The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TRONE).

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

WASHINGTON, DC, July 13, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable David J. Trone to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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

You, O Lord, have been gracious to us. You have dealt kindly with us, according to Your steadfast love and abiding faithfulness.

We ask You, then, to teach us this day. Teach us good sense and equip us with Your knowledge so that we would learn to rely on Your guidance and walk in Your ways.

Sometimes in our frustration we forget Your promises. Sometimes when we are distressed because of overwhelming concerns and entrenched in intractable partisan perspectives, we lose sight of Your mercy which transcends any human judgment. Or, we fall prey to our own arrogance and self-preservation and ignore Your sovereignty.

And so we pray that You would give us strength to loose the bonds of lies and falsehood, pride and conceit which we have put upon our own arrogance and self-preservation and ignore Your sovereignty.

May our justice and mercy, which You have given to all the Earth, dispel the injury inflicted on us or which we exact on others.

May the integrity of Your word pierce the hearts of the callous and unfeeling, even our own.

Then may the depth of Your love humble us, that we would come to know that Your gracious plan is more precious than anything we value or devise without Your blessing.

In the hope of Your name we pray. Amen.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARRIS 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 INDIVIDUAL TO SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM COUNCIL
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9455(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Council:

Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney, New York, New York

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 7455(a), clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy:

Mr. Sean Patrick Maloney, New York

Mrs. Murphy, Florida

Mr. Womack, Arkansas

Mr. Davidson, Ohio

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 8468(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy:

Ms. Speier, California

Mr. Lieu, California

Mr. Lamborn, Colorado

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 8468(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy:

Mr. Ruppersberger, Maryland

Mr. Brown, Maryland

Mr. Palazzo, Mississippi

Mr. Wittman, Virginia

ADJOURNMENT
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. on Friday, July 16, 2021.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, July 16, 2021, at 9 a.m.
EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first and second quarters of 2021, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Member or employee</th>
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Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.  
1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.  
2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, June 30, 2021.

### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2021

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HON. GREGORY W. MEeks, June 22, 2021.

### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2021

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### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2021

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HON. DEREK KILMER, June 30, 2021.

### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2021

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HON. NATHY CASTOR, June 14, 2021.

### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2021

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2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DEREK KILMER, June 30, 2021.
EC-1590. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be considered during the first session of the 117th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1590. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a proposed legislation titled the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1591. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation’s Major interim final rule — Special Financial Assistance by PBGC (RIN: 1212-AB58) received July 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 866); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-1592. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-110, “Comprehensive Plan of 2021”; pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1593. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-98, “Coronavirus Business Assistance Income Tax Relief Temporary Amendment Act of 2021”; pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1594. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 24-99, “Coronavirus Public Health Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2022”; pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1595. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis, transmitting the 2020 management report and financial statements of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1596. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Interim Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, transmitting the 2020 Management Report of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco including financial statements, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1597. A letter from the General Counsel, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the 28th actuarial valuation of the railroad retirement system, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f-1; Public Law 96-76, Sec. 502 (as amended by Public Law 104-66, Sec. 222(a)); (108 Stat. 733); jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Ways and Means.

EC-1598. A letter from the General Counsel, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the report on the status of the railroad unemployment insurance system, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 369; Public Law 100-847, Sec. 7105; (102 Stat. 3772); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Transportation and Infrastructure.
H.R. 4420. A bill to repeal the 25 percent cap on United States contributions to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself, Mr. KUOCHA, Mr. CARLSON, Mr. SUOZZI, and Ms. SCANLON):
H.R. 4421. A bill to place a moratorium on large concentrated animal feeding operations, to strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act, to bar the country of origin labeling on beef, pork, and dairy products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. JONES, Mr. POCAH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. TLALIB, and Mr. LEVIN of Michigan):
H.R. 4423. A bill to enhance safety and security at federally licensed gun shops, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MURPHY of Florida (for herself, Mr. CHRISTOPHER B. MORIARITY, Mr. JOHN BASS, Mr. MIKE CICILLINE, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. MALINOWSKI):
H.R. 4427. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend expensing of environmental costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):
H.R. 4428. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the exclusion for educational assistance programs and to allow the exclusion with respect to education-related tools and technology; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. EVANS, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. NORRIS, Mr. TUSK, Ms. WILD, Mr. CARSON, Ms. DRAN, Mr. JULIANA, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. HILL, Mr. MOGELINAR, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARL, Mr. BACON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. RUSHI, Ms. KHANNA, and Mr. W OMAC K):
H.R. 4429. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semiquincentennial anniversary of the establishment of the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CRIST, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, and Mr. STRUBE):
H. Res. 326. A resolution congratulating the Tampa Bay Lightning for winning the 2021 Stanley Cup Final; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DIAZ-BALART (for himself, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. NUNES, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MOONEY, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. GOMINZ, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. CAMACK, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. ALTMAN, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. HICKS, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. GONZALEZ-COLON of Ohio, Mr. GAZETT, Mr. TIPPANY, Ms. GONZALEZ-COLON, Mr. CHINNY, Mr. CHAUBOT, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. BARR):
H. Res. 327. A resolution expressing solidarity with the Cuban people in their demands for freedom and respect for basic human rights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GUEST (for himself and Mr. PALAZZO):
By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WATSON of Florida, Ms. CLARK of New York, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mrs. LUKIA):
H. Res. 328. A resolution congratulating the Mississippi State University baseball team on winning the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I baseball championship; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. WO MAC K, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CAMMACK, Mr. STUE BE, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. CAL VENDREY, Mr. CLYMER, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SCHWIKERT, Ms. STEEL, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. M :GONZALEZ-COLON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KINSKO'RE, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. RESCHTHERAL, Mr. BALDERSH, Mr. POSEY, Mr. NORMAN of North Carolina, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. MILL, Mr. ROY, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. McCaul, Mrs. RICE of Oklahoma, Mr. ISSA, MRS. HINSON, Mr. GoHOMER, Mr. WILMINS OF TEXAS, MR. GIMENEZ, AND MR. ZELDIN):
H. Res. 329. A resolution standing with the Cuban people and their struggle for freedom, democracy, and human rights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. McCLAIN (for herself, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GIBRALTAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. MACK, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. MILLER OF ILLINOIS, Mrs. MILLER-MICHEIE, Mr. MOLINA, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. OWENS, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. STEEL, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CAMBRO, Mr. BANKS, Mr. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA, MR. MURPHY OF NORTH CAROLINA, Mr. GOOD OF VIRGINIA, Mrs. GREENE OF GEORGIA, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BALDERSH, Mr. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. BAHREINER, Mr. BRIGMAN, Mr. HUZIENGA, Mr. DUNN, Mr. SCALISE, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. KATKO, Mr. WENSTROPP, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BIGOS, Mr. GUERT, AND MR. SESSIONS):
H. Res. 331. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Department of Homeland Security and all its law enforcement agencies conduct critical operations to keep the United States safe and secure; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. W ESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. HILL, Mr. W OMAC K, AND MR. CRAWFORD):
H. Res. 331. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Center for Toxicology Research; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT
Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 490. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:
H.R. 4907.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution**

- **By Mr. BURCHETT:**
  - H.R. 4417.
- Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution**

- **By Mr. COHEN:**
  - H.R. 4409.
- Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution**

- **By Mr. DESALVADOR:**
  - H.R. 4412.
- Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution**

- **By Ms. DELAURO:**
  - H.R. 4411.
- Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution**

- **By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:**
  - H.R. 4411.
- Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution**

- **By Ms. CRAIG:**
  - H.R. 4411.
- Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

**Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution**

- **By Mr. COHEN:**
  - H.R. 4409.
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- **By Ms. CRAIG:**
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- **By Ms. CRAIG:**
  - H.R. 4411.
H.R. 2644: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 2648: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. NEUSE.
H.R. 2658: Mr. TONKO and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2698: Ms. BROWNLEY, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. AGUILAR.
H.R. 2721: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 2764: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. MCEACHIN.
H.R. 2773: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 2893: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 2919: Mr. BROWN.
H.R. 2998: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 3046: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 3076: Mr. CROW, Mr. KATKO, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. COOPER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. O CASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3084: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3119: Mr. BUCKSHON.
H.R. 3122: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3164: Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. AXNE, and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 3215: Ms. ROSS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. HOUHAN.
H.R. 3236: Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 3265: Mr. DAVIDSON and Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 3399: Ms. CHENEY.
H.R. 3399: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 3399: Mr. BREA.
H.R. 3440: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CHEN, and Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 3473: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3474: Mrs. TEHRAN and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 3488: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 3508: Mr. MERR
H.R. 3537: Mr. NOHR, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. MLAIR, Mr. BASS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. STRIVENS, Ms. LIU, MR. FERNANDEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. KIND, Mr. CUÉLLAR, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. PALAZZO, and Ms. BLUNT.
H.R. 3541: Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. SUOZZI, and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 3542: Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 3586: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. TITTUS, Ms. BLUNT of Rochester, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3625: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3648: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 3746: Mr. SCHWIKERT.
H.R. 3764: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 3778: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mrs. OMAAR, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. RUSH, Mr. JONES, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. VEILAZQUEZ, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BRAT, Mr. MCNICHOL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. PORTER, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. TITTUS, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 3790: Mr. DELGAO.
H.R. 3807: Mr. FOSTER and Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 3811: Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 3827: Mr. WEDDELL of Texas.
H.R. 3860: Mr. BAHN.
H.R. 3876: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 3938: Ms. WATERS, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. McKEE.
H.R. 3985: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 4038: Mr. COHEN and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 4045: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 4087: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. McNerney.
H.R. 4094: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

**PRAYER**

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

Let us pray.

Listen to our prayers, mighty God. We look to You with the vibrant expectation that You are willing to do for us more than we can ask or imagine.

Lord, we are grateful that our lawmakers can fulfill Your purposes for our Nation because of the strength they receive from You each day. Show our Senators Your compassion. Give them peace that will provide them with an anchor for life’s storms.

Lord, provide them with the wisdom to face life’s challenges, believing that nothing is impossible for You.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I will have my remarks, but first I will do a little bit of housekeeping.

**MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2311 AND H.R. 3684**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2311) making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

**VOTING RIGHTS**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in a democracy, no right is more sacred than the right to vote. And yet, across the country, Republican-controlled State legislatures are conducting the most sweeping and coordinated attack on voting rights in generations, fueled by Donald Trump’s insidious Big Lie that the election was stolen.

In several States, limits have been placed on voting hours, polling locations, and methods of voting. Barriers have been raised to make voting by mail, absentee voting, after-hours voting, and early voting harder.

Republican legislatures are not only making it harder to vote, they are making it easier to steal an election. They actually believe that, Donald Trump does the Big Lie, everyone knows it is a lie, and now Republican legislatures are acting on that Big Lie and saying we could steal an election. What is happening to our democracy? Stripping independent election officials of power, giving partisan election bodies more control, even firing members of county election boards, this is what Republican legislatures are doing, not for fairness, not for bipartisanship but to jaundice elections.

And if the consequence is Americans of all parties feel that the elections are not fair, what is going to happen to this sacred and wonderful democracy? Republicans are actively dismantling all the barriers that prevented Donald Trump from subverting our elections in 2020. Imagine if they hadn’t been in effect. Imagine.

All of these efforts have an Orwellian logic. Under the guise of “election integrity,” Republican legislatures are sowing more doubt about our elections through phony audits and fact-free claims of voter fraud, lying claims of voter fraud. They are lying. I just saw on TV this morning how the Trump lawyers are being lambasted in court. And even Rudy Giuliani has lost his license to practice because they lied about the election, that they perpetrated the Big Lie in legal documents. The same thing is happening everywhere. What is happening to this Republican Party? What is happening? When Donald Trump, the biggest liar we have ever had as President, sets the tone and they follow in those lies, repeat those lies, sometimes even embellish on those lies, what is happening to that party, the party of Abraham Lincoln?

Falsely claiming that the election was “stolen.” Republican legislatures are making elections easier to overturn, even under the falsest and biggest
of lies. And what happens here? Our Republican friends here in Washington have chosen a path of supine compliance, refusing to stand up to the Big Lie, bowing down before it, bowing down before Donald Trump, the biggest liar to ever bow to the siege: they showed the violence; and they had some Republican Congressmen saying it was like tourists. It was incredible. I recommend everyone should watch this. And I hope—Republican colleagues, just watch it. You were there. Just watch it. I commend the New York Times. They did a great job on it. Anyway, the effort to fight this wave of voter suppression and Republican election rigging is strong and growing. I want the Senate to be about that.

In Texas, where the Republican Governor has called a special session to reconsider one of the most restrictive voting laws in the Nation, Democrats are doing all they can to block the dangerous plan. They are bold. They are courageous, and history will show them on the side of right and the Republican Governor—I saw him on TV this morning—on the side of deep, dark, ugly wrong. Many of these decisions have come to Washington. I will be meeting with a group of them today to plot out strategy and to praise them for what they are doing.

President Biden will also address the issue of voting rights in a major national address in Philadelphia, using the bully pulpit to draw the Nation's attention and announce ways in which his administration can defend Americans' fundamental rights.

As Majority Leader Klobuchar—always on the ball on these issues—will lead the Senate Rules Committee to the State of Georgia—your State, I say to the President—of our first field hearing in 20 years. It will be an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the consequences of the Big Lie and show the American people just how far Republicans have gone in order to make it harder—harder—for people to vote in the 2020 election.

The bottom line is this: Democrats will not stop fighting to protect voting rights and defend our democracy. As I said, the vote in June was the opening gun, not the finish line. Last month, all 50 Senate Democrats united for the first time this Congress to move forward on a strong voting rights bill. Shamefully, shamefully, Republicans refused to even allow debate on voting rights legislation, hiding behind some of the exact same States' rights arguments, and very similar to southern senators used in the 1960s to oppose the Voting Rights Act. How do you feel about that, Republicans and Republican leadership? How do you feel about using the same arguments that were used by some of the arch segregationists to stop voting rights in the Senate in the 1960s?

Last month, as I said, the vote represented the opening gun, the finish line is the fight to protect voting rights. As majority leader, I reserve the right to bring back voting rights and democracy reform for another vote on the Senate floor.

CLIMATE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on another issue, infrastructure and climate. Over the past few weeks, we have seen an awful heat wave hit Oregon and Washington. Those States in the beautiful Northwest, always known for their cool summer breezes, had temperatures like 115 degrees. It was just astounding, not just a little temperature bump but dramatically unusual.

Temperatures in the Pacific Northwest climbed so high that power cables melted and roadways cracked in two. At the same time, in the American Southwest, the lack of rainfall and decreasing reservoirs have led to a historic lack of water. According to the National Drought Mitigation Center, more than 77 percent of the great State of New Mexico is in a state of severe drought.

As climate change continues to worsen, extreme weather like this, unfortunately, is only becoming more common, putting our agriculture, our infrastructure, our economy, and our people's health at grave risk.

That is why I have made addressing the climate crisis in a bold way a primary focus of our upcoming debate on infrastructure. We are working with great urgency to make this happen. And we are going to do it in two ways: First, climate change has forced us to repair and rebuild our infrastructure in a way that takes into account our new reality. Our infrastructure must become more resilient to extreme weather. In New York, I insisted that the Hurricane Sandy aid, for which New York and New Jersey got $60 billion, focus on resiliency. And as we rebuild from Hurricane Sandy using those Federal dollars, we have done it in a way that makes flooding in downtown New York City and Long Island less likely. We need to repeat that effort across the country to deal with heat waves, droughts, wildfires, more powerful hurricanes and even more.

But, second, we must use infrastructure investment to combat climate change itself, not just make ourselves more resilient. If it keeps getting worse, resiliency goes up, global warming gets higher—resiliency goes up. We need to have this go down. That is so, so important.

And what are we doing? In President Biden's proposal and in the proposals Democrats are putting forward, we are investing in green infrastructure, clean and renewable power, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, and retrofitting our economy to reduce carbon emissions and slow climate change in both urban, suburban, and rural areas. Investing in both elements—resiliency and clean infrastructure—will create thousands upon thousands of good-paying union American jobs in the process.

So as discussions continue on both a bipartisan infrastructure bill and a budget resolution, Senators of both parties must understand that the issues of climate change and infrastructure cannot—cannot—be separated from one another.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 3 months ago, President Biden announced his intention to completely withdraw U.S. forces from the ongoing fight against terrorists and terrorist enablers in Afghanistan. I said then this was a shortsighted decision, and sure enough—sure enough—a reckless rush for the exits is becoming a global embarrassment.

Just take the reports that our forces slunk away from the strategically vital Bagram Air Base in the middle of the night without plan for our Afghan partners to secure the base or even to keep the electricity on. But President Biden remains defiant. He has rejected warnings that the government in Kabul will fail to the Taliban. He is ignoring the truth unfolding before our own eyes: Afghanistan is unraveling.

Since April 13, the Taliban has taken administrative districts all across the country at a truly alarming pace. With military victory in reach, the group is hardly even pretending to seek a negotiated solution. It has wasted no time dragging large swaths of Afghanistan back under its repression, but President Biden appears unmoved. He says he bears no responsibility for the plight of the Afghans who fought with us.

Back in 2019, when his predecessor was contemplating a quick withdrawal from Syria, then-Candidate Biden called that notion “the most shameful thing any president has done in modern history in terms of foreign policy.”

Well, look where we are today. The Taliban is hunting down the U.S.-backed pilots who helped the Afghan people. It has wiped out scores of special forces resisting its advance. As the Taliban moves toward threatening Kabul, the Biden administration seems to have no plan to efficiently process special visas for the Afghans who helped us and no plan to get those people safe passage to our Embassy or, for that matter, even out of the country.
The dangers facing the Afghan people—especially, especially women and girls—are heartbreaking. The humanitarian crisis may well be historic. But this is also an awful, bungled mess from the perspective of our own national security. The President’s own CIA Director told Senators this decision would be certain to inhibit our ability to collect intelligence. Gen. Frank McKenzie of Central Command confirmed this week, this very week, that intelligence collection was already suffering.

The President’s top advisers understand very well that the Taliban is capable of retaking control of Afghanistan in just a matter of months. This would allow al-Qaida to reconstitute. So analysts are debating not if, not whether, but when al-Qaida will again threaten the United States from Afghanistan.

Just wait until we see Russia and China rushing into the void, exploiting our retreat to expand their power and influence in Central Asia. Just wait until the botched retreat and lingering threats end up requiring a large, ongoing permanent military and surveillance forces in the region rather than freeing up resources for the Indo-Pacific. Just wait until the Biden administration ends up consumed with this humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan and its destabilizing effects rather than focusing on building coalitions to counter Chinese or Russian aggression.

Yet, amid all this, President Biden isn’t reconsidering. Instead, he is floor- ing it. The administration actually spent up the withdrawal so it can accomplish it even before the darkly ironic deadline of September 11.

So I have forcefully opposed efforts by Presidents of both parties to cut and run from our work in Syria or Afghanistan. I have warned of the huge strategic price America would pay if this President pretends that terrorists will play nicely with their political timeline. As one recent headline put it, “We might be done with jihadis but they are not done with us.”

President Biden and his team are desperate to duck hard questions about Afghanistan, but the American people deserve answers. They deserve to understand the risks of this trajectory and how the Commander in Chief plans to keep us safe against a terrorist enemy that his own senior advisers admit will be allowed to regroup thanks to the President’s actions.

I hope that, even in this Democratically controlled Congress, our national security committees will uphold their obligation to oversee this unfolding debacle and its implications. Ending our presence in Afghanistan will not end the terrorist threat against us. Sadly, this is likely to be a self-inflicted wound could very well make the struggle even more difficult and even more dangerous.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a totally different matter, Senators have just spent 2 weeks traveling our home States and hearing what is on the minds of working families. I got to spend time with all kinds of hard-working Kentuckians, and they are already paying the price. But they are not done with us.”

This self-inflicted wound could very well make the struggle even more difficult and even more dangerous. This is the ironclad deadline of September 11. This administration pretends that terrorism and its implications. Ending our presence in Afghanistan will not diminish it. The administration actually primed and set up for a historic American comeback well before the new Democratic Congress or the new Democratic administration was even sworn in.

But Democrats still wanted to rush ahead with the huge borrowing and spending sprees they had promised their far left. Top economists, including famous Democrats, warned our colleagues that the socialist ideas they had drawn up in 2020 were not suited to what Americans needed in 2021. Overspending and overborrowing would unleash inflation, slow rehiring, and hurt small businesses.

All that was predicted, but Democrats rushed ahead. They rammed through what the White House bragged was the most leftwing legislation in our Nation’s history, and now Democrats want to follow up with an even more absurd summer sequel.

Well, let me tell you, I just spent 2 weeks hearing from my fellow Kentuckians, and they are already paying a heavy price. Manufacturers are still absolutely hammered by supply chain shocks. Employers large and small say Democrats’ special bonus for workers to stay unemployed is badly hampering their ability to fully reopen and to serve their customers. Most of our surrounding States have already put a stop to this awful idea, but Kentucky’s Governor, regretfully, hasn’t. It isn’t just for-profit businesses, either, that are having trouble getting people back to work. I heard from one residential treatment center for pregnant women and new moms grappling with substance abuse. They said that because of the generous Federal bonus for staying home, they have had trouble finding enough support staff to even reopen one of their facilities post-COVID. About 80 percent of the people who schedule an interview don’t even show up.

These backward bonuses have also invited heaps—heaps—of fraud. In California, for example, a significant share of the State’s COVID unemployment benefits were paid out fraudulently, billions and billions of dollars to people who shouldn’t have gotten them at all. And now—get this—Democrats want to give the California labor secretary who oversaw the operations of the program an even higher promotion. In fact, we are scheduled to vote on her confirmation today to a leading position at the Department of Labor. You really can’t make this stuff up.

And then there is inflation. Just this morning, we learned that runaway inflation has continued to hit working families and hit them hard. Consumer prices spiked in June considerably more than had been forecast. Inflation is up 5.4 percent year over year—the fastest jump in 13 years. Stunningly, it is up 0.9 percent just month over month. Families are feeling it everywhere, from the supermarket to the gas pumps, to housing, to the used car lot, and beyond—all thanks in part to the Democrats’ half-baked spending spree from the springtime. Now they want an even more absurd, even more damaging summer sequel.

What Democrats say they want to force through this summer through reconciliation would make our current inflationary mess look like small potatoes. Nobody seriously thinks our country needs another gigantic overdo of overborrowing, overspending, and overtaxing.

This isn’t what the American people voted for, either. Our distinguished colleagues, the junior Senator from Vermont, the chair of the Budget Committee, has been very transparent about his socialist ideology for decades, very upfront about it, but the country didn’t elect a 50-50 Senate and a President who claimed to be a moderate so that Chairman Sanders could turn America into a socialist country. Working Americans know that’s not what they voted for. This summer they will see who wants to borrow and spend trillions more dollars for no reason and who would rather help them get their jobs back, their stable prices back, their small businesses back, and their lives back.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last night I had an interesting dinner. Senator Chris Coons of Delaware and I joined two Republican Senators, and we met for dinner with eight Ambassadors from Central and South America. It was a rare occurrence which we
hadn’t seen in the last year and a half, the kind of dialogue and communica-
tion which I think is an important part of my job and an important part of un-
derstanding the world today.

They had one consistent message. Despite how they felt about clos-
eness to the United States that had been built up over decades of generations, there was a new factor in Central and South America which each one of them repeated as significant in the future of that region. The new factor is the ar-
rive China.

In each one of these countries, large and small, China has become a player, a force. They have invested their re-
sources in developing an economic re-
lation with these countries, have provided them with COVID–19 vaccines when others would not, and were be-
coming larger and larger factors in the future of the economies of these coun-
tries.

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tries.
Mr. President, I want to speak on a different topic at this point, Mr. President. As I walked into the Capitol, I took a look around and saw something that I have been waiting for. Families were in the parking lot right in front of the Capitol, enjoying themselves. Children were out in the grass running around. People were crowding together to snap selfies. That used to be so routine around here, but since January 6, it has not been the case.

Behind all of these families visiting their Nation’s Capitol Building was this beautiful dome of the Capitol—majestic and unobstructed for the first time in 6 months.

Over the weekend, Capitol workers removed the remaining metal fencing and concrete barriers that have surrounded this building since the mob attack on January 6. My special thanks to those workers.

That security fencing stood as a reminder of what happened on January 6 when former President Donald Trump summoned and agitated a mob in Washington and then sent them on a mission to storm the heart of democracy.

Well, Trump is gone. But our democracy is still here. And the smiling faces outside the Capitol this week are a testament to the resilience that many Americans share today.

I want to thank President Biden for helping to unite this Nation. He brought us together by appealing to our shared values and our shared identity. His steady, nonconfrontational approach has been a breath of fresh air after the stifling storm of hateful, divisive tweets of the Trump years.

His leadership—President Biden’s leadership—has allowed us to reopen this Capitol. So every American, and every visitor to the people’s house, can experience this historic value.

But even as we celebrate the walls around the Capitol this week are a testament to the resilience that many Americans share today.

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But even as we celebrate the walls around the Capitol this week are a testament to the resilience that many Americans share today.
The Framers of the Constitution never intended for one-half of one branch of government to be equipped with a kill switch that any Senator can push to avoid honest debate. The filibuster as it is used today doesn’t promote bipartisanship. It is preventing bipartisanship. As I said, the proposal to form an independent commission to investigate the January 6 insurrection had broad, bipartisan support in the Senate. Six Republican colleagues had the courage to stand up and join all of the Democrats in calling for this January 6 commission. But a minority of Senators—all Republican—refused. This is not how our legislative process is supposed to function.

Our Nation’s Founders wanted to give each Senator a voice, not a veto over every piece of legislation. That is how the filibuster is being misused today.

So as we celebrate the reopening of the Capitol grounds, let’s take a moment to appreciate the fact our democracy has survived, but it cannot protect itself from future attacks. That responsibility falls on our shoulders. No wasting time on delay tactics; it is time to do the work that we were sent to Washington to do.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Republican whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last month, Speaker Pelosi was asked if she thought a 15-week-old unborn baby was a human being. She declined to answer. A few days later, the President’s Press Secretary was asked if the President thinks a 15-week-old unborn baby is a human being. She also declined to answer.

In case the President and the Speaker are in any doubt, let me just clear things up for them. A 15-week-old unborn baby is a human being. That baby has a human mom and a human dad, and it has other human beings. That is not a complex moral or philosophical question. That is biology 101.

Of course, I am pretty sure the reason the Speaker and the President’s Press Secretary declined to answer these questions is not because they are confused about the answer. I don’t think there is anybody out there who isn’t aware on some level that unborn human beings are human beings. The moment of birth does not magically confer humanity.

No, the Speaker and the President don’t want to admit that unborn children are human beings because admitting it would make it hard to defend the fact that they support the right to kill these babies. If you support abortion, it is much easier to pretend an unborn baby is just a clump of cells rather than a separate human being with his or her own fingerprint and DNA. It is a lot easier to defend killing that baby if you pretend that baby is just a part of the mother instead of a unique, separate, unrepeatable individual.

That is why the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Press Secretary for the President of the United States have declined to answer a question any 10-year-old could answer: whether the baby inside his or her mom is a human being.

At the end of May, President Biden released his budget. It was a slap in the face to pro-life Americans. The President’s budget abandons decades of bipartisan progress. Six Republican colleagues had the courage to oppose the elimination of the Hyde amendment, which protects taxpayers from having their tax dollars go to fund abortions. And that is not all. The budget contains a whole host of pro-abortion measures, from allowing things such as direct taxpayer dollars to fund abortion providers here at home and overseas.

This isn’t just some theatrical proposal. Democrats in the House of Representatives have already acted in committee to exclude the Hyde amendment and other pro-life measures from appropriations bills. If we can’t agree that unborn human beings deserve to have their human rights protected, we should at least be able to agree that taxpayers should not be forced to fund the killing of unborn persons.

The American people don’t think taxpayers should fund abortions. In fact, nearly 60 percent of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortions. The President himself has, as recently as his Presidential campaign, supported the Hyde amendment, but there is one interest group that controls the Democratic Party: abortion industry and its supporters, and I guess the President figured that he needed to sacrifice his support for the Hyde amendment if he wanted to win the election.

And now Democrats and the President are following through by attempting to force taxpayers to pay for abortions. To hear Democrats talk, you would think abortion is legal or illegal. My view is that the moment of birth, was the standard position of this country and the world. But it is actually not. The United States is one of only a tiny handful of countries in the world—in the entire world—that allow elective abortions past 20 weeks of pregnancy.

Americans are squarely to the right of the Democratic Party on abortion. A strong majority of Americans believe abortion should be illegal or there should at least be some restrictions on abortion, and that has been the position of the American people for a long time.

Despite the Democrats’ best efforts, Americans still aren’t convinced unlimited abortion on demand should be the law of the land. It is really not surprising. No one who has ever heard the thump, thump, thump of an unborn baby’s heartbeat really thinks we are just talking about a clump of cells. No one who has ever looked at an ultrasound screen and seen an unborn baby waving her hands or kicking her feet is in any doubt that that baby is a human being.

On some level, every person knows that human beings have human rights and that human beings deserve to be protected, even when they are small and weak and vulnerable—especially when they are small and weak and vulnerable.

No matter how hard the abortion lobby pushes, they can’t convince the majority of Americans that abortion is an unqualified good. Unfortunately, however, they succeeded in turning the Democratic Party into their legislative arm. And President Biden and Democrats in Congress are obediently pursuing a radical abortion agenda that puts them squarely to the left of the majority of the American people.

We cannot limit taxpayer funding of abortion or abortion providers. President Biden nominated a radical pro-abortion crusader as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. In May, Secretary Becerra appeared before a House subcommittee where he chose to answer a question on Federal abortion law by indulging in a game of semantics. Not only did he fail to commit to enforcing the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, he refused to even acknowledge its existence, even though he voted against the law repeatedly during his time in the House of Representatives.

Then there is the so-called Equality Act—Democrats’ unprecedented assault on religious and free speech liberty that would also erode conscience protections on abortions as well as restrictions on Federal funding. Under the Equality Act, doctors and nurses who have a moral objection to participating in abortions could be forced to participate or lose their jobs.

I haven’t even mentioned the Women’s Health Protection Act, sponsored by almost every Democrat in the Senate, which would threaten even the mildest State limits on abortion.

It is deeply disheartening that making sure unborn children are deprived of their human rights has become a defining cause for one of the two major parties in this country. We can do better than this. We have to do better than this.

Congressman Henry Hyde, for whom the Hyde amendment was named, once noted that abortion—which, as he said, denies “an entire class of human beings the welcome and protection of our laws”—is a betrayal of “the best in our tradition.” And he was right. What kind of a message does it send to our children?
when we tell them that an entire class of human beings is not worthy of protection, when we deny human rights to the most innocent and vulnerable humans among us? We have to do better.

To my Democratic colleagues, I would not act as if I believe you are involved in that. That doesn't mean we have to stand up across the State and refuse to do your job, but that is exactly what they did. They got on two chartered jets—maskless and with at least one case of light beer—to come to Washington, DC.

The problem, and really, what is so sad—is I don't think these legislators realize the irony of the situation. They are using their collective power as the minority party to stop a bill they oppose from becoming law. While doing so, they have come to Washington to try to convince the President and Senate Democrats to nuke the very Senate rule that protects the rights of the minority—in other words, you might say, a filibuster for me but not for thee. As a reminder, it seems to me that they have denied the legislature a quorum this year.

I think it is pretty obvious that this was nothing more than a political stunt when these lawmakers skipped town. This is the second time they would return to their jobs in Texas. Frankly, the Governor, under the Texas Constitution, can continue to call as many special sessions as he wishes and without limitation. So we all know how this will end. They will eventually go home. After the cameras leave and after the press loses interest in this political stunt, they will go home, and they will participate in the process.

It is telling that these Democrats in this house of representatives chose to race toward TV cameras in Washington rather than present their arguments in the legislature, and it is not without some risk to them. I am advised that they are being targeted for Federal property and referred to a website, which was actually a fundraising site, for their efforts. We all know there are limits—in fact, strict limits—on any fundraising on Federal property. So they may have crossed a line, unwittingly or not.

This is simply an embarrassing dere- lication of their duty and a shameful political stunt, as I said. They can't win. So they are doing the equivalent of "I will take my ball and go home" or, in this case, "I am simply running away," let the Texans standing up to a fight is part of who we are, even if you know, in the end, you may not prevail. Instead, they turned their backs, hopped on a private jet, and ran from this fight.

Like our Democratic colleagues in Congress, Texas State lawmakers have tried to create a false choice between voter access and election security. I think it boils down to this: We should be making it easier to vote and tougher to cheat, plain and simple. It is dishonest to tell people that any effort to prevent fraud is a veiled attempt at voter suppression. We know that minority voters, voters of color, voted at unprecedented levels in the 2020 election.

In my State, we had 66 percent of registered voters vote and the highest levels in history of African-American and Hispanic voters—so much for this lockout, something the people who want to be able to vote can't vote even though we ordinarily have 2 weeks of early voting before the general election. We have mail-in ballots for people who are disabled, who are over 65, or who cannot—otherwise will not—be in town on election day. Of course, we have election day voting as well. In 2020, we had 11.3 million Texans who cast their ballots—as I said, 66 percent of registered voters. The last time I was on the ballot, in 2014, we had 4.8 million voters—4.8 to 11.3 in 6 years alone. So believe me—there is robust voter participation, and nothing the Texas Legislature is considering will deny people their legitimate right to vote and ability to cast their votes, and it is appropriate that they should do so.

There are other additional items in the Governor's call for this special session, including things like bail reform and family violence prevention. Of all the things fleeing town and coming to Washington in this political stunt, the Democrat house members are abdicating their responsibility to deal with these other issues as well. It is not just about election law reform; it is about these other issues like bail reform and family violence prevention.

I believe firmly and am confident I am in the majority of my constituents, of my 29 million constituents, that they actually expect us, when we run for office and when we get elected, to show up for our jobs and not take part in a highly orchestrated and ethically dubious act of political theater.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The VOTE ON ZEYA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Zeya nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."
The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 24, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 255 Ex.]

YEAS—73

Baldwin  Heinrich  Romney
Bennet  Hickenlooper  Rosen
Blumenthal  Huffman  Rounds
Blunt  Hyde-Smith  Sanders
Booher  Kaine  Saase
Brown  Klobuchar  Schumer
Burr  King  Shaheen
Cantwell  Klobuchar  Scott (SC)
Capito  Leahy  Sinema
Cardin  Lojan  Sinema
Carper  Manchin  Smith
Casey  Markley  Smith
Collins  McConnell  Stabenow
Coons  Mesnard  Sullivan
Cornyn  Merkley  Tester
Cortez Mastro  Moran  Thune
Crapo  Markowski  Toomey
Duckworth  Murphy  Van Hollen
Durbin  Murray  Warner
Feinstein  Ossoff  Warnock
Fischer  Padilla  Warren
Gillibrand  Peters  Whitehouse
Graham  Portman  Wicker
Grassley  Reed  Wyden
Hassan  Risch  Young

NAYS—24

Barrasso  Ernst  Lummis
Blackburn  Hagerty  Marshall
Boozman  Hawley  Paul
Cassidy  Hoeven  Rubio
Cotton  Johnson  Scott (FL)
Cramer  Kennedy  Shelby
Cruz  Lankford  Tillis
Daines  Lee  Tuberville

NOT VOTING—3

Braun  Inhofe  Young

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accord-
ance with the provisions of rule XXII of the
Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby
move to bring to a close debate on the nomi-
nation of Executive Calendar No. 63, Julie A.
Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of
Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jacky Rosen, John Hickenlooper, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gilli-
brand, Raphael Warnock, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Martin Hein-
rich, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Bernard Sanders, Jeff Merkley, Margaret Wood Hassan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unan-
imous consent, the mandatory quorum
call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Depu-
try Secretary of Labor, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory
under the cloture motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators
are necessarily absent: the Senator
from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator
from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the
Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the
Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG)
would have voted "yea." The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Roll Call Vote No. 255 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin  Hickenlooper  Reed
Bennet  Hickenlooper  Rosen
Blumenthal  Huffman  Rounds
Booher  Kaine  Saase
Brown  Klobuchar  Schumer
Cantwell  Klobuchar  Scott (SC)
Cardin  Leahy  Sinema
Carper  Lojan  Sinema
Casey  Manchin  Smith
Coons  Mesnard  Sullivan
Cornyn  Merkley  Tester
Cortez Mastro  Menendez  Van Hollen
Duckworth  Murphy  Warnock
Durbin  Murray  Warner
Feinstein  Ossoff  Warnock
Fischer  Padilla  Warren
Gillibrand  Padilla  Whitehouse
Grassley  Reed  Wyden
Hassan  Risch  Young

NAYS—47

Barrasso  Ernst  Lummis
Blackburn  Hagerty  Marshall
Boozman  Hawley  Paul
Cassidy  Hoeven  Rubio
Cotton  Johnson  Scott (FL)
Cramer  Kennedy  Shelby
Cruz  Lankford  Tillis
Daines  Lee  Tuberville

NOT VOTING—3

Braun  Inhofe  Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this
vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sena-
tor from Hawaii.

Ms. HIROINO. Madam President, I
rise in strong support of the nomi-
nation of Julie Su to be Deputy Secretary of
the Department of Labor.

The U.S. Department of Labor is an
important Federal Agency, but amidst
a global pandemic that has left mil-
ions of Americans out of work, the De-
partment’s mission takes on outsized
importance. The Department needs
leadership with deep experience,
knowledge, and a demonstrated ability
to successfully lead an organization.

Just as importantly, the Department
needs leadership with an understand-
ing of the unique challenges of this
moment. As we are seeing with President
Biden, leadership does make a dif-
fERENCE. At this critical time in our Na-
tion’s economic recovery, we must en-
sure the President has the tools he
needs to move our country forward.
Julie Su is a key member of that team.
She is a highly qualified and proven
leader.

As California’s secretary of labor and
workforce development, Secretary Su
overssees and protects the workforce
for the State of California, the fifth larg-
est economy in the world. When you
add her work as an attorney and a non-
profit executive, she brings a wide mix of
experience to the table. Coupled with
a collaborative work style that
gives everyone a seat at the table, Sec-
retary Su has not only delivered on her
agency’s mission but has also improved
and transformed her agency.

Her success and effectiveness is best
summed up in the words of her own
staff at the agency she has led for more
than 7 years:

During Ms. Su’s seven years as California Labor Commissioner, she remade the agency
in ways that many would have thought im-
possible.

She increased efficiency throughout the
division and broke down departmental silos
that had stymied effective collaboration and
cause redundancy.

Moreover, under her leadership, the Labor
Commissioner’s office reworked its inves-
tigative bureau into a cutting edge labor en-
forcement team that dug deep into complex
cases that the Labor Commissioner’s office
had been previously unequipped to handle.

Complex, high quality investigations that
had previously been rare—if not unthink-
able—became standard operating procedure.

Secretary Su is an excellent man-
age. Not only does she deliver results,
she invests in her own staff by pro-
viding them with the resources and en-
vironment they need to get the job
done. She builds diverse teams and
then empowers them to do their best
work—all while knowing who they are.
I mean this literally.

Again, in the words of her staff:
She was legendary for having learned the
names of every one of the more than 600 staff
within the Labor Commissioner’s office, from
secretarial support staff to investiga-
tors, deputies, and legal staff.

Julie Su will also bring diverse life
experiences to the Department. She is
the daughter of Chinese immigrants.
Her immigrant background shaped Sec-
rectary Su personally and profes-
sionally. Her own lived experience of-
fered her insight into how segments of
our economy leave people behind or
even exclude them from experiencing
the benefits of economic growth and
opportunities.

Her professional career reflects this
life lesson as she has established a long
and distinguished record of fighting for
worker rights and civil rights. From defending the rights of Thai garment workers to protecting low-wage workers against abuses, Secretary Su has worked tirelessly to help people and communities that might not otherwise have access to justice. This sense of fairness and the desire to fight injustice will be critical for the Department of Labor, particularly as the Department works to address the pandemic’s disproportionate impact on women and minorities.

Given her proven track record and commitment to worker and fair labor rights, I have every confidence that Secretary Su will protect all sectors of our workforce and will work to lift everyone from this pandemic. Moreover, her experience in managing labor policy at the executive level for the State of California over the last decade will enable Secretary Su to hit the ground running immediately after she is confirmed.

In particular, through the COVID-19 pandemic, Secretary Su has dealt with the overwhelming demand for assistance from workers who are suffering or who are unemployed. She has helped her State combat the organized crime attacks and employment fraud that have affected all 50 States, including, of course, California, with its large economy. She has worked to address systemic shortcomings that bad actors have exploited during this pandemic. Secretary Su can be an effective leader to combat fraudulent actors from taking advantage of the unemployment system, dating back to the beginning of the pandemic, and the State of California has already begun prosecuting these offenders. The U.S. Department of Labor ultimately advised all States to take the same steps Secretary Su took in order to cut down on fraudulent claims.

Despite the many challenges brought on by the pandemic, Secretary Su has never wavered in her ultimate goal: to provide millions of workers access to unemployment benefits and other assistance. In these economic times, Secretary Su’s leadership skills and proven track record of experience and effectiveness are just what we need.

Her nomination also proves something I believe deeply: When you look for the most qualified person, you get diversity, and when you prioritize diversity, you get the most qualified people—people who reflect all of America and who are able to serve all of America.

Secretary Su’s nomination is supported by many who see their stories reflected in hers, including labor leaders from the AFL-CIO and SEIU, business leaders from the Small Business Majority, and civil rights leaders from the National Women’s Law Center and the National Employment Law Project.

Secretary Su will be an outstanding Deputy Secretary of Labor. I am proud to support her nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendment. 

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO ZAILA AVANT-GARDE

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I am here to talk about two things.

First, let me give a heartfelt congratulations to Zaila Avant-garde, this incredible—if we can get the poster up—14-year-old young lady, who just won the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

She is Louisiana's first winner and is the first African-American winner of this spelling bee. She dominated, getting words that I don't think any of the rest of us would have been able to spell.

By the way, I should also note that she held a World Record for dribbling. I am told there is a YouTube video of her dribbling and, at the same time, juggling basketballs that is incredible to watch.

She has a bright future. Zaila shows that hard work and dedication bring success.

This week, Senator JOHN KENNEDY and I introduced a resolution congratulating Zaila. And Zaila, if you are watching, if you want to do it, when you are a little older and you want to do an internship in a Senate office in the U.S. Senate, please give me a call. Believe me, I will remember you.

And if you wish to do that internship, we are here to encourage you as you embark on the rest of your life, a life that is going to be incredibly successful.

ENERGY POLICY

Madam President, we have to talk about the White House's hypocritical and backward energy policy that is putting a target on American workers.

The Biden administration is happy to cancel U.S. pipelines and kill the jobs pipelines create, putting people in Louisiana and elsewhere in the Nation out of business, justifying it by saying this is how we lower greenhouse gas emissions. Yet they then greenlight a Russian pipeline into Germany when the emissions that come from Russian gas far exceed the emission profile of gas that is produced in Louisiana or elsewhere in our country. By the way, it also creates jobs where simultaneously we are killing American jobs.

Then let's look at gas prices, which are now much higher than they were. The Biden administration is working to put a pause on oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico, but they are pleading with OPEC to increase OPEC production, saying we need more oil shipped to the United States to lower gas prices.

Just last week, the President's Press Secretary said the administration is encouraging OPEC countries to reach agreements to increase production while they are simultaneously styling U.S. production and the U.S. jobs that go along with the production of U.S. oil and gas.

And it just begs the question: The administration is helping Russians and the Russian economy, they are helping OPEC nations and workers in OPEC; why don't we think about helping American workers? It just cannot be understood.

I am demanding; we are demanding; we are pleading not with OPEC but with the administration to leave our jobs and the livelihoods of Louisiana workers and American workers alone.

Let's just speak about the Louisiana industry. The oil and gas industry in Louisiana is a major economic and industrial force, a force for good, and the benefits from the environmental perspective must be stated. The United States is a global leader in decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, and this happened because of increased production of U.S. We simultaneously became a net exporter of energy, helping other nations lower their emission profile as well. But what we have seen in the last few months, you would not understand that.

As I mentioned earlier, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL Pipeline and 11,000 jobs with it, but, again, Russian pipelines are OK. The administration removed sanctions from Russia, clearing the way for the construction of the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline—commenting, by the way, Europe's reliance upon Russian gas. Again, Russian gas, the production of it, emits far more greenhouse gas emissions than the production of American and Louisiana natural gas.

It is almost, if you will, a quadruple whammy: weakening U.S. security, increasing global greenhouse gas emissions, increasing gas prices, and killing American jobs. That is what this administration's policies are doing. It begs the question: Why don't we green-light U.S. pipelines as opposed to green-lighting Russian pipelines?

Americans across the country, every time they fill up their tanks, feel these punches, and they are tired of it. The average price of gasoline has now been over $3 a gallon since May, clocking in at $3.15 as of today, and it is only going up—expected that gas prices will rise another 10 to 20 cents through the end of August. Louisiana is a bit luckier. Because of our position as an energy powerhouse, the gas prices here at home are still average about $2.75—not going down anytime soon.

While the administration is actively trying to kill domestic energy jobs, they are working to increase production of oil overseas—again, asking the OPEC cartel to increase production so there is more oil to lower gas prices. Why don't we just produce more oil in the United States of America?

The administration says that they are killing jobs in the United States because of carbon emissions, but when you produce oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico and you bring it to our shores, it has the lowest emissions profile of any oil and gas that we use in our country. You almost have to ask, what is it about the U.S. oil and gas worker that the Russian administration wants?

In 2018—just speaking about Louisiana—in 2019, oil and gas operations supported nearly 250,000 Louisiana jobs, about 1 out of every 9 jobs in my State. The oil and gas industry provided $73 billion to the State's gross domestic product, and more than 428,000 workers. Through taxes alone, it accounted for $4.5 billion going directly to coastal restoration, environmental improvement projects, schools, infrastructures, roads—you name it—making life better for the citizens of my State.

It has been only 6 months of the Biden administration, but every day, that target on the back of an oil and gas worker and on their family's future gets bigger and bigger. The presiding officer truly is that hard work and dedication bring success.

One more time, let me say in conclusion, the Biden administration's working against U.S. oil and gas production is making other countries stronger; it is making us weaker. It weakens America's security, it increases global greenhouse gas emissions, it increases gas prices, and it kills jobs. We need better policy for our country, for my State, and for our workers.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

CUBA

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to speak about a topic I spoke about before, and that is our policy toward Cuba. I couldn't help but think, as I look at the Cubans protesting in the street, especially as I see so many people in the streets in places where both my wife Marcelle and I have walked, and actually our granddaughter Sophia, where we know a lot of the people, and we see them protesting, it hits twice as hard. They are demanding greater freedom and economic opportunity. This illustrates a widespread hardship and hunger and the need for fundamental change in Cuba.

Human rights are universal. Cuban people are no different from people anywhere in the world. They want to be able to speak freely. They don't want fear of retribution. We have been told that the Biden administration is conducting a review of the Trump administration's policy. It is the Trump administration's policy toward Cuba which is now in effect. There is nothing unusual about that review. New administrations regularly conduct such reviews. But it is now mid-July, and the key question that needs to be answered is not very complicated.

It is axiomatic that we have profound disagreements with the Cuban Government. They have held power since 1959. They have held power by outlawing opposition political parties. Dissent is often punished with physical abuse and
imprisonment. The government’s crackdown on the recent protests, calling the protesters counterrevolutionaries and blaming the United States for Cuba’s ills, is predictable. They have blamed us for many years. I look at headlines. There is no doubt that the Cuban people, many of whom I have met, and I know they struggle from day to day to make ends meet—they want greater freedom, and they want a better life. They have told me that. They have told Marcella. They have told other Senators, Republicans and Democrats, who have traveled there with me. But the question now is, How should we respond? It comes down to whether you believe that we should continue a policy of unilateral sanctions, which have been in effect for decades, much of my life— they have completely failed to achieve their objectives, and they have contributed to the daily misery of Cuba’s people—or should we instead pursue a policy of engagement?

I believe President Obama got it right. You know, one definition of “insanity” is to keep doing what has repeatedly and demonstrably failed. In Cuba, it is worse than that. Our policy, which isProduces, has emboldened Cuba’s hardliners, and it provides an excuse for Cuba’s authorities to crack down on those who dare to protest. But worse than that, it has created a vacuum. And guess who is exploiting that vacuum? In recent years, China has been the chief beneficiary of Cuba’s hardliners, and it provides an excuse for Cuba’s authorities.

I visited a number of these people, often young people starting their own businesses—small businesses, private businesses—doing it because of President Obama’s engagement with Cuba. President Obama’s engagement with Cuba showed that U.S. travel, exchanges, remittances, and business ties expand opportunities and information and income for Cubans, boosting the private sector and increasing economic independence.

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young people—young students, young entrepreneurs, young business owners like those I visited and met with in Cuba—it is time to say: Yes, you can be part of the world. Yes, you can work with those in our country who want to make your life better. If we do that, we will see more and more of what Aristotle meant by change but substantive change.

I see my distinguished friend and colleague from Ohio on the floor. I will ask to put my full statement in the Record.

By the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. I thank my colleague from Vermont, the President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate.

I was able to listen to some of his remarks regarding Cuba. This is a truly historic time in that island country. The demonstrations, I am told, are as large as they have been since at least 1969.

My hope is that the countries of the Americas, all of which I just visited—four of them down in Latin America—that believe in democracy, that believe in the ability for people to come together and express their concerns, that believe in strong human rights, would come together and support the Cuban people at this critical point.

My understanding is, there are some opportunities to ensure that internet access continues among those demonstrating. My understanding is that there are human rights abuses occurring even now as we talk with regard to those demonstrators.

I appreciate my colleague. He has spent a lot of time trying to take the Cuban relationship, which has been a fraught one, and make it better. My hope is that what we are seeing right now on the streets of Havana and elsewhere around the country will lead to a better day for the people of Cuba.

LATIN AMERICA CODEL

Madam President, I did just return from a bipartisan trip to the area. I went with Senators Tim Kaine, John Hoeven, Ben Ray Luján, Mike Crapo, and Chris Coons to Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia, and Guatemala.

I want to talk a bit about what we learned and a bit about some of the ways forward to help these countries and, frankly, to help ourselves here in America because there are some of our policies—not just asking them to change what they do but changing some things we do.

It was an opportunity to show our support for these countries. These are our neighbors in Latin America. All of them are allies. I understand this is the first major congressional delegation trip since the COVID–19 crisis began to abate, and we chose Latin America. They are our neighbors. They are at our front door, in fact.

I did think when we were down there that there was a lot of appreciation for the fact that we were showing up and talking about America’s role in the region and, frankly, the role of China and even Russia and Iran and other countries—at least in the Venezuelan area with regard to Russia and Iran and Cuba.

It has been increasing at a time when sometimes the U.S. presence is not felt as acutely. So it is important for us to realize that is still a beacon of hope and opportunity for those who seek democracy and freedom and human rights. That is our role, in my view, is to continue to be that model but also to provide assistance the way the Chinese are allowing these countries to be able to see more prosperity and peace themselves. So I thought it was an important trip and an important opportunity to be there.

We had the opportunity to meet with the President of each of these four countries. In fact, none of our meetings with the respective Presidents went for less than 2 hours. These were very honest dialogues. We got into some depth into the issues.

We were able to discuss the COVID–19 crisis. Each President was appreciative of the fact that the American taxpayer has helped to provide some vaccines to these countries. It is not everything they want, of course. They still need a lot more. Their vaccine rates are far lower than ours. But each of these countries has suffered in terms of the impact of COVID–19, and each of these countries is eager to get back on their feet, to get the economy working again, to get people back to work, back to school, back to a more normal life just like in this country.

We talked about the surge of migration to the United States and the pressure on our southern border but also where our country will lead to a better day for the people of Cuba.

CUBA

Many of these countries are sending their young people and others to our borders. By the way, the Presidents of these countries all said the same thing. They want their people to stay in their country. They want their people to stay there to be part of the future of their country, to be able to help develop the economy and the prosperity that they seek in their democracies.

Some of the leaders I met with are understood even by American policymakers, who think, with all great intentions—who are opening up more in the sense of providing a magnet, really, pulling people to the north.

That treacherous journey north is also something that many of these Presidents commented on. Ecuador, as an example—you might not think of it as one of the countries that send a lot of migrants to the United States. You think of Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, but they surpassed Honduras last month in the number of migrants they are sending to our border from Ecuador. They want those people to stay in Ecuador and be citizens there and help contribute to that country’s growth.

Unfortunately, the impact with COVID–19 has made things more difficult in each of these countries. So their economies have weakened as ours was. They were hit even harder and even longer, again, with the lack of vaccines. Again, we are helping them with that. I support that. I think it is very important.

Over the way, the Chinese are also selling a lot of vaccines throughout Latin America and trying very hard to influence what is going on in this part of the world, which is our hemisphere. The United States needs to be there for many reasons, and that is one.

We also talked about the need for the continued battle against corruption in these countries and throughout Latin America and to ensure that you do have more transparency and a governing environment that is driven by the rule of law so there can be more investment from the United States and more trade between us.

In Ecuador in particular, we talked about the need for a new trade agreement, which I support, which would really help to strengthen our ties with Ecuador at a critical time in their history but also would be good economically for both countries’ mutual benefit.

With regard to Colombia, Guatemala, and, of course, Mexico, we have trade agreements, but we talked about how to improve those trade agreements—how they operate and are implemented on the ground. I am a former U.S. Trade Representative. I helped to negotiate the Colombia trade agreement. I also helped with regard to the CAFTA agreement, which included Guatemala.

Those agreements were helpful at the time. They could be even more helpful if they could be improved in certain respects, and we talked specifically about that.

Each President basically said the same thing: They would prefer trade to aid. They are not against U.S. assistance. They appreciate it, and we do assist those countries in a number of different ways. Yet what they really want is the ability to have more commerce, more U.S. investment, more jobs—therefore, more economic growth and more opportunities for their young people so they will stay in those countries. Continued support from the United States is crucial in all of these matters.

With regard to COVID, we can supply more personal protective gear. They still need it. Certainly, the donations of vaccines have been very helpful. When we were in Guatemala, the Biden administration announced it was delivering 1.2 million doses of vaccines, approximately doubling the number of Guatemalans who were vaccinated. Now, I will tell you that is still only something like 10 or 12 percent, so it is still relatively low. This is a first good step, and we need to try to
do more. As was the case in the United States, once these populations are vaccinated, they will be able to get their economies back on their feet.

Our trip also allowed us to see firsthand the problems associated with the surge that has been playing out on our southern border for so many months. In many cases, families in Latin America leave their homes for economic opportunities so that they can find a better way for their kids and their families to survive in the United States. Yet, while we were impacted heavily, were the countries the migrants passed through, and each of them told us this. Our allies to the south—and we were there with them—are overwhelmed sometimes in providing shelters and services for those who are migrating through their countries, even in the case of Guatemala having a number of migrants there from Honduras and El Salvador and Ecuador to whom they are providing shelter.

We had talked with many of these migrant shelters, one in Ecuador and one in Guatemala. We saw some of the very good work that nongovernmental organizations are doing there, including those supported by USAID. They provide food, shelter, counseling, and motivation to migrant families. We mostly saw young women and young mothers with young children, and many of these women had been trafficked. In other words, they had been promised the ability to get north, but, in effect, their traffickers had put them in situations where they had been abused. Therefore, these shelters are there to try to protect them as much as anything else. It was very emotional. Their stories were heartbreaking.

Again, I would just say that, in terms of the role the United States plays here, there are a number of policies we have in place that allow these coyotes, as they call the human smugglers, to go to a poor country in Latin America and say: “Pay me a lot of money,” say $10,000, which for a family in a poor part of Honduras is their future, bring them, you know, to bring virtually all of them stay in the United States. In 2019, which was the last time we had a big surge like this, it was mostly children and unaccompanied minors, even though only 15 percent of them, on average, were found to have valid asylum claims. What does that mean? That means that the United States, as I said earlier, is a magnet. We are pulling people north.

These countries don’t want to lose their people. Many of these migrants are being mistreated along the way, including children who are placed by U.S. Agencies into sponsor families who sometimes mistreat them. We have done studies on this. We have done two studies in the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and bipartisan studies wherein we have concluded that we do not have effective ways to place these children who are, again, brought to the U.S. border and allowed into the United States because of our policy.

I know that these are tough issues, and our hearts go out to these migrants—they really do—but we have to have a policy that makes sense and a policy that allows people to come legally to the United States in a humane way, and not continue this policy that effectively gives the coyotes, the human smugglers, a pretty good narrative—a pretty credible one—that, if you pay me, I will get you into the interior. Into Ohio, where I am from, or into some other State.

Again, the way our system works, because there is a backlog of about 1.2 million people for these cases and because only 15 percent at the end of the day, on average, have their asylum claims approved, these people tend to stay in the community. I don’t blame them for coming. I really don’t. Every family I have talked to along the border, when I have been there or down there when I was in these four countries over the last week, tells me the same thing: They want more opportunity.

Some truly do have a fear of persecution in their countries, and they should be given asylum. And at about 15 percent. The vast majority, of course, will live lives that are lives of poverty. They want more opportunity, and we want to provide that opportunity. This is why there isn’t an issue right now with regard to this: How does the United States best help in their home countries?

We talked about the pull factor, which is U.S. policy. By the way, when title 42 ends, which is a provision that is in place now with regard to adults to prevent people from entering America because of COVID—when title 42 ends, which will happen at the end of the healthcare emergency, the administration needs to be prepared for a further surge of individuals coming to America—this time adults. Already, for kids, title 42 has been ended by the Biden administration. Therefore, we have seen what has happened. Already, for most families, now title 42 is been ended, and we have seen what has happened. We have seen these surges of 170,000 to 180,000 people a month.

When it has ended for adults, it will become more difficult. I would urge the Biden administration to be prepared as it wasn’t last time. You will remember the huge influx and the children who were left in Border Patrol detention facilities for far longer than they were legally allowed to be there under U.S. law and living side by side on the floor, on pads, at the time of COVID but without having any COVID tests. That was wrong, as just as it will be wrong if we don’t prepare having talked to these countries, for us to keep title 42 in place for now. We still do have a COVID issue, and countries to the south have an even larger COVID issue that is much more pronounced than ours.

We should put in place sensible policies to allow people to come in legally in higher numbers. I support that. Temporary worker programs, in my view, are good for both sides right now. We have a work shortage. We also have a need to ensure that these people are coming in a legal way, through proper means. We should also have rules that work and laws that mean something. People who wait in line for years in these countries to try to get here are looking and saying: Why should I wait when my neighbor can just walk up to the border and come to Columbus, OH?

So I do think there is an opportunity here, in having been down there and having talked to these countries, for us to do a better job in helping these countries to develop their own economies and to provide opportunities for people in those countries. This avoids the so-called push factor. As far as getting it through Congress is not going to be easy, and it is not going to be done quickly. I know that many are saying that $4 billion that the Biden administration has promised to these countries is going to make all of the difference. It will start, and that is good, but we have to acknowledge that we also need to change the pull side. It is going to take time—decades, in fact—to allow people in these countries to come close to the economic opportunities that they would have in coming across the border. The United States is a country where there is still opportunity for everyone, including these migrants, and that is a great country that we have to be sure there is also a system that is orderly and legal to allow them to come in here in a safe and humane way. So that is one thing we talked about a lot down there.

The other thing we talked about a lot, as you can imagine, is the issue of Venezuela. I mentioned earlier what was going on in Cuba, and Cuba influences Venezuela greatly. The fact that
the Maduro regime in Venezuela can survive is because of Cuba and some other help, by the way, from the Russians and others. There is a problem, which is that the country is a basket case right now economically. Therefore, people are leaving. They are surging out of the country. It cannot survive if it can. There are 1.7 million Venezuelan refugees in the country of Colombia. Think about that. Colombia, to its credit, has said: We are going to take care of these people. It has given them temporary protected status. It has given them places to live and shelter, and Colombia is taking them in as refugees. I also saw this in Ecuador, where they have hundreds of thousands of Venezuelan refugees.

This is impacting not just Venezuela, but is impacting our allies in the region, who are required—again, I commend them for this—to be able to help in this crisis. It is one reason we need to be sure that we deal with these issues. In Venezuela, we need to have legislation that will help to give people the ability to live in a free and open society, with a democracy, because then they will tend to stay home and develop their economies, compared to what we are seeing in the streets of the cities of Cuba today and seeing the misery that we see in Venezuela. We talked about that a lot as you can imagine.

Finally, we talked a lot about the illegal narcotics issue because the narcotics trade is devastating these countries, not just because people are using in those countries, which they are, by the way, in increasing numbers, but more because of the transit going through these countries and the corruption that results from the huge amount of money that is involved in the drug trade.

In a place like Colombia, unfortunately, the cocaine production is up. During COVID, they increased the production not decreased it, as you might think. And where is this cocaine going? I pushed and pushed on the data here with the U.S. Embassy and with our Colombian counterparts. Roughly, 90 percent of this cocaine, they believe, is coming to the United States of America.

Are we helping these countries? Certainly not by our drug policies. I mentioned the immigration policies earlier that are not helping these countries. How about our drug policies? If we can do a better job of reducing demand in America, it is hard to see how these countries in Latin America can, all of which are affected.

The transit through Ecuador is their big issue and the corruption that results. In Mexico, of course, the drug cartels control parts of the Mexican countryside right now. There is terrible violence in Mexico because of the cartels, because of the drug trade.

I was impressed with every President I met, including President Lopez Obrador, who is doing his best in a very difficult situation. What would be helpful to him is to have, in his case, less of a crystal meth, heroin, and fentanyl demand in the United States, because that is coming into his country and then going up north. It is creating huge problems in his country, including, again, a higher usage in each of these countries as we have also by the deadly nature of these drugs. Fentanyl, as you know, is killing more people by overdose deaths than any other drug right now.

Our overdose deaths in the United States of America as a result of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act also in other legislation to help the States be able to provide better prevention, better treatment options, and more long-term recovery.

We were actually making progress, and then the pandemic hit. We have to get back to it. Folks, we have to reframe our efforts, and we have the legislation to do that. Senator Whitehouse and I have legislation called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act 3.0, the third version of it.

We need to be smarter on telehealth options. We need to be smarter on encouraging what works in terms of prevention because that is good for us as a country but also, again, because of the devastation that it is causing in every country that I was in—every one of them. They want us to do a better job here. They have to have to suffer the consequences there.

When I talked to President Duque in Colombia, whose commitment to fighting the narcotraffickers is absolutely critical—and we appreciate him so much for what he has done—but I had to tell him: The real issue is the demand in your country. It is harder for me to solve the problem here.

He is absolutely right. So we can, and I think we will, as a Congress, begin to refocus on this issue. I hope, post-COVID and get back to a situation where we are seeing progress in reducing use and reducing overdoses and overdose deaths and, in fact, helping these countries be able to get back on their feet.

Finally, in terms of trade, not aid and commerce, it is a great opportunity for us right now. Certainly, China thinks so. It is investing in these countries and with our Colombian counterparts.

It all helps to reduce the issue, because the price of the drug will go up if there is less supply, and that is important for fentanyl which is so inexpensive and so deadly and so powerful. But the most important thing by far is to allow people to get into treatment—understanding this is a disease—to allow them to have access to recovery options and to come up with more effective ways to prevent the use of the drug in the first place and to ensure that we are working together with our Latin neighbors and with our communities here in this country to do just that.

I yield the floor.

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

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and commemorate the outstanding legacy of my dear friend Dean Cox. His enduring commitment to public service over the course of his life and his consequential career are worthy of the highest praise.

Many Utahns knew Dean as an accomplished Washington County commissioner, but those closest to him knew him as a loving friend, a neighbor, dad, grandfather, and husband, who devoted his life to helping others.

Dean’s passing is a blow to Washington County and across southern Utah, a blow to his family, and to his loved ones. He is a man we will miss very, very much.

A true son of southern Utah, Dean was raised on the family pasture by his veteran father and caring mother in St. George. Throughout his youth, Dean learned how to fix just about anything in his father’s garage and mechanic’s shop, mastering his trade craft in Bob’s Garage.

The course of his life would, however, change when attending Brigham Young University of the highest praise.

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University. There, he would meet the love of his life, LaRene Leavitt, and the two would soon dedicate their lives to raising their four children at their home in St. George.

Dean and his brother decided to purchase Robert Garage and carry on the family tradition. Their shop—renamed Colorland Sales and Service—was not only a successful small business, but it allowed Dean the opportunity to pass along the skills he had learned from his dad to his children as well.

Dean’s career in public service began as a volunteer emergency responder in Washington County. As a stellar radio operator and licensed pilot since the age of 16, Dean’s endless coordination efforts through major disaster responses and other trials earned him experience and admiration from the communities he protected.

Impressed by his years of excellent service, Countyinity offered Dean the critical role of county administrator, where he executed the policies set forth by the county commission. Then when a seat on the commission became available, Dean was encouraged to run for the position. His candidacy was backed by three decades of local knowledge, by his expertise and broad popularity within the community.

Victorious, Dean then became the decision-maker, without a doubt, the hallmark of Commissioner Cox’s legacy is his successful breakthrough in securing approval for the Northern Corridor project. His pragmatism and willingness to reach compromise was the key to resolving disagreements between disparate parties. His efforts yielded a win for the transportation needs of the Nation’s fastest growing State and a win for the wildlife conservation of its most beautiful.

Last year, 80 percent of his constituents reelected Dean Cox to be their Commissioner—80 percent. Despite this incredible achievement, illness would tragically force Dean to receive hospital care, including chemotherapy. To his credit, Dean continued to serve while undergoing this treatment.

He passed away surrounded by loved ones, and he is survived by his loving family: his wife, LaRene; his son Jeffery, and Tanna, Matthew, Keira, and Camille; his daughter Elisa, and Quinten, Ethan, Anna, and Audrey; his daughter Kristen, and Thomas, Kate, Jonas, and Halley; his son Edward, and Karen, Emery, and Everett.

At the age of 55, Dean’s remarkable career, his sweetheart LaRene stood by his side. Her love and support sustained him through decades of selfless public service, and now, LaRene carries on his wonderful legacy. Our great State owes Dean and LaRene Cox a debt of gratitude for their leadership and kindness to all and their indelible contributions to southern Utah’s destiny.

Our hearts go out to them. We love them dearly and pray for happiness and joy in their ultimate reunion.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.
President Biden has removed almost all of the policies protecting our border. Title 42 is the last one standing. Now, he is going to take this one down as well. If he does, it will open the floodgates. I would expect tens of thousands more illegal immigrants coming into our states. It would just create even more chaos from criminals all across the land—not just from Mexico, but from all across the world, coming across our southern border.

As a physician, I am concerned about this decision from the fentanyl standpoint and also from the standpoint of the disease, the coronavirus and the new variants we are all dealing with. We know that people are coming from all over the world.

When I was at the border this spring, at the Donna facility near McAllen, TX, the border agents said they had arrested people from more than 50 different countries coming across that southern border from Mexico into the United States. Now, this includes lots of places where the vaccination rates are much, much lower than they are in the United States and in some places where vaccines aren’t even available.

At Donna, we are seeing new variants of coronavirus rapidly spreading across the world; variants that are coming from other places; variants that are deadly; variants for which the vaccines that we have here in the United States may not be as effective as we had thought or as we would hope.

So the country’s threat for all of us is real. Since the pandemic began, more than 8,000 Border Patrol agents and officers have tested positive for coronavirus, and 32 of these agents have died of coronavirus.

When I visited the border, I saw firsthand how unaccompanied children were routinely exposed to coronavirus. When I visited, roughly 1 in 10 of these young people tested, tested positive for coronavirus. And they were all together in these holding pens, crammed like sardines, one exposing the other and the other after that. These holding facilities packed 7,000 young people into one facility the day we were there, and they have exposed everyone in the facility.

And, of course, after their time in the holding facility, they are released—many of them released while positive. So as the variant spreads around the world, this puts our Nation in serious danger.

That is why Republican Senators are sending a letter to President Biden. Our message to President Biden is this: Leave the CDC protection under Title 42 in place. The America’s people need it. We need it from a public health standpoint. It protects our public health. It protects our border agents. It strengthens our border security.

There is enough chaos at the border already. Too many drugs, too many criminals, and they are already crossing the border. We need to stop this knee-jerk partisanship. And we need to get back to the policies that we know work; the policies that the Border Patrol tells us work; the policies that the Border Patrol advised the Biden transition team, prior to Joe Biden’s getting sworn in and inaugurated as President of the United States, to keep in place. And all the work that has already been paid for. We need to bring back the Remain in Mexico policy. We need to enforce the law. We need to close the loopholes. We need to slam the door shut on the drug cartels. It is time to secure our border once and for all.

I yield the floor.

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

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, every State of the Nation has many infrastructure needs. In Iowa, we rely on our roads, bridges, air, and freight to move people and goods throughout Iowa, throughout the United States, and eventually throughout the world. I am encouraged that a bipartisan framework has been agreed to for moving forward on an infrastructure bill. I will be interested OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INFRASTRUCTURE

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INFRASTRUCTURE

The inland and intercoastal waterways and our ports are vital to the United States and serve 41 States throughout our Nation. Shipper and consumers depend on the ability to move around 630 million tons of cargo each year, valued at about $322 billion on these waterways. In turn, the inland waterways system supports well over half a million jobs.

Now, I am going to go into some of the information that is on the chart here.

Our Nation’s inland waterways also provide a safe, cost-effective, fuel-efficient, and environmentally friendly way to move our bulk products. This translates into more than $12 billion annually in transportation savings to the American economy.

Furthermore, when I say “furthermore,” this point is important for the environment—1 gallon of fuel oil allows 1 ton of cargo to be shipped 647 miles by barge as compared to 477 miles by rail and only 145 miles by truck.

In addition, the inland waterway transport generates far fewer emissions of hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide than rail or truck per million tons of miles does.

As for safety, there are 21—let’s say 22 rail fatalities compared to 79 truck fatalities for every 1 fatality on the waterways system that I am addressing.

By moving goods on inland waterways, we are helping to relieve congestion on the roadways and adding to the Nation’s economic prosperity. Moving goods on inland waterways is the most efficient transportation mode. A typical inland barge has a capacity 15 times greater than 1 railcar and 60 times greater than 1 semi-trailer truck. One 15-barge tow can move the equivalent of 216 railcars or 1,050 semi-trailer trucks, just as a comparison of the efficiency of this mode of transportation. If the cargo transported on the inland waterways each year had to be moved by another mode, it would require an additional 16 percent more tonnage on the railroad system and 49 million truck trips annually to carry the same load.

U.S. trade policy and its effects on exports, and in particular agricultural exports, have a major impact on the U.S. water transportation system.

The United States is the world’s largest agricultural exporting country. U.S. agriculture exports in 2018—the last year we have full figures for—generated more than $300 billion in economic output and directly supported more than 1 million jobs.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about one out of every three acres farmed in our country are planted for export. Agricultural export accounts for about a quarter of farm cash receipts, in which 73 percent of these exports and 65 percent of imports were carried on U.S. waterways. American farmers need foreign markets to sell commodities and value-added agricultural products.

Compared to the overall economy, U.S. agriculture is twice as reliant on overseas markets. Consumers in developing countries around the world choose different foods to eat as their incomes rise. As a result, there are emerging opportunities for exporting more meat, dairy products, and farm commodities. U.S. exporters need to be able to take advantage of those opportunities with only 96 percent of the world’s consumers living outside the United States. Obviously, for the 4 percent of the people who live in the United States, if they were to market, you are going to spend a lot of time marketing to that 96 percent who live outside our country.

As the largest exporter of agricultural products in the world, the United States delivers high-quality, reliable products to consumers around the globe. Now, here at home, these exports are essential to profitability in...
agriculture, and the economic activity they generate obviously ripples through the domestic economy.

We need to make sure that our current inland waterway infrastructure is maintained in good condition. Congress has policy changes that provide more funding for the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and adjusted cost shares of the trust fund to more efficiently fund and complete the construction projects. I ask for robust funding and the use of the Inland Waterways Trust Fund for construction. This is necessary to ensure that the inland waterways modernization, replacement, and rehabilitation construction projects are funded at the level supportable by the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program currently faces a large unmet need in its operations and maintenance account. I have been encouraged that in the last several years, Congress has provided additional funding to help address these backlogs. I request such funding as possible be provided for these operations and maintenance activities.

The investigations account is also crucial for the inland waterways system. There are currently 15 modernization projects that are waiting to begin construction. It is critically important to complete design of these projects so they can begin construction when the Inland Waterways Trust Fund dollars become available. Failure to design completed will delay project delivery, ultimately leading to increased total cost of the projects, as well as adding additional time to schedule project completion. I ask that the investigations account be funded at a level to support these projects, given current budgetary constraints.

On the Upper Mississippi River, multiple locks are well beyond their 50-year design life and cannot accommodate more tows, as we have to have the barges break up their tows to get them through smaller locks. So having to couple the barges significantly slows down traffic on the river and increases costs and emissions harmful, then, to the environment.

I worked with my Upper Mississippi River colleagues here in the Senate and a large, broad stakeholder coalition to get initial authorization for this lock and modernization, the Navigation and Ecosystem Restoration Program, signed into law. We have also continued to work on receiving preconstruction engineering design and funding that is provided for in the Navigation and Ecosystem Restoration Program. It is important for that program to receive new start funding so construction on these improvements can start taking place.

Lock and Dam 25, which is a key feature of the navigation and ecosystem program, has received a significant portion of the $72.5 million appropriated for the navigation and ecosystem program thus far and is ready to move to construction. That program is a key priority for me and my colleagues, the State of Iowa, the region, and everybody up and down the Mississippi River, and, eventually, the world benefits from that increased efficiency.

We need all modes of transportation to help deliver our inputs, our goods, and commodities both domestically and internationally. I want to see robust navigation on the Mississippi River and other inland waterways flourish.

I look forward to continuing to work with my congressional colleagues and the administration on these important issues as appropriations and infrastructure legislation is prepared and discussed.

I have one other short comment I would like to make on another subject. It will take me about 2 or 3 minutes.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Mr. President, I have spoken many times to the importance of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. It should go without saying that these documents are foundational to our Nation. They were revolutionary texts for the time that laid out our founding principles, and we still continue to strive toward those ideals as Americans. Unfortunately, it seems this fact can’t be taken for granted anymore.

So, on the Fourth of July, National Public Radio continued its tradition of sharing the text of the declaration, but something different happened this year. It began the program with what they call in college now a “trigger warning,” telling its audience that “the declaration is a document with flaws and deeply ingrained hypocriticalities.”

Now, instead of highlighting the American ideals that it laid out, NPR decided that the most important thing to note was that it contained outdated language about Native Americans and that its ideals were not yet fully realized when it was written.

I can think of many ways to introduce a reader to this document, but it fundamentally misses the point to focus on the flaws of the authors and signers rather than the ideals it lays out of natural rights endowed to all by our Creator. The people who wrote the declaration were not perfect, just like we aren’t perfect today, but the principles they espoused remain true to this day and have changed the course of human history for the better.

We need not ignore the fact that the Founders did not live up to the lofty goals that they set, but it does a great disservice to focus on those flaws while glossing over the fact that our founding principles were truly exceptional in human history. They set us on a path to abolish slavery, provide the justification for women’s suffrage, and formed the basis of the civil rights movement.

On July 4, we celebrate our Nation, “conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,” as Abraham Lincoln so stated. It is imperative that we do not lose sight of our founding principles, which unite all Americans and have been the driving force helping us achieve a more perfect Union.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEL). The Senator from Arizona.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Ms. SINEMA. I ask that all remaining time be yielded back.

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

Under the previous order, the question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. SINEMA. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[ Rolcall Vote No. 257 Ex. ]

YEAS—50

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
BOOKER
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Casper
Casey
Cochrane
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Daines
Gillibrand
Hassan
Heinrich

Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine
Kelly
King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Lucas
Manchin
Markley
Menendez
Merkley
Morphy
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Peters

Rosen
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Van Hollen
Warren
Warren
Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—48

Barrasso
Blackburn
Blunt
Bosman
Capito
Casidy
Collins
Coryn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
DAINES
Ernst
Fischers

Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hayden
Hoeven
Hylde-Smith
Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummus
Marshall
McConnell
Menendez
Merkley

Paul
Portman
Risch
Romney
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Tuberville
Wicker

NOT VOTING—2

Braun
Young

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The nomination is discharged, and it will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from Rhode Island.
MR. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in recess from the morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

MR. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING EMISI BURNING GLASS

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a senior member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today I am pleased to honor Emsi Burning Glass in Moscow as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for July 2021.

Emsi Burning Glass, initially named Emisi, is a labor market analytics company founded by economists Hank Robison and Kjell Christophersen in 2001 that specializes in providing labor market data, analytics, and consulting services for higher education institutions, private enterprises, and workforce development agencies. One of the company’s initial goals was to provide at least 50 high-paying jobs to the Moscow community. It has since surpassed that goal and employs 280 people.

Since its founding, the company has achieved outstanding success and now has clients throughout the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States. The business has become one of the fastest-growing companies in Moscow, and its success has enabled it to provide hundreds of quality jobs in the region and further invest in the local community. In 2019, Emsi announced it would construct a new 3.7-acre campus that will allow it to hire hundreds of new software developers, engineers, data scientists, economists, sales representatives, and other high-paying positions.

The company’s success has not gone unnoticed. In June 2021, Emsi announced a merger with Burning Glass, a fellow labor market analytics firm in Pennsylvania. The firm was founded and has since changed to Emsi Burning Glass. The merger will allow the company to continue its growth in Moscow while expanding its presence in the global marketplace.

Congratulations to all of the employees of Emsi Burning Glass on being selected as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for July 2021. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

Executive and Other Communications

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

EC–1276. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals relative to the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1277. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals relative to the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–1278. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Restoring Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Definitions and Certifications” (RIN2529–AB01) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1279. A communication from the Congressional Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Final Guidance” (Docket No. OP–1644) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1280. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Protection for Borrowers Affected by the COVID-19 Emergency Under the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA), Regulation X” (RIN5790–AB07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1281. A communication from the Chairman of the Appraisal Subcommittee, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Appraisal Subcommittee’s 2020 Annual Report; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1282. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on
Acquisition Circular 2021–06, Technical Amendments” (FAC 2021–06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–1312. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2020–004. Application of Micro-Purchase Threshold to IT Items and Delivery Orders” (RIN0000–A064) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.


The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN for the Committee on Finance.

*Melanie Anne Egorin, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

*Sarah Bianchi, of Virginia, to be Deputy United States Trade Representative (Asia, African, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia), 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.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):
S. 2317. A bill to provide for the establishment of security standards for international transportation and commerce, as defined, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KELLY:
S. 2318. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to establish the enabling legislation and requirements for the establishment of the Commission on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):
S. 2319. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the distribution of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KLOBUCAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):
S. 2320. A bill to require greater accountability by licensed firearms dealers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. SCOTT):
S. 2321. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the supported housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs has not fewer than one program manager for every 35 rental assistance cases under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. DREIER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PAYA, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIHAND, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. MURRAY):
S. 2321. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the distribution of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. ROYBAL-CASTRO):
S. 2323. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to clarify certain matters relating to State funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. COTTON, Mr. BARR, Mr. HALEY, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. HAGERTY):
S. 2331. A bill to temporarily suspend the admissibility of certain persons traveling from countries that currently have a moderate or higher level COVID–19 transmission; to the Committee on Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):
S. 2332. A bill to place a moratorium on large concentrated animal feeding operations, to strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to require country of origin labeling on beef, pork, and dairy products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):
S. 2333. A bill to amend chapter 220 of title 36, United States Code, to ensure equal treatment of athletes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. ROSKIN):
S. 2334. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities for large-scale water recycling and reuse projects, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make certain modifications to the Cooperative Watershed Management Program, to provide emergency drought funding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY:
S. 2335. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend the moratorium on a portion of the limitation on liability provided under section 230 of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY:
S. 2336. A bill to provide emergency assistance for disaster response and recovery, and for other purposes; to be known as the Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Zeta, and flooding in calendar year 2021 in Louisiana; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. STABENOW:
S. Res. 298. A resolution designating July 15, 2021, as “National Leiomyosarcoma Awareness Day” and the month of July 2021 as “National Sarcoma Awareness Month”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):
S. Res. 299. A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Center
for Toxicological Research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 79
At the request of Mr. Booker, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Tillis) was added as a cosponsor of S. 79, a bill to eliminate the disparities in sentencing for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 96
At the request of Mr. Reed, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. Padilla) was added as a cosponsor of S. 96, a bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 104
At the request of Ms. Smith, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. King) was added as a cosponsor of S. 104, a bill to authorize the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to carry out a Social Determinants of Health Program, and for other purposes.

S. 127
At the request of Mr. Reed, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Warnock) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Menendez) were added as cosponsors of S. 127, a bill to support library infrastructure.

S. 142
At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Luján) and the Senator from California (Mr. Padilla) were added as cosponsors of S. 142, a bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign non-governmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. 335
At the request of Mr. Portman, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Carper) was added as a cosponsor of S. 335, a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998.

S. 346
At the request of Mr. Booker, the name of the Senator from Hawai‘i (Ms. Hirono) was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to end preventable maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity in the United States and close disparities in maternal health outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 353
At the request of Ms. Ernst, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Moran) was added as a cosponsor of S. 353, a bill to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 584
At the request of Ms. Hassan, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Bennet) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Warner) were added as cosponsors of S. 584, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of medical nutrition therapy services for individuals with eating disorders under the Medicare program.

S. 966
At the request of Mrs. Capito, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Warnock) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Young) were added as cosponsors of S. 966, a bill to amend title VIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 964
At the request of Ms. Cortez Masto, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. Ossoff) was added as a cosponsor of S. 964, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy improvements at public school facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 769
At the request of Ms. Cortez Masto, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono) was added as a cosponsor of S. 769, a bill to authorize funds to prevent housing discrimination through the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and for other purposes.

S. 773
At the request of Mr. Thune, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to enable certain hospitals that were participating in or applied for the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency to temporarily maintain eligibility for such program, and for other purposes.

S. 828
At the request of Mr. Barrasso, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. Merkley) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counseling services under Medicare B, and for other purposes.

S. 910
At the request of Mr. Merkley, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Blunt) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate business and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1009
At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Menendez) were added as cosponsors of S. 1009, a bill to amend the Home- land Security Act of 2002 regarding the procurement of certain items related to national security interests for Department of Homeland Security front-line operational components, and for other purposes.

S. 1079
At the request of Mr. Heinrich, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) 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. 1134
At the request of Mrs. Blackburn, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Heinrich) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) were added as cosponsors of S. 1134, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 1170
At the request of Ms. Murkowski, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Smith) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1170, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the efficiency of summer meals.

S. 1322
At the request of Mr. Murphy, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) and the Senator from California (Mr. Reed) were added as cosponsors of S. 1322, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer and for other purposes.

S. 1396
At the request of Mr. Booker, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Markey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1396, a bill to continue a Federal program that authorizes State and local law enforcement officers to investigate, apprehend, and detain aliens in accordance with a written agreement with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to clarify that immigration enforcement is solely a function of the Federal Government.

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

S. 1404
At the request of Mr. Markey, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono), the Senator from New York (Mr. Schumer), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Cardin), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Heinrich),
the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ESENST), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNETT), and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1401, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133rd Signal Service Company in recognition of their unique and distinguishing service as a "Ghost Army" that conducted deception operations in Europe during World War II.

At the request of Mr. MARKS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1405, a bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to significant actions that exacerbate climate change, to reinforce comprehensive efforts to limit global average temperature rise, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1535, a bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

At the request of Mr. BROWER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1542, a bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to improve Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program for low-income mothers.

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1797, a bill to amend title 28 of the United States Code to prevent the transfer of actions arising under the antitrust laws in which a State is a complainant.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1834, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify the availability and appropriateness of training for local food service personnel, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LUJAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1895, a bill 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 for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1916, a bill to prohibit the President and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from declaring certain emergencies or disasters for the purposes of imposing gun control.

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 2032, a bill to require that internet platforms give users the option to engage with a platform without being manipulated by algorithms driven by user-specific data.

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) were added as cosponsors of S. 2023, a bill to extend and modify the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program, to postpone the medical exam for aliens who are otherwise eligible for such program, to provide special immigrant status for certain surviving spouses and children, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2057, a bill to appropriately limit the size of the population required for certain areas of metropolitan statistical areas.

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2081, a bill to improve the structure of the Federal Pell Grant program, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2088, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the process by which a member of the Armed Forces may be referred for a mental health evaluation.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2128, a bill to ensure the humane treatment of pregnant women by reinstating the presumption of release and prohibiting shackling, restraining, and other inhumane treatment of pregnant detainees, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of General Services from establishing per diem reimbursement rates for travel within the continental United States (commonly known as "CONUS") for certain fiscal years below a certain level, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2256, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the charitable deduction for certain qualified conservation contributions.

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2262, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an income tax credit for the sale or blending of certain fuels containing ethanol.

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2297, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for the production of flexible fuel vehicles, and to amend title 49, United States Code, to restore certain flexible fuel vehicle credits.
(Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2271, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide grants for eligible entities for activities designed to expand the sale and use of biofuels derived from agricultural feedstocks produced in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2275

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. BERNSTEIN), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2275, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2295, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to add the additional words that—

S. RES. 240

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 240, a resolution affirming the role of the United States in improving access to quality, inclusive public education and improved learning outcomes for children and adolescents, particularly for girls, in the poorest countries through the Global Partnership for Education.

S. RES. 289

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 289, a resolution designating June 2021 as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month” and June 27, 2021, as “National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day.”

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 298—DESIGNATING JULY 15, 2021, AS “NATIONAL LEIOMYOSARCOMA AWARENESS DAY” AND THE MONTH OF JULY 2021 AS “NATIONAL SARCOMA AWARENESS MONTH”

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

S. Res. 298

Whereas sarcoma is a rare type of cancer that—

(1) arises in the connective tissue of the body; and
(2) accounts for approximately 1 percent of all newly diagnosed cancers;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health designates sarcoma, which contains approximately 70 different subtypes, as a rare form of cancer;

Whereas sarcomas are largely resistant to current chemotherapy agents, immunotherapy agents, and radiation therapies, posing a formidable challenge for researchers and clinicians;

Whereas sarcoma subtypes largely have not benefitted from immunotherapies because of the complexity of the DNA, genomes, and mutations associated with the many variations in the sarcoma subtype landscape;

Whereas leiomyosarcoma (referred to in this preamble as the “NCTR” or “National Center for Toxicological Research”) is a malignant, aggressive subtype of sarcoma derived from smooth muscle cells typically of uterine, gastrointestinal, or soft tissue origin that can metastasize to the bone, spine, brain, and liver;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health classify LMS, which encompasses at least 4 different LMS subtypes, as a rare disease, accounting for approximately 15 percent of all sarcomas;

Whereas LMS primarily affects adults without regard to gender;

Whereas, with respect to LMS—

(1) research and clinical trials remain complicated; and
(2) survival and longevity remain difficult;

Whereas multidisciplinary care coordination teams, because of their expertise and experience, are critical to the health of sarcoma and LMS patients;

Whereas sarcoma and LMS research will—

(1) allow medical professionals to improve the quality of care for affected patients;
(2) lead to better clinical outcomes; and
(3) promote longer survival for patients; and

Whereas increased education and awareness about sarcoma and LMS will contribute to the well-being of the communities of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 15, 2021, as “National Leiomyosarcoma Awareness Day”;
(2) designates the month of July 2021 as “National Sarcoma Awareness Month”;
(3) recognizes the challenge faced by sarcoma and leiomyosarcoma patients; and
(4) commends the dedication of organizations, volunteers, researchers, and caregivers across the United States working to improve the quality of life for sarcoma and leiomyosarcoma patients and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 299—COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR TOXICOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. Res. 299

Whereas, in 1971, President Richard Nixon established the National Center for Toxicological Research (referred to in this preamble as the “NCTR”) in Jefferson, Arkansas, as part of the Food and Drug Administration (referred to in this preamble as the “FDA”)

(1) to provide scientific proof that United States consumers are protected from toxic chemicals, drugs, and other agents; and
(2) when appropriate, to determine safe levels of substances in consumer goods;

Whereas the FDA is responsible for—

(1) regulating domestically produced and imported food, cosmetics, drugs, vaccines, blood, biologics, medical devices, radiation-emitting products, animal and veterinary products, and tobacco products; and

(2) overseeing—

(A) the safety of every life in the United States; and

(B) more than $1,000,000,000,000 worth of consumer goods, which are estimated to include $466,000,000,000 in food sales, $275,000,000,000 in drug sales, $900,000,000 in cosmetic sales, and $18,000,000,000 in vitamin supplement sales;

Whereas the NCTR is a research institution that—

(1) housed in more than 1,000,000 square feet of facilities, including 123 laboratories across 34 buildings, in Jefferson, Arkansas;

(2) has 680 employees who reside in 17 counties across the State of Arkansas; and

(3) that contributes approximately $70,000,000 to the local, State, and national economies, including investments of approximately $10,000,000 annually via construction, maintenance, and renovation projects that stimulate the local economy;

Whereas, in 2011, the FDA and the State of Arkansas composed a framework for a formal working relationship to foster stronger partnerships, leverage vital resources, and operate collaboratively to promote efficiency that has been continually renewed and supported by both parties;

Whereas the NCTR has a long history of providing scientific advice and training to researchers in government, academia, and industry at local, State, national, and international levels, which is exemplified by—

(1) training Ph.D. candidates and other researchers from universities in the State of Arkansas;

(2) collaborating with university researchers throughout the State of Arkansas; and

(3) providing millions of dollars in funding for university research throughout the State of Arkansas;

Whereas the mutual benefits between the NCTR and the State of Arkansas can only continue if the NCTR remains robustly supported by the Federal Government;

Whereas the benefits of the NCTR were heightened during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic when the Director of the NCTR, Dr. William Slikker, worked with the State of Arkansas to rapidly provide critical COVID-19 testing equipment to the Arkansas Department of Health;

Whereas the NCTR will hold a 50th anniversary celebration on August 11, 2021, in Jefferson, Arkansas: Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 50th anniversary of the National Center for Toxicological Research; and

(2) recognizes the significance of the contributions made by the National Center for Toxicological Research and its relationship with the State of Arkansas.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. MURRAY, Mr. President, I have 8 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of this Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session
of the Senate on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SELECT COMMITEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 11:30 a.m., to conduct a nomination.

COMMITEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Savannah Tanguis, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges today, July 13, 2021.

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

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, this series of “Scheme” speeches is designed to chronicle a long-running, covert scheme to capture the Supreme Court. Regulatory Agencies have often and notoriously been captured by regulated interests. There is a whole doctrine of regulatory capture found in economics and administrative law that revolves around this history of the regulatory capture of administrative Agencies. So, if you can capture administrative Agencies to serve special interests, why not capture a court?

The trajectory of these “Scheme” speeches has been through time, beginning with the Lewis Powell strategy of creating an upstart of Commerce and then his enabling of that strategy as a Justice of the Supreme Court and then how the rightwing fringe was brought into organized alignment by the Koch brothers and then, of course, the link to this regulatory capture apparatus and its willing band of mercenary lawyers and witnesses.

Tonight, I interrupt that time trajectory to discuss two decisions just delivered by the Supreme Court, decisions that clearly reflect the patterns and purposes of the Court capture effort.

Let me start by saying that the single most important goal of this covert scheme is to protect itself. The apparatus behind the scheme may be put to innumerable but none of those political uses will be effectuated unless the underlying apparatus protects itself and stays operational. Survival of this operation is job one, and a core strategy for protecting its covert operations is camouflage.

To camouflage this scheme you need anonymity for the donors behind the operation. The scheme is blown if there is transparency. The clandestine connections among front groups become apparent, and the manipulating hands of the string pullers behind the surreptitious scheme become visible. Voters then see the scheme, understand that the players and the motives, get the joke, so to speak, and the operation is blown.

So anonymity—donor anonymity—is essential. Voters may hate big, anonymous donors, but big, anonymous donors need anonymity.

The term for this anonymous funding, now pouring by the billions of dollars into our politics, is dark money. This is a dark money operation, and if you are out to capture a court, you will want to make sure that court will protect your dark money—the camouflage for all of your covert operations. That is job one, which brings us to the Americans for Prosperity Foundation case.

The Americans for Prosperity Foundation is a central front group of the Koch brothers’ political influence operation. It is a front group, a dark money operation. Sure enough, to how important this case was to the dark money operation, Sure enough, the rightwing political manipulator being the named party, not some benign, nonpolitical entity that they could have hidden. Not only that this precedent of a politically active manipulator being the named party would not faze the Republicans on the Court, and they would be able, with that partisan majority, to gain a legal foothold for their dark money political spending.

There are few things that enrage the American public more than crooked, dark money political spending. If you try to get a dark money political spending bill through the Senate, you couldn’t do it. If you tried to get it through the House, you couldn’t do it. If you put the Senate and House under Republican control, you still couldn’t do it. If you have gained the Supreme Court and have sent 50 dark money groups in a big signaling armada and have told them what you want, then a decision that is as unpopular and enraging as this decision comes your way, and they pushed it off in plain daylight.

Justice Barrett even declined to recuse herself—that is how brazen this
is—despite the Caperton case precedent of recusing in cases involving parties who spent millions to get you on the Court. Not a peep about that conflict of interest. Not a peep about that effective repeal of the Caperton case.

This Republican majority completely ignored the precedent of the Republican majority that gave us Citizens United: that transparency and political spending is our protection against corruption. That was the hook for Citizens United: Don't worry, folks. We can let unlimited special-interest money pour into politics, and it won't be corrupting because it will be transparent. Everybody will see or hear at the end of the ad: “I am ExxonMobil, and I approve this message.” That was the trick of Citizens United.

I suppose you could say that it was a safe bet that this Republican majority would not be concerned about donor transparency the way the Citizens United Republican majority was, because the Republicans on the Court after Citizens United, turned a completely blind eye to billions of dark money dollars that poured into our politics.

They had said that was corrupting, but the very chance they got to impose their own decision and clean up the dark money corruption, they scrupulously refused to do it. They did not or pretended not to see it.

So if you are this apparatus and you think about the millions who spent millions to get you on the Supreme Court, and you look at the blind eye that had turned to these flagrant, constant, massive violations of the supposed Citizens United transparency principle, you take your shot, and they did. And what it looks like now is that it was window dressing in Citizens United to pretend to care about transparency, and what it looks like now is that this new Republican majority has tossed even that window dressing into the dumpster.

This Americans for Prosperity Foundation decision looks totally outcome-driven—not applying the law, but changing the law to favor dark money—and the decision was on a purely partisan basis, all the Republicans.

The end result here is that this dark money empire that spends billions of dollars in our politics has just been given by the Republican Justices a legal tool to fight disclosure, stall exposure, and protect the clandestine nature of its covert political operations.

Remember what I said, job one? This is job one. This is the dark money apparatus’s pearl beyond price, and the Court—at least the Republicans on the Court, as Mr. Court Capture shows up, by the chronicle $250 million in funding for this dark money Court-capture operation through its network of groups. So whoever is behind this, they are not playing around, and $250 million is an immense sum.

And, of course, floods of dark money poured into the Republican Party as Leaders Mitch McConnell crashed his way through any rule, any precedent, or any practice of the Senate that stood in the confirmation path of these dark money nominees. Truly, this Court is, today, the Supreme Court that dark money built, and it just delivered for the dark money interests.

The dark money link to the Republican Party brings us to the second case. This case, Brnovich v. DNC—Democratic National Committee—involving the Republicans’ efforts to discourage minorities from voting. Why would anybody want to do that? Because today’s Republican Party has settled on voter suppression as its path to power. Across the country, you see it. Republican-controlled legislatures have swiveled in unison to pass voter suppression laws in their States all at once, as if on signal. And guess what. Dark money groups have been caught taking credit for this coordinated swivel, doctored videos of local sentinels, describing how they drafted the legislation for the local Republicans, and describing how they were able to do so surreptitiously.

The voter suppression fixation of Republicans in all these State legislative bodies is quite plainly a coordinated activity, and equally plainly it has the dark money apparatus behind it.

Here is another example: After a Washington Post expose blew his cover, the operative at the center of this dark money Court-packing scheme vacated that role. The article was pretty tough. He got burned pretty good. So he fled. And where did he go? He moved straight from Court packing to voter suppression.

Don’t worry, he didn’t have to go very far from his Court-packing roots. The group he went to is called, in fine Orwellian fashion, the Honest Elections Project. What is the Honest Elections Project? It is repackaging of something called the Judicial Education Project, which is, in turn, the corporate sibling of—you guessed it—the Judicial Crisis Network, the group that was getting the $17 million checks to run the Court capture dark money advertising campaigns. The former Court-packing group is the corporate kin of the honest elections voter suppression group, and the same guy just hopped from the one to the other.

The Washington Post expose, by the way, chronicled $250 million in funding for this dark money Court-capture operation through its network of groups.

So with this as the background, the Republicans on the Court served up yet another blow to the Voting Rights Act. They allowed States to pass even more voter suppression laws. They allowed them to pass even voting laws conceded to impede minority voting. The purpose of the Voting Rights Act is to protect voters’ rights to the polls and particularly minority voters’ rights to the polls because of decades of discrimination and suppression that kept minority voters away from the polls.

In this case, they said: No, it is OK. If the decision is conceded to fall unfairly on minority voters, still good. The author of this partisan majority decision, even for good measure, threw in the totally unsupported and perhaps even fraudulent Republican political talking point that voter fraud is presently a big hazard demanding our attention.

So it was a very big week of very big rewards for a very big dark money apparatus. When those two decisions came down, the upshot was simple. The dark money apparatus that put the last three Justices on the Court desperately needs dark money to function. And the Court that dark money built just built dark money a new home in our Constitution. And the dark money apparatus that put the last three Justices on the Supreme Court desperately needs Republicans to win elections to work its political will, and the No. 1 Republican strategy going into 2022 is voter suppression. And the Court that dark money built just kicked into the Voting Rights Act another hole allowing more voter suppression.

It has been said that these Justices up on the Supreme Court are those just calling balls and strikes. Yeah, right. They are not just calling balls and strikes. In case after case, over and over, in a consistent and predictable pattern, they are changing the shape of the ballfield. They are tilting the ballfield steeply to help one side, and they are doing grave damage to important safeguards of democracy in the process.

These two cases, ignoring precedent and delivering big political wins to the dark money apparatus through a partisan Republican majority, show the game in play and the Republican Justices as players.

To be continued.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from Rhode Island.
Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. 534 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 534) to improve the effectiveness of tribal child support enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 534) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 534

The bill clerk read as follows:

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

(a) Improving the Verification of Past-Due Child Support Through State and Tribal Parity in the Allowable Use of Tax Information—

(1) AMENDMENT TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 464 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 664) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) APPLICABILITY TO INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING A GRANT UNDER THIS PART.—This section, except for the requirement to distribute amounts in accordance with section 457, shall apply to an Indian tribe or tribal organization receiving a grant under section 455(f) in the same manner in which this section applies to a State with a plan approved under this part."

(2) AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE.—

(A) Section 6103(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking "any local child support enforcement agency" and inserting "tribal or local child support enforcement agency.

(B) Section 6103(a)(3) of such Code is amended by inserting, at the end thereof, the following:

"(B) Section 6103(a)(3) of such Code is amended by inserting "and local" after "tribal".

(C) Section 6103(c) of such Code is amended—

(i) in paragraph (6)—

(I) by striking "or local" in subparagraph (A) and inserting "tribal, or local";

(II) by striking "and local" in the heading thereof and inserting "tribal, and local";

(III) by striking "The following" in subparagraph (B) and inserting "The following shall apply to any individual with respect to whom child support obligations may be sought to be established or enforced by a tribal or local child support enforcement agency.

(IV) by adding a new paragraph (7) and (33) of section 454 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 654) which have been approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under part D of title IV of such Act.

(II) by adding the following at the end of subparagraph (B): "The information disclosed to any individual with respect to whom child support obligations may be sought to be established or enforced may be disclosed by such agency to any other agency for purposes of, and to the extent necessary in, establishing and collecting child support obligations from, and locating, individuals owing such obligations.";

(B) Subsection (c) of section 4502 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end thereof, the following: "For purposes of this subsection, any reference to a State shall include a reference to any Indian tribe or tribal organization receiving a grant under section 455(f) of the Social Security Act.

(b) REIMBURSEMENT FOR REPORTS.—Section 458(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 658(g)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking "State"; and

(2) by striking "and State" and inserting "State, tribal, and local".

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Paragraphs (7) and (33) of section 454 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 654) are each amended by striking "406h" and inserting "406h-1".

CONSTRUCTION CONSENSUS PROCUREMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 26 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 26) to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, to reconsider the prohibition on the use of a reverse auction, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Committee on Finance was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.
The bill would remove all serious crimes except for military-specific crimes out of the chain of command and give it to trained military prosecutors to decide whether or not to move that case to trial. Making that change would end days of wrongdoers, who are not trained lawyers, to make complex legal decisions in cases where they often know both the accuser and the accused. That change is necessary. It is necessary because the current military justice system is simply not delivering justice, especially not to servicemembers of color.

I am proud that our legislation has recently won the endorsement of our colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus for 35.5 percent of the accused reform would address the systemic barriers to justice our servicemembers of color face. I want to thank the CBC for their strong support. I share their urgency when it comes to addressing these systemic barriers.

Right now, Black servicemembers are up to 2.61 times as likely to face disciplinary action as their fellow White servicemembers, and Black and Hispanic servicemembers are 1.42 times as likely than White servicemembers to be tried in general and special courts-martial across the military services.

The Joint Service Committee on Military Justice began collecting data on race and courts-martial last June. What we have seen is disturbing. Even in the brief period of time they have tracked, the disparities are tragically clear. In the Army, just 21.4 percent of Active-Duty servicemembers are Black, but Black servicemembers account for 23.1 percent of the accused in general courts-martial. In the Air Force, just 14.7 percent of Active-Duty servicemembers are Black, but they account for 23.1 percent of the accused. In the Navy, 17.2 percent of Active-Duty servicemembers are Black, but they account for 34.3 percent of the accused. Those figures speak to an inherent bias in the system that must be addressed.

Congressman ANTHONY BROWN, who served on my team and as a commander of the 39th Military Police Battalion, is right—this unjust system demands our attention and action. Sergeant Maj. Troy Samuels, who led our task force, is right that this unjust system is not serving our country’s military. The current military justice system is not on the front pages or in the minds of most people. That is because our military justice system is not serving our country’s Black and Brown Americans, there has been little positive change. Our servicemembers cannot wait any longer. Congressional Black Caucus, this bill is supported by legal experts and servicemembers. It has the support of almost every veterans group I can find, from the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans group to the Vietnam veterans group, to the Vietnam veterans group to the veterans of Foreign Wars. This is supported by our servicemembers and our veterans.

It has been nearly 50 years since the Nixon administration’s task force brought this issue to light, and we have seen little positive change. Our servicemembers cannot wait any longer. Congresswoman BROWN is right—this unjust system demands our attention and action.

As Members of Congress, we have the constitutional duty to provide oversight and accountability over the Department of Defense. We have the job of writing and revising and improving the military code of justice. It is a concern of civilian military is right—this unjust system is not serving our country’s military. The current military justice system is not on the front pages or in the minds of most people. That is because our military justice system is not serving our country’s Black and Brown Americans, there has been little positive change. Our servicemembers cannot wait any longer. Congressional Black Caucus, this bill is supported by legal experts and servicemembers. It has the support of almost every veterans group I can find, from the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans group to the Vietnam veterans group, to the veterans of Foreign Wars. This is supported by our servicemembers and our veterans.

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It has been nearly 50 years since the Nixon administration’s task force brought this issue to light, and we have seen little positive change. Our servicemembers cannot wait any longer. Congresswoman BROWN is right—this unjust system demands our attention and action.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?
Mr. REED. Mr. President, I object. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. to Wednesday, July 14, 2021, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

RACHEL JACOBSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE ALAXANDER L. HILGRAM.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

JULLA RUTH GORDON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, VICE DANA T. WADE.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

ALEXANDER HOERN-SACR, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION, VICE ELLIOT F. KAYE.

LISA J. MADRA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2023, VICE ELLIOT F. KAYE, TERM EXPIRED.

MARY T. BOYLE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2023, VICE ELLIOT F. KAYE, TERM EXPIRED.

MALLORY A. STEWART, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRANTS, VICE ANNA S. MONEY, TERM EXPIRED.

GWENDOLYN E. BOYD, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE U.S. COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE JAYDEE L. GREENE, TERM EXPIRED.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, TO BE GENERAL, VICE JASON MYUNG–LK CHUNG.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, VICE JANET T. NIFFITT, TERM EXPIRED.

The bill with no intervening action or debate.
To be brigadier general

COL. ROBERT A. BORSCHEIDNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE IN THE UNITED STATES GUARD UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 601 AND 1232:

To be brigadier general

COL. DEVER K. LIPSON

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 601 AND 604:

To be general

LT. GEN. ERIC M. SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE TO THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS AND FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 601:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. DARYL L. CAULDE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. JAMES W. KILBY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 601:

To be admiral

REAR ADM. FRANKLIN WERTH III

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL A. GUNTEL

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C. SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant colonel

MACMILLAN M. ACHU

CHRISTOPHER D. ADAMS

GARY A. ADAMS

JAMIL L. ADAMS

RICKETT A. ALDANA

ERIK R. ANTONISHIT

GEORGE E. ANTONOV

DANIEL R. ARLIN

MARGARET E. ARRINGTON

ANDY TIMOTHY ASHER

CHRISTY I. ASHEY

JACOB W. AULTMAN

KIP MACBETH

RICHARD B. BACKUS

DAVID D. BAGSHAW

RICHARD B. BARBER

ABBY K. BARGER

DUSTIN J. BARBOUR

DANIELLE J. BALES

JACOB W. AULTMAN

ANDY TIMOTHY ASHBURN

GUENNADI SERGEI ANTONOV

ERIC R. ANTONIETTI

JUSTIN LEE AMUNDSON

GARY W. ADAMS

SECTION 601:

TANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

VICE ADM. JAMES W. KILBY

RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

COL. DAVID J. BLIGH

CATED UNDER TITLE 10 U. S.C., SECTION 8046:

LT. GEN. ERIC M. SMITH

ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE

COL. DEREK N. LIPSON

THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED

THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN

July 13, 2021

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S4863
EDWARD WILLIAM BOURLAI
MATTHEW E. ROWAN
DANIEL T. ROWLAND
RAN D. D. ROEDGERG
NATHANIEL T. RUFFING
ALAN D. RUSSELL, JR.
ROBERT A. RUSSELL
ROMAIN L. RUSSELL
AUSTIN D. RUST
ANDREW R. RUTHERFORD
MICHAEL W. RYAN
JONATHAN V. ZAHRM
MICHAEL C. SADLER
GARY W. SAIN
EDWARD A. SALAZAR
JOHN A. SALVADOR
GUMERSIDO SANTAGO RUIZ
JUSTIN M. SAUNDERS
MATTHEW SCARR
BLAIR ALXANDER SCÄFFER
ANDREW M. SCHEFFER
CHRISTOPHER J. SCHLIERER
MATTHEW J. SCHMITZ
GREGORY P. SCHRODER
MICHAEL P. SCHROEDER
RICHARD S. THOMPSION
THOMAS E. THOMASON
KATHERINE M. SEIDL
TROY A. SELLERS
BENT SPERSET
SAMUEL J. SHARMA
KELLY M. SHARSEL
ELIZABJAH J. SHEW
JOHN D. SHAW
PAUL J. SHEEKEY
WILLIAM E. SHEIDIAN, JR.
STEVEN B. SLEUTZ
ALXANDER J. SIBAL
SABRA K. SILVA
ANDREW L. SIMPSON
SEAN J. SIMEORE
SCOTT D. SKITTSKY
JUSTIN W. SKINNER
TRAVIS JUSTIN SLACK
TRAVIS IS COLE SLOKE
JONATHAN J. SLOTTIER
ADAM J. SMITH
BENJAMIN D. SMITH
CAR R. SMITH
CHRISTOPHER A. SMITH
CHRISTOPHER W. SMITH
KYLE A. SMITH
NATHANALI L. SMITH
NICHOLAS BOAN SMITH
TRAVIS WABE SMITH
TYLER D. SMITH
KYLE T. SPAIN
SETH S. SPIDAIL
LEONARD J. SPIEGEL II
ADAM MICHAEL SPRING
RUSSELL R. STANFIELD
THOMAS R. STERRE
JASON EDMUND STEINLICK
JAY T. STEPP
NICHOLAS M. STEPHENS
BENJAMIN J. DEIRHL
RMYNN R. STIHLWELL
KENDRICK C. STOCKELL
KYLE EDDIE STRAMBLAD
DERRICK T. STRANG
JARED T. THIBAULT
RENE T. TERRIQUEZ
EDWARD L. SUTTON
SEAN W. STUMPF
STEPHAN R. THOMPSON
GIAN T. THOMPSON
JOHN P. THOMSON
JOSHUA C. TRAPP
KYLA L. TRASK
JOEL J. TRUEBLOOD
CORY R. TURNER
JAMIE A. TURNER
TRINTON R. UPDEKE
JONATHAN B. VAAGUE
WILLIAM B. VAN LOON
MICHAEL A. VAN NORMAN
MATTHEW R. VAN OSSTEOM
JUSTIN L. VAN PATTER
RYAN W. VANOCECEL
GRAYDON R. VANDAMENT
MIKE D. VOLLEN
MICHAEL J. VINS
RAN D. WAD
THOMAS W. WILLIAM WAGNER, JR.
STEPHEN J. WAGNER
JAMIC A. WALKER
ADAM GREGORY WALLACE
JEFFREY CHARLES WARD
ADAM JOHN WARGO
CHRISTOPHER M. WARMS
ROBERT JOHN WARD
JEREMIAH E. WELCH
CHRISTOPHER M. WERD
DANIEL J. WERMS
RYAN D. WICKENS
ROGDER T. WELDING
RYAN M. WELLS
LUKE F. WESTMAN
MICHAEL A. WERTHER
DANIELL G. WHITE
JAMMS C. WILKINSON
SHANE T. WILLIAMS
JUSTIN C. WILSON
KEVIN A. WINSLOW
CHRISTIAN N. WINTROMO
PAUL ROBERT WISE
MATHEN F. YAN
RANDELL E. XUEN
RYAN M. YINGLING
LINDA L. YUEN
ARTHUR B. YOUNG
JONATHAN D. YOUNG
MIEBETH I. YOUNG
BROCK ARROW YOWELL
TAYLOR ISSIMMRE YOWELL
MUNSEL A. ZAID
RYAN SWOWEY ZANGERLE
ANTHONY JAMES ZIEGLER
JESS M. ZIMMER
ERIC L. ZIESSLER
ZACHARY L. ZORIN
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ORDER UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

ANDREW M. ROBERTS
ASHLEY N. RITZERT
MICHAEL A. RITCHESON
KIMBERLY CHRISTINE RIGBY
MATTHEW F. REILEY
ARJUN U. RAU
JOSHUA A. RAMIREZ
MICHAEL J. RALLO
JOSEPH A. RAFFA
HANSEL J. RABELL
JAMES ANDREW PUTNAM
DANIEL J. PRUDHOMME
RYAN L. POWELL
ROBERT B. PORTER
ANDREW J. POE
MICHAEL T. PLOURDE, JR.
JOSHUA R. PLOCINSKI
BRIAN C. PILLERS
DANIEL R. PFEIFFER
CHRISTOPHER SHAWN MCGOFFIN
IAN RICHARD MECKER
CYNTHIA L. McKENNA
MICHAEL RUSHER McKENNA
BRYAN M. MURPHY
BUDDY R. MCNIEL, JR.
KELLY JAMIE NENEMEYER
BRIAN J. MOREYNNED
JUSTIN M. McVICKER
NICHOLAS J. MYERBRS
BASKETT M. METZKENSBOURG
ALICIA M. R. NIKULAC
MATTIE R. MILLER
TREVOR R. MILLETTE
ELLOF J. MILLKEN
DEZEK J. MONASURE
ALEX L. MOON
JEFFREY R. MOON
AARON B. MOOGE
LISO MICHAEL, MOORE IV
MARK A. MORALES
JOSIEK J. MORGAN
JAMES E. MORRISS
JONATHAN D. MORSE II
BRIAN MICHAEL MOSTEK
REAGAN A. MULLIN
BRANDON J. MURPHY
KEVIN W. MURPHY
SEAN J. MURPHY
KYLE C. MYRRS
PETRZ L. NADZLOWSKI
DANIELA. NASEK
ANDREW P. NATSON
FRITZ N. NAUER
CATHERINE F. NELSON
MATTIE R. NELSON
JOHN S. NEK
TIMOTHY J. NEUBRANCHER
BRIAN P. NICHOLAS
RAN JOSEPH NUCKERM
MARK ALLAN NIELSON
CHRISTOPHER R. NITZEL
VINCENT P. NOEL
TIMOTHY D. OHRR
ALLAN O. ODINL
CHRISTOPHER P. OSDELL
BRANDON J. OLSON
ERICH L. OLSON, JR.
JON R. ONSEL
REY R. ORTIZ
SKYLA ORTIZ
SETH Q. OSTLUND
JONATHAN A. OSTERWALL
DANIEL C. OUTFR
GARY C. OVERT
ALEXANDER D. PANNONE
WILLIAM D. PAVSKY
BEAU A. PAREM
SAAKEE A. PARRA
SHAWN L. PARTINGTON
BRIAN J. PASCUEZ
DEAN J. PASSER
GÉRARD DANIEL PATTON
KUNST A. PAUL
BENJAMIN HAIGH PEACOCK
RENA PEACOCK
CHRISTOPHER J. PELLERBINO
ENRIQUE R. PEREZ
SARAH E. PETERSON
DANIEL R. PHIEPFBR
PATRICK P. PICARD
KEVIN M. PIYFR
MICHAIL A. PIYFR, JR.
BRIAN C. PILLERS
SHERAL J. POLICEKI
MICHAEL A. POLICEKI, JR.
CHRISTOPHER S. POLICEK
MICHAEL A. POLICEK, JR.
ANDREW J. POR
BROOKLYN POUR
RYAN L. POWELL
DANIEL J. PROBERME
TRAVIS KYLLE PUDH
JAMIC ANDREW PUTNAM
DANIEL W. QUINLAN
BRENDI J. RABELB
JOSEPH B. RABBI
MICHAEL J. RALDO
DANIEL R. RAMIREZ
JOSHUA A. RAMIREZ
ARJUN U. RAN
EAGUH B. REDDY
MATTIEW F. RELEY
CAITLIN T. RELLY
DANIEL RINKIME
KIMBERLY CHRISTINE RIGBY
MICHAEL A. RITCHESON
ASHLEY N. RITZERT
ANDREW M. ROBERTS
NICHOLAS D. ROBSON
RAYMOND J. ROE
TRAVIS M. ROIDER
SKYLA W. ROLLINS
JACOB JEFFREY RONNY

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To the grade indicated in the United States Air Force under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

Claire P. Corbin
Steven C. Crosse
Nicholas J. Cusolito II
Joseph A. Czarabak
Lianandria A. Dagostino
Charles S. DeBreee
Vernell T. DeSalle
Mark Demiasovich
Allison Anne Dewees
Daniel R. Giglio
Joseph J. Dias
Brian H. Donohue
Douglas E. Downs
Aaron J. Draper
Richard M. Dunn
David F. Frauen
Kadr F. Frewert
Bret C. Furey
Daniel M. Flanagan
Christopher K. Gamble
Andrew J. Garcia
Joseph S. Gagnon
Scott C. Geiger
Jonathan D. Gingery
Christina F. Golden
Jared A. Grady
Jeffrey Dropsam
Jared L. Guexam
William R. Griffon
Scott Robert Gross
Mesli D. Hamilton
Christopher M. Randy
Ryan T. Ranks
Joshua A. Harn
William L. Harrell
Matthew R. Hawkins
Ilea Hept
Jason M. Hempir
Ethan B. Hennessey
William R. Hildembard
David Michael Ho
Jonathan D. Hoang
Jason A. Holt
Erik Bottler
Jared D. Hurbas
Steven P. Ingham
Aurelio C. Bizarrini
Robert M. Jasmin
Jae Hyun Jeon
Donald D. Johnson
Marie S. Juan Roque
Jason L. Jusus
Bennett W. Kebler
Joshua L. Keener
Aaron K. Kelly
Stephanie W. Kennedy
Brian W. Crawford
Jonathan S. Kim
Daniel A. Kimmes
Brad A. Kizengen
Jonathan D. Lucks
Hershell B. Lackey
Nicholas J. Lalliberti
Richard L. Lay
Drew E. Lee
Christopher M. Long
Derek J. Law
Richard L. Lanser
Nicholas J. Laliberte
Hershel H. Lackey
Jared A. Grady
Christina Louise Decker
Alex J. Paul
Andrew J. Feliguen
Grant E. Felipson
Emily L. Pollard
Adam W. Potter
Steven Michael Pugh
Christopher K. Baor
Matthew C. Crocker
Shane L. Eiotics
William C. Perry
Tirodor B. Rosander
Christopher W. Rose
Benjamin D. Roth
Heather R. Row
Matthew S. Satterfield
Nicholas Schmidt
Benjamin M. Schuler
Matthew P. Schwanidt
Shaun R. Scottford
Kyle T. Sheldon
Tirodor B. Shellig
Joshua Shimko
Karli A. Sickendick
Fred T. Smith
Bryan Snyder
George C. Speletos
Jedimark C. Stumpf
Matthew P. Stevens
Sarah R. Storm
Andrew D. Sturgeon
Michael R. Sun
Bak Hm Sung
Matthew R. Wyke
Michael A. Tanner

John P. Tekell
Jeremy M. Trendrup
Levi M. Thomas
Ryan M. Thompson
Tuan U. Trandao
Fink M. Trevedi
Drew R. Tullson
Nicholas A. Upman
Tan Van
Eric John Driauk Erik Villel
Timothy J. Vogt
Phillip W. F. Zoborich
William O. Watson III
Marcus Robert Wells
Robert J. Wilcox
Michael P. Florida
David Joseph Wilson
Bud W. Wens
Damon B. Wong
Jaron M. Wych
Jing Yu
Craig M. Zinck

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Air Force under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be lieutenant colonel:

Jonathan V. Azu
Melanie K. Alvarez
Travis A. Anderson
Brinda S. Arndt
Daniel J. Bashaw
Dennis R. Ratig
Brian Bauer
Shana K. Beanes
Megan F. Belvrolet
Kathleen M. Bigman
John P. Bisogni
David B. Brissi
Lucas M. Brommer
Elizabeath M. Bruhaker
Jessica Lea Anne Brujdar
Jaron S. Burrell
Kevin A. Burleson
Charles J. Cadwell
Paul C. Farnell
Griffin C. Casey
Gary A. Chand
Cody D. Chilars
Caitlin B. Cima
David B. Cooney
Daniel L. Corby
Nicholas P. Patrick
Dana M. Covarrubias
Michael F. Cray
Jaron B. Croshy
Adam C. Cross
Joshua A. Chottau
Andanto Anthony Davmore
Brian H. Deccico
Christina Louise Driker
Jeffrey S. Dekkings
Carlos J. Diaz Serrano
Paul B. Hearn
Christopher M. Donarue
Jonatthan Drani
Jon D. Drummond
Joseph B. Bissell
Kevin J. Eaton
Jainell F. Edwards
Lauren R. Ellis
Marcos Jose Escalera
John S. Everdollar
Joel B. Field
Richard L. Gallah
Bethany G. Foley
Corey W. Fraas
Stephen J. Gallagh
Omayra Genao
Raymond P. Goffroy
Katya M. GeorgiFandis
Holz F. Grosh
Jaron S. Groux
Krista C. Golf
Nicholas D. Gronlund
Michael A. Walter
Gruber Joseph B. Rahill
Ryan J. Rahn
Stan Y. Rasmihoto
Daniel A. Hayes
Miguel T. Reardon
Thomas J. Heidel
Alma K. Becker
Michael S. Britzorg II
Nissa Eve Rock
Haley A. Rodgers
Katie E. Rhyink
James B. Hurilanga
Chad Wayne Hutchinson
Jaron S. Madi
Beth L. Janssen
Hridi E. Jensen
Matthew A. Kahiley
Brandon M. Kalski
Mohammad E. Karam
Christian R. Knowles
Camay D. Riemer
Brandon J. Kostifer
Tommaso Ershen Krywosz
Magda Lamberdson
Dan C. LeBlanc
Steven L. LeBlanc
WILLUSS LIN
Charles Brian Brayda Linz
Brian Lewis Maguire
THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

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THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

CHRISTOPHER D. FESUT
CHRISTIAN D. PIETSENBERG
MATTHEW R. BERMEL
RYAN N. NOSI
JILLIAN E. SCHLIEKER
JONATHAN W. SHAFFER
ELLEN M. SHEMA
TOMAS R. SHEAKEY
GINA B. STEINFELD
SICHANG SUNG
MICHAEL A. WADNAD
BRYAN W. TAPPEN
JASON A. TORSNEY
PATRICK T. TRAED
RYAN C. TRAUTMANN
HUNG C. TRUNG
JASON M. UMBACH
ANTHONY A. VARGAS
SACHA M. MARGA
KATHLEEN A. VAILEY
JONATHAN M. YOGE
BARBARA J. WIEGEL
KEVIN G. WITEZIEK
JAMES P. WILSON
HUNG S. YOC
JONATHAN S. YU
JASON A. ZELNICK

Saira Ahmed
Justin C. Anderson
Ryan J. Anderson
Olivia M. Arballo
Jason L. Aresole
Kristen B. Ashe
Marlan A. August
Michael P. Avillon
Jason M. Bailey
Remy M. Bain
David W. Barham
David V. Barham
Soraya B. Bauer
Lauro A. Becker
Colin W. Beery
Michael C. Bennett
Kaitlin A. Benettouren
Kaitlyn D. Bixel
Zachary W. Bloomer
Kyle J. Buckelman
Kenneth J. Bogensberger
Daniel C. Bothell
Joshua D. Boucher
Jeremy C. Bowe
Clayton B. Britttingham
Sarab W. Brubaker
Francis C. Bruskey
Ryan B. Bucenam
Austin L. Hurdge
Adam O. Burgess
Tyler R. Burner
Jonathan E. Buttram
Marcia A. Canavari
Eric B. Carter
Carlin S. Cerne
Christinna L. Chadwick
Abhimanyu Chandela
Avinash R. Chauashia
Louis K. Chen
Lindsey A. Chor
Matthias B. Chorost
Calton J. I. Lan
Eric W. Chung
Jessica L. Cindassa
Dheeraj M. Clair
Alex M. Clem
George W. Clement
Matthew D. Coffman
Jared L. Cohen
Nicoletris C. Cobb
Robert C. Cossen
Mary K. Collins
Robert J. Correa
Robert P. Cooper, Jr.
Jesica S. Coulter
Trodden R. Czostomowyn
Kyle E. Curtis
John W. Dangkle
Zachary S. Davdy
Bihany N. DAVIS
Thomas K. Delacy
Justin L. Deavers
Katterina A. Demetris
Nicholas P. DiFerlil
Nicholas C. Diefestano
Robert J. Difilippo
Zechariah T. Dillingham
Christinna N. Dowrowloski
Aparajitasree B. Dodi
Katelyn A. Doelaza
Michael G. Domina
Andreas E. Donovan
John P. Duggan
Christopher E. Dyke
Matthw L. Karl
Jihong C. Keelson
Kathryn M. Killassin
John S. Ellis
Jmadara E. England
Alexander S. Ericesen
Jason M. Einsty
Katharine R. Estofinal

KIMBERLY D. PABYAN
ARDALON M. FARHATSABET
OMAR FABICE
JOSEPH P. FELICIANO
KEIT T. FINDLON
BENJAMIN D. FINCH, JR.
RYAN J. FLINTCHEN
ALLYN FONG
MARY B. FORD
KEVIN L. FOSSE
SAMONE E. FRAENZER
DEVIN B. GAITES
CHELSEA L. GARRERE
BENJAMIN N. GAVIN
JORDAN J. GASS
ADAM R. GEORGE
MICHAEL T. GODAR
ADAM R. GRADER
JOCHEN A. GHEVAYASH
SAMUEL L. GRASBO
JOSEP R. GREGOIS
JUSTIN D. GRIESEMA
KEITH A. GRUBB
SKTH M. GRUBB
DAVID M. GRUBBER
BRUCE E. GRUBB
KEVIN L. HAMMOND
GREGORY E. HAN
ELIEETR F. HARDNER
SHAY S. RAYVICKSON
LACREM. BRENN
JULIE R. HERTZ
SELF E. KRONZITZ
CHRISTOPHER W. HUER
MARSHALL A. JR. HILL
TYLER T. HINSHAW
LINDA HENG
COBY L. BOOVER
DAVID B. BOVAT
NAZIA S. RODRIGUE
MATTO C. BOULE
EDWARD R. HOUSTON
CONNOR HISA
KALEN M. HURST
CALEY B. HUDSPHELL
JACK A. HUMES
AARON C. JANNINGS
PAUL S. KROON
HARRTH A. JINNS
JAMES D. JONES
JAMES D. JONES, Jr.
GRANT A. JUSTRIN
CHAI C. KAMPSHUE
CHARLES H. K. KANG
HEATHER E. KAMPPRIMKIN
ANDREA C. KASTL
JADE K. KATZMANN
KEVIN R. KLEANEY
JAN P. KELLY
JERSEY A. KERR
DOMINIC J. KILEY
GABRIEL M. KIM
KAMIL K. KLINKESZ
SHELMI A. KUHLES
NICHOLAS A. KOHLES
SARAH A. KOWIT
JOSHTA A. KREIDER
NATHAN B. K. KWAN
MICHAEL L. D. LAURANSRE
DANIEL T. LAMBRERS
MARY L. LAY
ROBERT B. LANGENHOI
STEPHANIE E. LEWIS
TARIFFY C. LEVINE
ROBERT W. LOWE
BRIANA L. LINDBERG
SOPHIA T. LIN
TYLER T. LONNEN
SULYNSTER LUI
RUBEEN A. MACIAS
JARED S. Mac possibilities
NICHOLAS A. MAGNO
TIMOTHY E. MALONE
TAYLOR D. MANSFELD
MUHAMMAD A. MANSOUR
CHRISOTOPHER W. MARACO
DAVID J. MARINO
PIER J. MATTEULIN
CHARLES S. MAXWELL
JOHN S. MATTI
ZACHARY S. MCBETH
MICHY F. MCQUY
COBY M. MCQOFHE
NATHAN T. MCGRAW
CHELSEA A. MICKINNON
LUKE J. MEININGER
LYNN M. MENSHERTH
JANEY M. MIESEVOCH
VICTORIA L. MIGDA
KATHERINE B. MILLBURY
KIRSTEN N. MILLER-JASTER
ISLA P. MILLAR
MINTCHO B. MINTCHY
NATALIE E. MINTGHELL
DAVID M. MIDDIN
KATTY L. MOLSON
JOSHTA W. MONSON
MICHAEL D. MORGAN
KATLIN E. MORSHE
DANIE R. NDAKE
NICHEL S. NAUDEN
STEVEN D. NARDINI

To be major

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
To be major

NINA A. MCCOOY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS PERMANENT PROFESSOR AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 7664B AND 7664C.

To be colonel

AARON T. HILL, JR.


To be major

ALEXANDER L. ALLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 513.

To be colonel

NEIL J. MYERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 513 AND 7664.

To be major

MELISHA M. JOY


IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be lieutenant colonel

RYAN M. GLEESON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be colonel

ROBY L. ALDRIDGE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be colonel

BRIAN D. TURNER

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be captain

JEFFREY D. FIZANT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be captain

ADAM M. KLEIN

ROBERT A. PETRICK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be colonel

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be captain

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be captain

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be captain

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be captain

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be captain

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be captain

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be captain

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.

To be captain

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To be captain

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 649.
The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for a term of four years.

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 13, 2021:

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).
AWARDING AND CELEBRATING MEC’S FIBER-OPTIC PROJECT

HON. PAUL A. GOSAR
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the first Mohave Electric member connections for MEC’s fiber-optic project and broadband service. In a first-of-its-kind endeavor for an electric co-op in Arizona, MEC is building a fiber-optic network to enhance electric operations and provide reliable broadband service for each member in MEC’s service territory which consists of 33,000 members and 42,000 end points.

MEC was created in 1946 by local residents who took initiative to provide themselves with electricity investor-owned utilities refused to supply. MEC crews have now already installed more than 190,000 feet of fiber line, increasing that number every day. The work the MEC is producing for reliable internet is very important because it helps small businesses, local emergency responders, and hospitals to be able to do their job and help the people of Mohave County.

Madam Speaker, I express a sincere form of gratitude to MEC, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating a successful project and legacy as a valuable organization to the people of Arizona. These notable efforts and accomplishments to provide reliable broadband service should be recognized and acknowledged. For these reasons I stand with MEC for their remarkable impact on the Mohave County communities.

RECOGNIZING DR. WAYNE CALHOUN TEMPLE

HON. RODNEY DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Wayne Calhoun Temple for his distinguished service to the State of Illinois and the American people.

Wayne was born on his family farm in Delaware County, Ohio. Until eighth grade he worked on the farm and attended a one room schoolhouse a mile from his home. He went on to graduate as valedictorian of Prospect High School and earned a football scholarship to Ohio State University.

He attended college for only two quarters before answering the call to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was sent to the University of Illinois to study engineering and was later assigned to an Army communications service-plant engineering agency. While overseas, he was responsible for authoring General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s communications and was awarded the Bronze Star for his work at the Rhine River.

Following World War II, Wayne attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1946, where he graduated with honors in engineering and received a PhD in history. During his time at the University of Illinois he served as a research assistant to “The Dean of Lincoln Scholars” Professor James G. Randall and contributed to Professor Randall’s writing of four books.

Throughout his life, Wayne has authored over 600 works on the life of President Abraham Lincoln. In 1964, he moved to Springfield to work in the Illinois State Archives repository of public records and served as both the Chief Deputy Director and Acting Director of the depository.

His dedication to serve and educate others is evident through his life’s work and I would like to personally thank him for his continued service to the State of Illinois.

HONORING GERTRUDE JACKSON’S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. AMI BERA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th birthday of Gertrude Jackson. Born on May 2nd, 1921, Mrs. Jackson grew up in Prichard, Alabama and left her hometown to pursue a nursing degree at St. Mary’s Nursing School in St. Louis, Missouri. She graduated and became a registered nurse in 1944 and moved to settle in Sacramento, California. Mrs. Jackson also served in the U.S. Army in WWII as Second Lieutenant Gertrude Clarke. After she moved to Sacramento and finished her time in the Army, she met her late husband and was married the following year on May 15th. Mr. and Mrs. Jackson spent a wonderful 70 years together.

Mrs. Jackson is a very accomplished woman, and her children, grandchildren, and greatgrandchildren all look up to her. As she began her career in nursing in 1944, she was the second African-American registered nurse in Sacramento, working at Sutter Memorial Hospital. This achievement helped pave the way for women of color in the health care sector, and our community is grateful for her service.

Although her 100th birthday was earlier this year, we continue to celebrate this milestone as she reunites with her family for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mrs. Jackson celebrated her birthday at Elk Grove Regional Park last weekend, and we wish her well this year. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing a happy birthday to Mrs. Jackson and a profound thank you for her work in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Federal Bureau of Prisons Voting Assistance Act with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree and Congressman Peter Welch. This bill would require the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to provide to inmates from jurisdictions that allow inmates to vote, like the District of Columbia, Vermont and Maine, information on how to register to vote and request an absentee ballot. It would require BOP to provide each BOP prison information on the criteria for voter registration, instructions on voter registration, voter registration forms and prepaid envelopes for voter registration forms, if provided by the state generally. Each prison would be required to post the information in the facility and give it to each inmate eligible to vote.

These are essentially the practices BOP used in the most recent presidential election, so this bill would codify an already successful practice of assisting with voter enfranchise-

I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. “BUDDY” CARTER
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 192; NAY on Roll Call No. 193; YEA on Roll Call No. 194; NAY on Roll Call No. 195; NAY on Roll Call No. 196; NAY on Roll Call No. 197; NAY on Roll Call No. 198; NAY on Roll Call No. 199; NAY on Roll Call No. 200; NAY on Roll Call No. 201; YEA on Roll Call No. 202; NAY on Roll Call No. 203; and YEA on Roll Call No. 204.

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.
TRIBUTE TO SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF JOHN McMATHON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff-Coroner John McMahon of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department in California’s 8th Congressional District. Sheriff McMahon has served as a law enforcement officer in San Bernardino County for the past 36 years. He began his career in 1985 as a patrol deputy at the Needles station in California’s 8th District and has been promoted to every rank in the department since then, serving at a total of 15 stations during his career. In 2014, John was elected as the 35th Sheriff-Coroner of the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, and his leadership has been an invaluable asset to our law enforcement community.

During his tenure, Sheriff McMahon successfully led the department through many challenging times and high-profile incidents, including the December 2nd terror attack in San Bernardino. Long-term solutions implemented by his department have helped to keep crime down in our communities and improve safety across the largest county in our state. Under his leadership, the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department has become known as one of the premier law enforcement agencies in the nation. I wish Sheriff McMahon and his wife Shelly all the best as he begins his retirement and I thank him for his dedication to serving the people of San Bernardino County.

THANKING ANDREW Lofton FOR A LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON RETIREMENT

HON. ADAM SMITH OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Lofton’s outstanding career with the Seattle Housing Authority and congratulate him on a well-earned retirement after nearly five decades in public service.

Over the course of his astonishing career, Mr. Lofton held a variety of titles including Chief of Staff to Mayor Norm Rice, Budget Director of the City of Seattle, Chief of Departmental Operations for the City of Seattle, and most recently, the Executive Director of Seattle Housing Authority.

The positive impact Andrew has made on his community cannot be stressed enough. Seattle is without a doubt better because of his hard work, dedication, and passion for developing affordable housing. Under his leadership as Executive Director, the Seattle Housing Authority grew by over 1,500 units making a world of difference for over 3,000 children and adults. He grew the Seattle Housing Authority to the largest it has ever been, serving over 37,000 Seattle residents in over 8,400 units.

In a career full of achievements, one that stands out is his role in organizing and leading the community of Moving to Work Housing Authorities and serving as the first President of the Moving to Work Collaborative. This work was absolutely critical in piloting a new approach to more effectively and efficiently using Federal housing resources to serve low-income communities. Moving to Work agencies assist families with children where the head of the household is seeking work or participating in a workforce development program. Not only do they help these families become economically stable, but they also increase housing choices for low-income families. Because of Andrew’s dedication, these programs remain successful in Washington and across the country.

Andrew was also pivotal in the Community Movements to Opportunity initiative. This partnership between Seattle Housing Authority, King County Housing Authority, and Raj Chetty’s Opportunity Insights research team at Harvard paved the way to broaden geographic choice and access to opportunity neighborhoods for low-income families. This work has been foundational for new national mobility efforts funded by Congress and currently being rolled out by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Andrew Lofton on a distinguished career. The State of Washington is lucky to have had him working for its people and after 47 years of service he always worked with grace, a generosity of spirit, and a never-failing sense of humor.

RECOGNIZING POLICE CHIEF MATT BURNS

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON OF SOUTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Police Chief Matt Burns for his 25 years of service with the Sioux Falls Police Department.

Chief Burns’ career with the Sioux Falls Police Department began in 1996 as a patrol officer. He later went on to serve as a SWAT team member, detective, lieutenant, and assistant chief. In 2015, Burns became chief of police.

During his honorable career, Burns has spearheaded several key initiatives including promoting, designing, and funding the New Public Safety Training Center and leading the effort to host remote Basic Certification Academy classes.

Despite the many challenges the city of Sioux Falls has faced in recent years, I am grateful for Burns’ leadership in keeping the community of Sioux Falls safe.

I commend Chief Burns for his outstanding record of service, hard work, and leadership. I extend my deepest congratulations to him on his well-earned retirement.

IN HONOR OF NICKI CLARKE FOR HER 14 YEARS OF SERVICE AT CAPITOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPshire

HON. ANN. M. KUSTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere gratitude for Nicki Clarke as she moves on after fourteen years from her role as Executive Director of the Capitol Center for the Arts.

Over the span of Nicki’s long and successful career, she has built a lasting memory as a leader and advocate for the arts in New Hampshire. Nicki has brought numerous rich and diverse art experiences to Granite Staters. Her leadership over the past fourteen years has been dynamic, innovative, and focused as she increased the number of shows and created the Bank of New Hampshire Stage. Her commitment to the theater and the community has touched the lives of so many in New Hampshire.

On behalf of New Hampshire’s Second Congressional District and all those who have benefitted from Nicki’s work, I thank her for her incredible service and congratulate her on all that she has accomplished. I wish her the best of luck in the years ahead.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE

HON. MARK E. GREEN OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great institution of higher education, Patrick Henry College, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

Through a commitment to high academic rigor, a fidelity to the spirit of the American founding, and an unwavering worldview grounded in biblical principles, Patrick Henry College has attracted excellent students from all 50 states and distinguished itself by forming alumni marked by their grace, humility, and wisdom.

Since its founding in 2000, Patrick Henry College has placed graduates in the White House and as clerks for four U.S. Supreme Court justices. Many alumni can be found leading in various roles of public service and helping to make our country and the world a better place.

It has captured 12 national moot court championships, the Nelson Mandela world championship, and last year was crowned national civic debate champion.

The United States of America is a better place because of the work of its alumni in the public square. I want to honor Michael Farris for having the vision and determination to plant Patrick Henry College for the purpose of educating future leaders and equipping them to have a strong Christian influence in their communities and the culture at large. I am
confident that President Jack Haye and Dean Mark Mitchell will continue to lead Patrick Henry College with integrity and a steadfast commitment to faith and reason.

And I thank those alumni from my home state of Tennessee—Philip Bunn, Candace Curet, Jon De Troye, Noah Farley, Kayla Ferguson nee Gorges, Jay Jared, Andrew Luchuk, Will McManus, Nathan Mingus, Shane Roberts, Justine Van Ness, and Timothy Wier. Patrick Henry College has proven its worth over the past two decades, and I look forward to seeing this institution continue its work of forming men and women of exemplary character and intellect for many years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF AYA’S SWEETS

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the culmination of hard work and dedication by Aya Islim and her family that has resulted in the grand opening of Aya’s Sweets, a shop and bakery in the Dearborn Heights community in Michigan’s 13th Congressional District.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy, contributing to local economies and fostering a sense of community. But, what truly makes the grand opening of Aya’s Sweets shine is that it is the realization of a dream. Aya, at the age of sixteen, and with the support of her family, has committed so much of herself into seeing this business succeed.

Mostly self-taught, Aya began baking at the age of nine by watching cooking videos and shows. She has never shied away from a challenge. As she honed her skills, she learned a reputation for her beautiful and tasty creations, and has taken the step of opening her own bakery.

Please join me in recognizing and celebrating Aya and the Islim Family on the occasion of the grand opening of Aya’s Sweets. We wish them many years of success in service to our neighbors in Michigan’s #13th District Strong.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR DAVID CARETTO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS THE MAYOR OF BIG BEAR LAKE

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor David Caretto, a constituent of my district and Mayor of my hometown of Big Bear Lake, California. Mayor Caretto served Big Bear Lake for eleven years, but he was a public servant long before that, serving Southern California for thirty-three years as General Manager and Secretary for the South Orange County Wastewater Authority, Assistant City Manager and City Clerk for the City of Irwindale, Assistant City Manager and City Clerk for the City of Pico Rivera, City Manager and Assistant City Manager for the City of Signal Hill, and Planning Technician for the City of Lynwood.

In addition to his own public service, David and his wife Cindy raised two talented children, both of whom proudly served their country in the Iraq War.

I was honored to serve alongside David on the Big Bear Lake City Council, and I can relate from firsthand experience how impactful his continuous dedication to our community has been. I wish him and Cindy all the best in his retirement as they enter the next phase of their life. Thank you very much, Dave, for your service to the City of Big Bear Lake.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR GENERAL PETER B. ANDRYSIAK JR.

HON. DON YOUNG OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. YOUNG. Madam Speaker, I am deeply honored to express my gratitude to Major General Peter B. Andrysiak Jr. for his years of dedicated service to the United States of America, the Army, and the great state of Alaska.

As the Commanding General of United States Army Alaska (USARAK) and Deputy Commanding General of the Alaskan Command, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, he is responsible for providing trained and ready forces to support worldwide unified land operations and operations in the United States Indo-Pacific Command Area of Operations and the Arctic Region and conduct military operations in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Additionally, General Andrysiak has become a leader for the U.S. Army in the Arctic. In 1935, Brigadier General Billy Mitchell stated, "I believe that in the future, whoever holds Alaska will hold the world. I think it is the most important strategic place in the world." In the over 85 years since that statement, we have seen military leaders who understood it and many who ignored it. General Andrysiak is clearly the former. His Arctic leadership was not only critical to reshaping the Army's vision of the Arctic but was also crucial in the development of the Army's Arctic Strategy and the modernization of the Army's operations in Arctic environments.

Since pinning on his Second Lieutenant bars following his graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, General Andrysiak has exemplified what it means to be an American soldier. He is, however, more than the military tactical and operational expertise that he has demonstrated through his career. General Andrysiak has endeared himself to the soldiers and their families under his charge. For he has become a tireless advocate for their quality of life and wellbeing. From investments and improvements to facilities such as Child Development Centers, barracks, and gyms, to leadership engagement and mental health support, General Andrysiak understands that there is more to a soldier's experience than a trigger and field maneuvers. There is mental, spiritual, physical, and family readiness that must be addressed as well.

On February 23, 2021, the Chief of Staff of the Army, General James McConville, announced that General Andrysiak will become the Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Europe-Africa. While I am saddened to see him leave Alaska, I am proud that he will continue serving as a sentinel for our Nation.

REMEMBERING JOHN D. LEONARD SR.

HON. TIM RYAN OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John D. Leonard Sr. of Girdard, Ohio who passed away peacefully Monday, July 5, 2021 at the age of 80 surrounded by his loving family.

John was born Oct. 13, 1940, in Niles, a son to Joseph and Kathryn McMenamy Leonard. He was a 1968 graduate of Niles McKinley High School. He worked as a skilled tradesman for both the Union and the Packard Electric, retiring in 2008. John was a parishioner of St. Rose Church and was a member of the Knights of Columbus in Girard.

John was a pillar to his family. He was a selfless provider always ensuring the prosperity of his children. Just as he sang along to Louise's piano performances, uplifting her tunes, John would always uplift those around him, supporting friends and family unconditionally. His infectious smile and enthusiastic dancing reminds us how to live life. John's fundamental values of love, dedication, and community will forever guide his loved one's path towards happiness. We have lost a truly wonderful person who will forever be missed.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his children, Karla (Philip) Smith of Virginia, John D. (Suzana) Leonard Jr. of Shaker Heights and Bob (Daniele) Leonard of Rocky River; brothers, Joseph (MaryAnn), Thomas (Lucy), Paul (Charlotte), William (Mary Ann), Richard (Sandy) and Robert; sisters, Kathleen, Margaret Mary (David); close friend and companion, Nancy Foster; and his grandchildren, Audrey and Emma Smith, Daniel and Stefan Leonard, Andrew and Anna Leonard, Alex Sapp, Adam (Janice) and Hannah Smith. Besides his parents, John was preceded in death by his wife, Louise Leonard, whom he married Aug. 18, 1962, and who passed away Feb. 2, 2015; and a brother, Jerry.

John was the uncle to my longtime District Director and childhood friend, Rick Leonard. John truly embodied the spirit of the Democratic Party through his lifetime of integrity and kindness and was all around a wonderful person to be around. My condolences go out to all whose lives he touched.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL MIRRA ON HIS RETIREMENT AND THANKING HIM FOR SERVING HIS COMMUNITY

HON. ADAM SMITH OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to congratulate Michael Mirra...
on a well-earned retirement and thank him for nearly two decades of service to the Tacoma Housing Authority.

The positive impact Michael has had on his community cannot be overstated. He has diligently served as Executive Director of Tacoma Housing Authority for the last 17 years, where in that time he helped countless people and substantially improved the Tacoma Housing Authority by growing the number of units and increasing the reach of their services. Prior to this role, Michael was a highly successful litigator who represented homeless families and poor neighborhoods in several high-profile legal cases.

Under Michael’s leadership, the Tacoma Housing Authority completed a reconstruction project of 200 urban acres costing $250 million in Tacoma’s Salishan neighborhood. Not only was this the largest project in Tacoma’s history, but also the largest West of the Mississippi. The project increased the total number of units under the Tacoma Housing Authority by 29 percent.

Michael also spearheaded innovative ways to use federal housing dollars to further benefit families. With the Education Project, Michael was able to help the children of families working with the Tacoma Housing Authority succeed in public schools and pay for the college education of students experiencing homelessness. Michael was instrumental in finding new ways to use funds and enlisted local developers to incorporate low-income housing into market-rate developments.

He also established the Tacoma Housing Authority as a Moving to Work agency, becoming just one of 39 in the country. Moving to Work agencies are given the flexibility to test innovative, locally designed strategies to use federal resources more efficiently and help residents find employment to become financially stable in the long-term. This work was absolutely critical in piloting a new approach to more effectively and efficiently using Federal housing resources to serve low-income communities. Not only do they help these families become economically stable, but they also increase housing options for low-income families. In 2016, in recognition of his distinguished career, Michael was awarded the Margaret M. Sevy Lifetime Achievement Award by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to honor Michael Mirra on an outstanding career in public service, thank him for serving his community so well, and congratulate him on retiring.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4835–S4869

Measures Introduced: Twenty bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2317–2336, and S. Res. 298–299.

Measures Passed:

ARTS Act: Senate passed S. 169, to amend title 17, United States Code, to require the Register of Copyrights to waive fees for filing an application for registration of a copyright claim in certain circumstances.

Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. 534, to improve the effectiveness of tribal child support enforcement agencies, and the bill was then passed.

Construction Consensus Procurement Improvement Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 26, to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, to correct a provision on the prohibition on the use of a reverse auction, and the bill was then passed.

Motion to Discharge Abruzzo Nomination: Pursuant to S. Res. 27, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions being tied on the question of reporting, the Majority Leader made the motion to discharge the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions from further consideration of the nomination of Jennifer Ann Abruzzo, of New York, to be General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 255), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 73 yeas to 24 nays (Vote No. EX. 254), Uzra Zeya, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

By 50 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 256), Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

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

By 50 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 255), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Rachel Jacobson, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army.

Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Alexander Hoehn-Saric, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2018.

Sara C. Bronin, of Connecticut, to be Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for a term expiring January 19, 2025.

Julieta Valls Noyes, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration).

Mallory A. Stewart, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of State (Verification and Compliance).

Claire D. Cronin, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to Ireland.

Claire A. Pierangelo, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Union of the Comoros.

Bathsheba Nell Crocker, of the District of Columbia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Office of the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, with the rank of Ambassador.

Michael Carpenter, of the District of Columbia, to be U.S. Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the rank of Ambassador.

Amy Gutmann, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Jeffrey M. Hovenier, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo.

Virginia E. Palmer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana.

Jack A. Markell, of Delaware, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador.

Chantale Yokmin Wong, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

Lisa A. Carty, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

Lisa A. Carty, of Maryland, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America on the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Denise Campbell Bauer, of California, to be Ambassador to the French Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Monaco.

Peter D. Haas, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.

Bernadette M. Meehan, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile.

Eric M. Garcetti, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of India.

Fagan Harris, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2023.

Betty Y. Jang, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2023.

Audrey K. Schuster, of Massachusetts, to be Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2025.

Dennis DeConcini, of Arizona, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring April 17, 2026.

Joseph M. Green, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring March 3, 2022.

Barbara George Johnson, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring February 4, 2026.

Mildred Otero, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring August 11, 2026.

Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Gerald W. Fauth, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2023.

Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Mediation Board for a term expiring July 1, 2024.

Ernest W. DuBester, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2024.

Sean C. Staples, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Jane M. Beckering, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan.

Shalina D. Kumar, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Michael S. Nachmanoff, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.
Armando O. Bonilla, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Carolyn N. Lerner, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Toby J. Heytens, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Jennifer Sung, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Patricia Tolliver Giles, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

5 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
32 Army nominations in the rank of general.
2 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.
3 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.
1 Space Force nomination in the rank of general.
Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy.

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Page S4852
Executive Communications: Pages S4852–54
Executive Reports of Committees: Page S4854
Additional Cosponsors: Pages S4855–57
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Page S4857

Additional Statements: Page S4852
Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S4857–58
Privileges of the Floor: Page S4858

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—257) Pages S4842–43, S4851
Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:32 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 14, 2021. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S4861.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: USPS OIG

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the USPS Office of Inspector General and USPS service issues, after receiving testimony from Tammy L. Whitcomb, Inspector General, United States Postal Service; Rania Dima, National Federation of the Blind, Frederick, Maryland; Brian McLaurin, American Postal Workers Union, Upper Marlboro, Maryland; and Karen Meyers, Baltimore, Maryland.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, who was introduced by Senator Kelly, Carlos Del Toro, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Navy, who was introduced by Senator Warner, Kathleen S. Miller, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, who was introduced by former Representative John M. McHugh, 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, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing 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, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported 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.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing 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, who was introduced by Senator Markay, and Marc Evans Knapper, of California, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, all of the Department of State, after the
nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATIONS
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Catherine Elizabeth Lhamon, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, who was introduced by Senator Murray, Elizabeth Merrill Brown, of Maryland, to be General Counsel, who was introduced by Senator Van Hollen, and Roberto Josue Rodriguez, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, who was introduced by former Representative George Miller, all of the Department of Education, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

ANTICOMPETITIVE CONDUCT IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG MARKETS
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine anticompetitive conduct in prescription drug markets, after receiving testimony from Michael Kades, Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Geoffrey Levitt, DLA Piper, on behalf of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, and David E. Mitchell, Patients For Affordable Drugs, all of Washington, D.C.; Alden F. Abbott, George Mason University Mercatus Center, Arlington, Virginia; and Rachel Moodie, Fresenius Kabi, Baltimore, Maryland.

INTELLIGENCE
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session with members of the Committee on Armed Services to receive a joint briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 25 public bills, H.R. 4406–4430; and 6 resolutions, H. Res. 526–531 were introduced. Pages H3623–24
Additional Cosponsors: Pages H3625–26
Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:
H.R. 3243, to codify the Transportation Security Administration’s responsibility relating to securing pipelines against cybersecurity threats, acts of terrorism, and other nefarious acts that jeopardize the physical security or cybersecurity of pipelines, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 117–85); and
Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Trone to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H3621
Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum Council—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum Council: Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (NY). Page H3621
Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Representatives Sean Patrick Maloney (NY), Murphy (FL), Womack, and Davidson. Page H3621
Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy: Representatives Speier, Lieu, and Lamborn. Page H3621
Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Representatives Ruppersberger, Brown, Palazzo, and Wittman. Page H3621
Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.
Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES
Committee on Appropriations: Full Committee held a markup on the Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, FY 2022; and the Defense Appropriations Bill, FY 2022. The Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, FY 2022; and the Defense Appropriations Bill, FY 2022 were ordered reported, as amended.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR FIXED-WING TACTICAL AND TRAINING AIRCRAFT PROGRAMS
Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request of the Department of Defense for Fixed-Wing Tactical and Training Aircraft Programs”. Testimony was heard from Raymond O’Toole, Jr., Acting Director, Operational Test and Evaluation; Joseph Nogueira, Acting Director, Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation; Darlene Costello, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; Lieutenant General David Nahom, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, U.S. Air Force; Frederick Stefany, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition; Rear Admiral Upper Half Andrew Loiselle, Director, U.S. Navy, Air Warfare Division (OPNAV/N98); Lieutenant General Mark Wise, Deputy Commandant for Aviation, U.S. Marine Corps; Lieutenant General Eric Fick, U.S. Air Force, Program Executive Officer, F–35 Joint Program Office; and Jon Ludwigson, Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office.

MEMBER DAY
Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Neguse, Costa, Gonzalez of Ohio, and Keller.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE
Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee continued a markup on H.R. 3524, the “Ensuring American Global Leadership and Engagement Act”.

FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY: EXAMINING ITS USE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “Facial Recognition Technology: Examining Its Use by Law Enforcement”. Testimony was heard from Gretta L. Goodwin, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

OH, CANADA! HOW OUTDATED U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICIES PUSH TOP TALENT TO OTHER COUNTRIES
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship held a hearing entitled “Oh, Canada! How Outdated U.S. Immigration Policies Push Top Talent to Other Countries”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES
Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Land held a 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. 3132, the “Lake Tahoe Restoration Reauthorization Act”; and H.R. 4300, the “Veterans in Parks Act”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Panetta, Schrier, Neguse, and Miller-Meeks; Barnie Gyant, Associate Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Gretchen Reuning, Forest Program Director, Fort Collins Conservation District, Colorado; and public witnesses.

RURAL AMERICAN RECOVERY: THE ROLE OF SMALL BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Underserved, Agricultural, and Rural Development held a hearing entitled “Rural American Recovery: The Role of Small Businesses and Entrepreneurship”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

VA APPEALS PROGRAM: EXAMINING THE STATE OF MODERNIZATION EFFORTS
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled “VA Appeals Program: Examining the State of Modernization Efforts”. Testimony was heard from Cheryl Mason, Chairman, Board of Veterans’ Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs; Elizabeth Curda, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

MODERNIZING THE VA POLICE FORCE: ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled
“Modernizing the VA Police Force: Ensuring Accountability.” Testimony was heard from Lewis Ratchford, Chief Security Officer, Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness, Department of Veterans Affairs; Leigh Ann Seairight, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Catina B. Latham, Acting Director, Physical Infrastructure Team, Government Accountability Office.

**Joint Meetings**

No joint committee meetings were held.

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

**Senate**

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 a.m., SD–138.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: 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: 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, 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: 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: 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 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 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.

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 authorize certain improvements for the Indian Health Service, 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 the Judiciary: 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.
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.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold hearings to examine VA electronic health records, focusing on modernization and the path ahead, 3:30 p.m., SR–418.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4374, the “Broadband Internet Connections for Rural America Act”, 12:30 p.m., 1300 Longworth and Zoom.

Committee on Armed Services, 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, 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.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy”, 12 p.m., Webex.

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

Committee on Natural Resources, 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 direct the Secretary of the Interior to designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail, and for other purposes; H.R. 2444, the “Fort San Geronimo 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”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled “Principles for Outbreak Investigation: COVID–19 and Future Infectious Diseases”, 12 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, 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, 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, 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, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “Expanding Housing Access to All Americans”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine how concentrated corporate power undermines shared prosperity, 2:30 p.m., VTC.
Next Meeting of the Senate
10 a.m., Wednesday, July 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Jocelyn Samuels, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following the cloture vote on the nomination of Jocelyn Samuels, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Seema Nanda, of Virginia, to be Solicitor for the Department of Labor. If cloture is invoked on either of the nominations, Senate will vote on the confirmations thereon at 2:35 p.m.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Seema Nanda, until 2 p.m.)

Next Meeting of the House of Representatives
9 a.m., Friday, July 16

House Chamber

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

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

House
Bera, Ami, Calif., E753
Carter, Earl L. "Buddy", Ga., E753
Davis, Rodney, Ill., E753
Gosar, Paul A., Ariz., E753
Green, Mark E., Tenn., E754
Herrell, Yvette, N.M., E753
Johnson, Dusty, S. Dak., E754
Kuster, Ann M., N.H., E754
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E753
Obernolte, Jay, Calif., E754, E755
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E755
Smith, Adam, Wash., E754, E755
Tlaib, Rashida, Mich., E755
Young, Don, Alaska, E755

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