CUBA

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I rise this evening to express my support for the Cuban people who have taken to the streets of their country to advocate for a government that can meet their basic needs of food, medicine, and political rights.

The Cuban Government is attempting to deflect responsibility for the plight of its own people by blaming the United States of America. It is not our country that denies basic political freedoms to ordinary Cubans. The oppression is underscored by the fact that these are the first significant protests in Cuba in 25 years.

The people of Cuba cannot be blamed for the actions of a Cuban Government
that greets those who speak out for a different future with violent crackdowns. In response to the latest protests, the regime says it is “prepared to do anything” to protect the current system.

Along with most all American people, I stand in solidarity with the demonstrating Cubans, and in a particular way, I seek to improve their lives by leading bipartisan legislation that would lift our country’s 60-year-old trade embargo with Cuba. While this legislation would provide a new market for our own farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers, it also deprives the Cuban Government of its false talking point that the United States is somehow the cause of the misery of the Cuban people.

After 60 years of communist rule, 11 million Cubans deserve better. They deserve freedom. They deserve dignity. They deserve hope. We have witnessed this intense desire in a powerful way this weekend. The courage of Cubans who are risking their livelihoods—and possibly their lives—does not go unnoticed. They stand alongside those in Hong Kong, in Minsk, and in Moscow who challenge governments that disregard inalienable rights.

As demonstrations to enact change in Havana continue, I pray they be peaceful and effective at bringing about a brighter tomorrow for the citizens of Cuba.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow. Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:01 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 12, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JEN EASTERLY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.
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 conferences. 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 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 Tuesday, July 13, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 14

9:15 a.m. Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 2123, to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship, S. 1917, to establish a K-12 education opportunity security initiative, S. 2230, to manage supply chain risk through counterintelligence training, S. 2286, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide certain employment rights to reservists of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, S. 1941, to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to standardize the use of core-based statistical area designations across Federal programs, to allow between 120 and 180 days for public comment on any proposed change to such designations, and to report on the scientific basis and estimated impact to Federal programs for any proposed change to such designations, S. 1324, to establish a Civilian Cyber Security Reserve as a pilot project to address the cyber security needs for the United States with respect to national security, S. 533, to require a guidance clarity statement on certain policies, S. 2629, to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective, S. 2186, to prevent catastrophic wildfires by establishing a commission to study and recommend wildland fire prevention, mitigation, suppression, management, and rehabilitation policies for the Federal Government, S. 1009, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 regarding the procurement of certain items related to protective interests for Department of Homeland Security front-line operational components, H.R. 367, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protege program, H.R. 408, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protege program, H.R. 539, to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debt owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and H.R. 772, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, as the ‘‘Jim Ramstad Post Office’’.

9:45 a.m. Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Alejandro Y. Castillo, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and Jane Tomsho Nichols, of Maryland, and Jeffrey M. Prieto, of California, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

10 a.m. 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 Labor.

10:30 a.m. Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 for the United States Agency for International Development.

2 p.m. Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth

To hold hearings to examine defending and investing in U.S. competitiveness.

2:30 p.m. Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Bryan Todd Newland, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 1797, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to expand the funding authority for renovating, constructing, and expanding certain facilities, S. 1895, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award additional funding through the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program of the Indian Health Service, and H.R. 1688, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act.

3:30 p.m. Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

To hold hearings to examine restoring the Voting Rights Act after Brnovich and Shelby County.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine how concentrated corporate power undermines shared prosperity.

9 a.m. Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Eunice C. Lee, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Veronica S. Rossman, of Colorado, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, and David G. Estudillo, Lauren J. King, and Tana Lin, each to be a United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

SH—216/VTC

VTC

CR–418

SH—216

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
9:30 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jennifer Lester Moffitt, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.
SR-301

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress.
SD-538

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine building wealth and fostering independence, focusing on creating opportunities to save.
SD-562

10 a.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, and Gwynne A. Wilcoxon, of New York, and David M. Prouty, of Maryland, both to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.
SD-430

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Luis Santos, of Texas, to be Director of the Census, Department of Commerce, and Ed Gonzalez, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.
SD-342/VTC

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine implementing supply chain resiliency.
SR-253

5:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.
SR-232A

6 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.
SR-232A

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.
SD-106

11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.
SD-106

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.
SR-232A

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.
SR-232A

5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Seapower
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee’s jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.
SR-232A

10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine cybersecurity vulnerabilities facing our nation’s physical infrastructure.
SD-406

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
SD-106

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022.
SD-106
HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4809–S4833

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2307–2316, and S. Res. 297.

Measures Reported:

- S. 688, to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime. (S. Rept. No. 117–28)
- S. 601, to amend section 3661 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the consideration of acquitted conduct at sentencing, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.
- S. 1014, to reform sentencing laws and correctional institutions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Measures Passed:

- The Greatest Generation: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 238, recognizing and honoring the sacrifices and accomplishments of the Greatest Generation, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Zeya Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

- By 71 yeas to 23 nays (Vote No. EX. 253), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, July 13, 2021; that the post-cloture debate time expire at 11:30 a.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, all post-cloture time expire at 2:30 p.m.

Samuels Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

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

- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

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

Nanda Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Seema Nanda, of Virginia, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

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

- Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

Liang Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of J. Nellie Liang, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.
A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Seema Nanda, of Virginia, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor. Page S4817

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. Page S4817
Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. Page S4817

Remy Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Donald Michael Remy, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of J. Nellie Liang, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury. Page S4817

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. Page S4817
Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. Page S4817

Cunningham Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Tiffany P. Cunningham, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit. Pages S4817–23

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Donald Michael Remy, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Page S4817

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. Page S4817
Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. Page S4817

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Jen Easterly, of New York, to be Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security. Page S4833

Messages from the House:

Page S4827

Measures Referred:

Page S4827

Measures Read the First Time:

Pages S4827, S4832

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Pages S4827–28

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S4828–30

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S4830–31

Additional Statements:

Pages S4825–26

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S4832

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—253) Pages S4818–19

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:01 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S4833.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AUTHORIZATIONS FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on S.J. Res. 10, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, focusing on recent United States military strikes in Iraq and Syria, from Joey Hood, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, and Joshua Dorosin, Office of the Legal Advisor, both of the Department of State; and Catherine Visser, Special Counsel to the General Counsel, and Dana Stroul, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Middle East, both of the Department of Defense.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 13, 2021.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING THE SNAP BENEFIT CLIFF

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations held a hearing entitled “Examining the SNAP Benefit Cliff”. Testimony was heard from Tikki Brown, Assistant Commissioner of Children and Family Services, Department of Human Services, Minnesota; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a markup on the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a markup on the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE


MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a markup on the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

THE ELECTIONS CLAUSE: CONSTITUTIONAL INTERPRETATION AND CONGRESSIONAL EXERCISE

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Elections Clause: Constitutional Interpretation and Congressional Exercise”. Testimony was heard from Michael G. Adams, Secretary of State, Kentucky; and public witnesses.

THE IMPORTANCE OF A DIVERSE FEDERAL JUDICIARY, PART 2: THE SELECTION AND CONFIRMATION PROCESS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet held a hearing entitled “The Importance of a Diverse Federal Judiciary, Part 2: The Selection and Confirmation Process”. Testimony was heard from Monica M. Márquez, Associate Justice, Colorado Supreme Court; Anne K. McKeig, Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court; Michael J. McShane, District Judge, U.S. District Court, District of Oregon; Richard E. Myers II, Chief District Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D703)

H.R. 49, to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32806. Signed on June 25, 2021. (Public Law 117–20)

H.R. 2441, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand the Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess certain mental health care resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs available to veterans who live in rural areas. Signed on June 30, 2021. (Public Law 117–21)

S.J. Res. 13, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to “Update

S.J. Res. 14, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review”. Signed on June 30, 2021. (Public Law 117–23)


S. 409, to provide for the availability of amounts for customer education initiatives and non-awards expenses of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission Whistleblower Program. Signed on July 6, 2021. (Public Law 117–25)

S. 1340, to amend title 28, United States Code, to redefine the eastern and middle judicial districts of North Carolina. Signed on July 6, 2021. (Public Law 117–26)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY,
JULY 13, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the USPS Office of Inspector General and USPS service issues, 2 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Carlos Del Toro, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Navy, Kathleen S. Miller, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, Mara Elizabeth Karlin, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Michael Lee Connor, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, all of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Arun Venkataraman, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, and Damon Y. Smith, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nominations of Sarah Bianchi, of Virginia, to be Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Africa, Investment, Services, Textiles, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the rank of Ambassador, 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, and Melanie Anne Egorin, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, 9:45 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gentry O. Smith, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Diplomatic Security), Rena Bitter, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Consular Affairs), Monica P. Medina, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Marc Evans Knapper, of California, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–G50/VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Catherine Elizabeth Lhamon, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Elizabeth Merrill Brown, of Maryland, to be General Counsel, and Roberto Josue Rodriguez, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, all of the Department of Education, 10 a.m., SD–450.

Committee on Judiciary: Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine anticompetitive conduct in prescription drug markets, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

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, 11:30 a.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

House

Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee, markup on the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, FY 2022; and the Defense Appropriations Bill, FY 2022, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request of the Department of Defense for Fixed-Wing Tactical and ‘Training Aircraft Programs”, 3 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 11 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 3524, the “Ensuring American Global Leadership and Engagement Act”, 2 p.m., Webex.


Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, hearing entitled “Oh, Canada! How Outdated U.S. Immigration Policies Push Top Talent to Other Countries”, 2 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing on H.R. 2049, the “Repairing Existing Public Land by Adding
Necessary Trees Act”; H.R. 2816, the “Legacy Roads and Trails Act”; H.R. 3211, the “Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Act of 2021”; H.R. 3152, the “Lake Tahoe Restoration Reauthorization Act”; and H.R. 4300, the “Veterans in Parks Act”, 1 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Under­served, Agricultural, and Rural Development, hearing entitled “Rural American Recovery: The Role of Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship”, 1 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled “VA Appeals Program: Examining the State of Modernization Efforts”, 10 a.m., Zoom.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Modernizing the VA Police Force: Ensuring Accountability”, 2 p.m., Zoom.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of July 13 through July 16, 2021

Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights), post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon on 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Uzra Zeya, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:30 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: July 15, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jennifer Lester Moffitt, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, 9:30 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Appropriations: July 13, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the USPS Office of Inspector General and USPS service issues, 2 p.m., SD–138.

July 14, 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 Labor, 10 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: July 15, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Carlos Del Toro, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Navy, Kathleen S. Miller, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, Mara Elizabeth Karlin, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Michael Lee Connor, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, all of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 13, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Arun Venkatacharan, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, and Damon Y. Smith, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD–538.

July 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: July 15, to hold hearings to examine implementing supply chain resiliency, 10:30 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: July 14, business meeting to consider an original bill to invest in the energy and outdoor infrastructure of the United States to deploy new and innovative technologies, update existing infrastructure to be reliable and resilient, and secure energy infrastructure against physical and cyber threats, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: July 14, business meeting to consider the nominations of Alejandra Y. Castillo, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and Jane Toshiko Nishida, of Maryland, and Jeffrey M. Prieto, of California, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Michael Lee Connor, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, 9:45 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: July 13, business meeting to consider the nominations of Sarah Bianchi, of Virginia, to be Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, Africa, Investment, Services, Textiles, and Industrial Competitiveness), with the rank of Ambassador, 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, and Melanie Anne Egorin, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, 9:45 a.m., SD–215.

July 14, Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth, to hold hearings to examine defending and investing in U.S. competitiveness, 2 p.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: July 13, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Gentry O. Smith, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Diplomatic Security), Rena Bitter, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Consular Affairs), Monica P. Medina, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Marc Evans Knapper, of California, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, all of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–G50/VTC.

July 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year
2022 for the United States Agency for International Development, 10:30 a.m., SH–216/VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: July 13, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Catherine Elizabeth Lhamon, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Elizabeth Merrill Brown, of Maryland, to be General Counsel, and Roberto Josue Rodriguez, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, all of the Department of Education, 10 a.m., SD–430.

July 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, and Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, and David M. Prouty, of Maryland, both to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: July 14, business meeting to consider S. 2123, to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship, S. 1917, to establish a K–12 education cybersecurity initiative, S. 2201, to manage supply chain risk through counterintelligence training, S. 2293, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide certain employment rights to reservists of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, S. 1941, to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to standardize the use of core-based statistical area designations across Federal programs, to allow between 120 and 180 days for public comment on any proposed change to such designations, and to report on the scientific basis and estimated impact to Federal programs for any proposed change to such designations, S. 1324, to establish a Civilian Cyber Security Reserve as a pilot project to address the cyber security needs for the United States with respect to national security, S. 533, to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, S. 629, to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective, S. 2150, to prevent catastrophic wildland fires by establishing a commission to study and recommend wildland fire prevention, mitigation, suppression, management, and rehabilitation policies for the Federal Government, S. 1009, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 regarding the procurement of certain items related to national security interests for Department of Homeland Security frontline operational components, H.R. 367, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an acquisition professional career program, H.R. 408, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protégé program, H.R. 473, to require a review of Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs, H.R. 539, to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and H.R. 772, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 229 Minnetonka Avenue South in Wayzata, Minnesota, as the "Jim Ramstad Post Office", 9:15 a.m., SD–342.

July 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Luis Santos, of Texas, to be Director of the Census, Department of Commerce, and Ed Gonzalez, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, 10:15 a.m., SD–342/VTC.

Committee on Indian Affairs: July 14, business meeting to consider the nomination of Bryan Todd Newland, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 1797, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to expand the funding authority for renovating, constructing, and expanding certain facilities, S. 1895, to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award additional funding through the Sanitation Facilities Construction Program of the Indian Health Service, and H.R. 1688, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Judiciary: July 13, Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine anticompetitive conduct in prescription drug markets, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

July 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Myrna Perez, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Jia M. Cobb, of Virginia, and Florence Y. Pan, both to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Sarah A.L. Merriam, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, Karen McGlashan Williams, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Matthew G. Olsen, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–226.

July 14, Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine restoring the Voting Rights Act after Brnovich and Shelby County, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

July 15, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Eunice C. Lee, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Veronica S. Rossman, of Colorado, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, and David G. Estudillo, Lauren J. King, and Tana Lin, each to be a United States District Judge for the District of Washington, Gustavo A. Gelpi, of Puerto Rico, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Angel Kelley, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Christine P. O’Hearn, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Helaine Ann Greenfeld, of Maryland, and Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: July 13, business meeting to consider the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 11:30 a.m., SR–428A.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: July 14, to hold hearings to examine VA electronic health records, focusing on modernization and the path ahead, 3:30 p.m., SR–418.
Select Committee on Intelligence: July 13, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

Special Committee on Aging: July 15, to hold hearings to examine building wealth and fostering independence, focusing on creating opportunities to save, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture. July 14, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4374, the “Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act”, 12 p.m., 1300 Longworth and Zoom.


Committee on Armed Services. July 14, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request for Military Construction, Energy, and Environmental Programs”, 4 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Energy and Commerce. July 14, Subcommittee on Energy; and Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, joint hearing entitled “Keeping Us Safe and Secure: Oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission”, 11:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.


July 15, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “America on CDBG Disaster Recovery: States, Cities, and Denials of Funding”, 12 p.m., Webex.


Committee on Foreign Affairs. July 14, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Biden Administration’s Foreign Assistance Priorities and USAID’s FY22 Budget Request”, 2 p.m., Webex.

July 15, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 3524, the “Ensuring American Global Leadership and Engagement Act”, 12 p.m., Webex.


Committee on the Judiciary. July 16, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “The Implications of Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee and Potential Legislative Responses”, 1 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources. July 14, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 820 the “New Philadelphia National Historical Park Act”; H.R. 972, the “Wildlife Refuge Conservation and Recreation for the Community Act”; H.R. 1154, the “Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Act”; H.R. 1664, to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; H.R. 1908, the “Ka‘ena Point National Heritage Area Act”; H.R. 2278, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail, and for other purposes; H.R. 2444, the “Fort San Gerónimo Preservation Act”; H.R. 2497, the “Amache National Historic Site Act”; H.R. 2780, the “Insular Area Climate Change Act”; H.R. 2899, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating areas within the island of Guam as a National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; H.R. 3113, the “MAPLand Act”; H.R. 3616, the “Bear River National Heritage Area Study Act”; H.R. 3764, the “Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act of 2021”; and H.R. 4300, the “Veterans in Parks Act”, 11 a.m., Webex.

July 15, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Are Toxic Chemicals from Tires and Playground Surfaces Killing Endangered Salmon?”, 1 p.m., Webex.


July 16, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Fostering Equity in Energy Innovation”, 10 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Small Business. July 14, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access, hearing entitled “Innovation as a Catalyst for New Jobs: SBA’s Innovation Initiatives”, 1 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. July 14, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “President Biden’s Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request: Agency Policies and Perspectives (Part II)”, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. July 14, Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 913, the “Build a Better VA Act”; H.R. 2587, the “SERVE Act”; H.R. 2775, the “VA Quality Health Care Accountability and Transparency Act”; H.R. 2797, the “National Green Alert Act of 2021”; H.R. 3027, the “Veterans Improved Access to Care Act of 2021”; H.R. 3452, the “Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act”; H.R. 3674, the “Vet Center Support Act”; H.R. 3693, the “Viper Act”; legislation to clarify and improve the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers; legislation to require an independent assessment of health care delivery systems and management processes of the Department of Veterans Affairs be conducted once every 10 years; and H.R. 4233, the “Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act”, 2 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Ways and Means. July 14, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “Expanding Housing Access to All Americans”, 2 p.m., Webex.
Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, July 15, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Advancing Environmental Action Through Climate Action”, 2:30 p.m., Zoom.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: July 14, to hold hearings to examine how concentrated corporate power undermines shared prosperity, 2:30 p.m., VTC.
Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY
January 3 through June 30, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Days in session</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time in session</td>
<td>534 hrs., 56'</td>
<td>381 hrs., 29'</td>
<td>915 hrs., 85'</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congressional Record:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pages of proceedings</td>
<td>4,801</td>
<td>3,582</td>
<td>8,383</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extensions of Remarks</td>
<td></td>
<td>728</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public bills enacted into law</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private bills enacted into law</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills in conference</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures passed, total</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>485</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate bills</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House bills</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>House joint resolutions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>221</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures reported, total</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>1,060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate bills</td>
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<td>House bills</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>54</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>House joint resolutions</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special reports</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference reports</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures pending on calendar</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures introduced, total</td>
<td>2,624</td>
<td>4,890</td>
<td>7,514</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bills</td>
<td>2,297</td>
<td>4,282</td>
<td>6,579</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint resolutions</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quorum calls</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yea-and-nay votes</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recorded votes</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills vetoed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vetoes overridden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 27 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 77 reports have been filed in the House.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS
January 3 through June 30, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Civilian nominees, totaling 355, disposed of as follows:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Confirmed ................................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unconfirmed ................................................................</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                         | Withdrawn ................................................................
|                         | Other Civilian nominees, totaling 1,345, disposed of as follows: |
|                         | Confirmed ................................................................|
|                         | Unconfirmed ................................................................|
|                         | Air Force nominees, totaling 4,092, disposed of as follows: |
|                         | Confirmed ................................................................|
|                         | Unconfirmed ................................................................|
|                         | Army nominees, totaling 4,832, disposed of as follows: |
|                         | Confirmed ................................................................|
|                         | Unconfirmed ................................................................|
|                         | Navy nominees, totaling 1,425, disposed of as follows: |
|                         | Confirmed ................................................................|
|                         | Unconfirmed ................................................................|
|                         | Marine Corps nominees, totaling 569, disposed of as follows: |
|                         | Confirmed ................................................................|
|                         | Unconfirmed ................................................................|
|                         | Space Force nominees, totaling 1,863, disposed of as follows: |
|                         | Confirmed ................................................................|
|                         | Withdrawn ................................................................

Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total nominees carried over from the First Session</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total nominees received this Session</td>
<td>14,479</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total confirmed</td>
<td>12,664</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unconfirmed</td>
<td>957</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total withdrawn</td>
<td>858</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total returned to the White House</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, July 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights), post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon on 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Uzra Zeya, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:30 p.m.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Tuesday, July 13

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.