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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 167 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021 No. 214

House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 13, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable G.K. Butterfield to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Michael Wilker, Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Creator of the stars of night, source and ground of every flower, as Christians prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth, we thank You for Advent saints like Juan Diego and Lucia who announce Your presence among people who suffer from slavery, colonization, and sexism. Through the vision of the Virgin of Guadalupe and by the steadfast resistance of Lucia, You strengthen and encourage us.

Guide the deliberations of Congress Members so they work to free all people from bondage. Inspire the work of the staff members, especially those who work in the Capitol buildings and grounds to care for the flowers and lights, food and visitors.

Holy parent of us all, visit Your children today, especially those in the wake of tornadoes in Kentucky and the Midwest. By the stars in heaven and the flowers of the Earth inspire and guide us with the spirit's fire and fragrance.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Friday, December 10, 2021:

S. 610, to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 10, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 10, 2021, at 9:21 a.m.:

That the Senate agrees to the House amendment to the bill S. 610.

That the Senate passed S. 2938.

That the Senate passed S. 3294.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 390.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4660.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker, on Friday, December 10, 2021, announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 610.—An act to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until noon tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 12 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–2928. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the ''Annual Report to the Congress on the Presidential $1 Coin Program'', November 2021, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 5112(p)(3)(B); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 109-145, Sec. 104); (119 Stat. 2670); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2929. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's Major final rule — Facilitating the LIBOR Transition (Regulation Z) [Docket No.: CFPB-2020-0014] (RIN: 3170-AB01) received December 8, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110

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Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–2930. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress on Community Services Block Grant Fiscal Year 2016; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC–2931. A letter from the Assistant Legal Advisor, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–2932. A letter from the Assistant to the President, Director, White House Management, Executive Office of the President — Office of Administration, transmitting the accounting of transactions from the Unanticipated Needs Account for fiscal year 2021, pursuant to 3 U.S.C. 108(b); Public Law 95-570, Sec. 2(a); (92 Stat. 2449); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2933. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Semiannual Report to Congress by the Office of Inspector General for the Board and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, pursuant to the the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2934. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission, transmitting the Commission's September 2021 Semi-Annual Inspector General report, pursuant to section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2935. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting five (5) notifications of a discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2936. A letter from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2021, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049) and 31 U.S.C. 3516 note; Public Law 112-217, Sec. 2(c); (126 Stat. 1591); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2937. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2021, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2938. A letter from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Record Administration, transmitting the Administration's Fiscal Year 2021 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2939. A letter from the Treasurer, National Gallery of Art, transmitting the Gallery's Performance and Accountability Report for the year ended September 30, 2021, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2940. A letter from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Commission's Fiscal Year 2021 Performance and Accountability Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2941. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period of April 1, 2021, to September 30, 2021, pursuant to Sec. 5, Public Law 95-452; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2942. A letter from the Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Agency Financial Report of FY 2021, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2943. A letter from the Chair, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's Agency Financial Report for FY 2021, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2944. A letter from the Chair, United States Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting the Board's Fiscal Year 2021 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC–2945. A letter from the Register of Copyrights and Director, United States Copyright Office, transmitting a letter advising the Congress that the U.S. Copyright Office has determined to extend the adjustments to certain timing provisions of the Copyright Act for persons affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. 710(c); Added by Public Law 116-136, Sec. 19011(a); (134 Stat. 581); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–2946. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the ''Report to Congress: Summary of Review and Recommendations for the Medicare and Medicaid Programs to Prevent Opioid Addictions and Enhance Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment'', pursuant to Public Law 115-271, Sec. 6032(e); (132 Stat. 3979); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC–2947. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled, ''Risk Adjustment in Medicare Advantage 2021'', pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395w-23 note; Public Law 114-255, Sec. 17006(f)(2)(A)(ii); (130 Stat. 1338); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York: Committee on Oversight and Reform. H.R. 2043. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require the Director of the Office or Personnel Management to establish and maintain a public directory of the individuals occupying Government policy and supporting positions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117–169, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MEEKS. Committee on Foreign Affairs. H.R. 5665. A bill to establish in the Department of State the Office to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117–215). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi: Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Mark Randall Meadows in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol (Rept. 117–216). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on House Administration discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2043 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 6245. A bill to require a review of the system used by the Department of Defense for categorizing unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 6246. A bill to direct the Department of Defense to establish policies and procedures for providing continuing language education to military linguists, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BABIN, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. MACE, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. ROSE, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. BACON, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BAIRD, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. MANN, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 6247. A bill to ensure that residents of covered federally assisted rental housing may lawfully possess firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GAETZ (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 6248. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an affirmative defense for certain criminal violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 6249. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an end date for the credit for certain qualified carbon oxide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 6250. A bill to improve protections for meatpacking workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and

in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Oversight and Reform, House Administration, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. PINGREE, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 6251. A bill to amend the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act to clarify and expand food donation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 6252. A bill to permit certain businesses to select an alternative covered period for loan forgiveness under the Paycheck Protection Program and provide certain businesses additional loan forgiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6253. A bill to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the Council of the District of Columbia to enact laws with respect to the organization and jurisdiction of the District of Columbia courts; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 6254. A bill to amend the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 to modify the description of interest for purposes of certain distributions of antidumping duties and countervailing duties; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Ms. FOXX):

H.R. 6255. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish employer-directed skills accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. KAHELE):

H. Res. 846. A resolution recognizing the maternal health crisis among indigenous women in the United States, which includes American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women, recognizing the importance of reducing mortality and morbidity among indigenous women, and calling for urgent Federal funding changes to ensure comprehensive, high-quality, and culturally competent maternal health and family planning services are available; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. HIMES, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. RUSH, Ms. OMAR, Ms. MENG, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. BASS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. WELCH, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CORREA, Mr. TRONE, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. BERA, Ms. TITUS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. KHANNA):

H. Res. 847. A resolution recognizing the 73d anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the celebration of ''Human Rights Day''; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

ML-126. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, relative to House Resolution Number 174, urging the United States Congress to oppose unnecessary and harmful changes to Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements for Michigan's financial institutions; ; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. BACON:

H.R. 6245.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 provides Congress the authority to ''make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces''

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 6246.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 provides Congress the authority to ''make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces''

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 6247.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. GAETZ:

H.R. 6248.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment 2 and Amendment 14, Section 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 6249.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution gives Congress the power to make laws that are necessary and proper to carry out its enumerated powers.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 6250.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H.R. 6251.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 6252.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6253.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 6254.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 6255.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 393: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 764: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1012: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. MCCAUL.

H.R. 1147: Mrs. MCCLAIN.

H.R. 1179: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 1235: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 1408: Ms. NORTON and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 2192: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.

H.R. 2199: Mr. ARRINGTON.

H.R. 2316: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2611: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 2773: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 2886: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 2916: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 3053: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 3054: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3076: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 3225: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 3304: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 3451: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 3548: Mr. CORREA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 3793: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 3800: Mr. CORREA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BERA, and Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 3860: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 4247: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 4390: Mr. GOLDEN and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 4412: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 4450: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. CHU, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 4452: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 4571: Mr. DELGADO.

H.R. 4865: Mr. TORRES of New York and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 4965: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 4980: Mr. SWALWELL.

H.R. 5136: Mrs. MCCLAIN.

H.R. 5141: Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MACE, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CROW, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 5207: Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 5232: Ms. TITUS and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 5350: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 5528: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 5543: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5577: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. MCCAUL, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. STEWART, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. BANKS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. KELLER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 5618: Ms. MENG and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5648: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 5660: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 5665: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5703: Mrs. AXNE.
H.R. 5727: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 5754: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. SAN NICOLAS.
H.R. 5818: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 5819: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 5915: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 5942: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 5949: Ms. PELOSI.
H.R. 5959: Mr. FITZGERALD and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.
H.R. 6005: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 6069: Ms. WEXTON and Ms. MACE.
H.R. 6089: Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. FOXX, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 6100: Ms. TITUS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 6132: Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. MCCLAIN, and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 6138: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 6144: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. KELLER, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. CHENEY, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 6178: Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. MAST, Ms. MACE, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROY, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Ms. HERRELL, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. CAWTHORN, and Mr. HAGEDORN.
H.R. 6187: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 6204: Ms. DEGETTE and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 6206: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 6243: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. GOHMERT.
H. J. Res. 48: Ms. TITUS.
H. J. Res. 64: Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. COOPER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. WELCH, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. EVANS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CROW, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. ROSS, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SOTO, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. CORREA.
H. Con. Res. 54: Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H. Res. 404: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. ISSA.
H. Res. 845: Mr. CARSON, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. CROW, and Mr. RUSH.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

PT-83. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the City and County of San Francisco, relative to Resolution No. 466-21, urging President Joseph R. Biden, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, to direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency to sustain public assistance funding to the City and County of San Francisco through 2022 for the purpose of advancing and maintaining the Shelter-In-Place Hotel alternative housing program to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable homeless populations; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services.

PT-84. Also, a petition of the City of Sheffield, Alabama, relative to a resolution requesting and strongly urging Governor Kay Ivey and the Alabama Legislature to amend the ''Good Time Law'' to require that no person who has been convicted of violent crimes be considered for early release from prison without due process and authorization by the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PT-85. Also, a petition of the City of Miami, FL, relative to Resolution R-21-0394, urging President Joseph R. Biden and his administration to halt deportation flights to Haiti and to offer a fair and humane immigration process by supplying food, tents, and appropriate sanitation facilities to preserve the human dignity and health of Haitian immigrants awaiting processing and that they be afforded a reasonable opportunity to be heard to determine if they are entitled to the protections of the United States; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PT-86. Also, a petition of the City of Lauderdale Lakes Commission, relative to Resolution 2021-106, condemning and opposing all illegal and inhumane treatment of persons from the country of Haiti engaging in otherwise lawful conduct to seek asylum in the United States; further entreating the President of the United States and the United States Government Agencies to cease and desist from all inhumane, illegal mass expulsions of Haitian citizens without opportunity for such individuals to exercise lawful rights to seek asylum and other humanitarian protections; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Homeland Security and the Judiciary.

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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.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.

Almighty God, our gracious King, You are the one clear power of love in the midst of lesser powers. Lord, thank You for giving us the confidence to know that You hear and answer prayer.

We pray for those who seek to recover and rebuild after the tornadoes in many States. Have mercy upon them as they deal with the ravages of nature.

Lord, teach our Senators how to discover Your love in each other and to see Your magnificent image in all creation.

We pray in Your merciful 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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Samantha D. Elliott, of New Hampshire, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

KENTUCKY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the tornadoes that hit Kentucky this past weekend were some of the most widespread, severe, and devastating in our State's history.

It is still difficult to comprehend the vast scope of the storm. Nearly 40 tornadoes touched down across 6 States. One tornado in Kentucky stayed on the ground for over 200 miles—200 miles. This was potentially the longest continuous path of any tornado in U.S. history.

Towns have been reduced to rubble. Families are picking up pieces of their shattered lives. Most tragically, our Governor announced today that more than 60 Kentuckians are confirmed to have lost their lives. Many more remain unaccounted for.

This is the worst storm to hit Kentucky in my lifetime. The tornadoes have caused considerable damage in 15 counties all across the Commonwealth. Thousands lost their homes. Tens of thousands are still without power. This was, in the words of one meteorologist, ''the worst-case scenario'' for destruction. And it came during the Christmas season. Families are supposed to be gathering soon for rest, relaxation, and reunion. Now, so many Kentuckians are facing exactly the opposite.

The whole country is becoming acquainted with Mayfield, KY, likely our hardest hit city. Mayfield is a town of 10,000 in the Jackson Purchase. It has been known for the beautiful Greek Revival facade of the Mayfield First United Methodist Church. Now, First United is completely gone, and the town is literally leveled to the ground.

Mayfield's candle factory was operating in full swing this weekend to keep up with the Christmas demand. It was once a mainstay of the community, employing hundreds. On Friday night, the factory was turned into a scene of absolute horror. Many of the employees who were working that evening are feared dead. Rescue operations are ongoing. At least 40 employees were rescued initially. One was saved after being trapped under 5 feet of rubble for hours. The devastation there is absolute.

The tornado was so powerful that it ripped 27 train cars off their tracks in Earlington and scattered them across a field. A family photograph that was picked up by the storm in Dawson Springs, KY, was carried nearly 130 miles by the wind and discovered over in Indiana.

All across Western Kentucky, residents spent their Saturday and Sunday clearing debris and collecting clothes and possessions that had been scattered. Families were left to inspect the cinderblocks where their houses once stood. The cheery lights of Christmastime have been replaced by absolute destruction.

Kentucky has been devastated, but we have not been defeated. Kentuckians are resilient people who will stay strong and united through the crisis.

I am incredibly grateful to the first responders who have been on the

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

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ground since the outset: Kentucky National Guard, Kentucky State Police, sheriff's departments, city and local law enforcement, EMS responders, firefighters, doctors, and nurses. Quick thinking and selfless action saved lives.

Hard-hit communities are receiving an outpouring of support from across the Commonwealth as well as around the country. Americans near and far are coming together to donate food, blood, resources, and shelter to those in need. Businesses and individuals have helped fund relief efforts and donated to assist the storm's victims.

Like many of my fellow Kentuckians, I was incredibly touched by the support offered by the University of Kentucky basketball team this past weekend. While visiting the University of Notre Dame, they led a deeply emotional moment of silence before their game on Saturday night. The team visited the school's grotto to light candles for storm victims and to pray for recovery. We are all praying alongside them.

Kentucky's State motto is ''United we stand, divided we fall.'' In this time of crisis, Kentuckians are standing shoulder to shoulder, and we will not fail. At every level of local, State, and Federal Government across both political parties, Kentucky's leaders have come together to coordinate and to provide aid.

Toward the end of the week, I will travel back to Kentucky to meet with my constituents and visit the areas affected by the storm. My team has been working nonstop to ensure Kentuckians receive the help that they need.

I have worked closely with President Biden and Governor Beshear to ensure every Federal resource possible is deployed to our State. Kentucky's congressional delegation has come together to send multiple letters to the President in support of disaster relief. In response, President Biden cut through the redtape to approve our requests at an accelerated pace, providing the rapid support we need to recover.

I am especially grateful for the work of DHS Secretary Mayorkas and FEMA Administrator Criswell, who visited Kentucky yesterday to survey damage and to help relief efforts. FEMA has already sent two incident management teams, an urban search and rescue team, and an Army Corps temporary power team. They have turned Kentucky's Fort Campbell into a staging ground for vital relief and supplies. I could not be more grateful for their swift and decisive response to this crisis.

Even in the face of such tragedy, we can be confident that Kentucky will bounce back. We are strong; we are united; and we will come back bigger and better than ever before.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

KENTUCKY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today the prayers of the Senate extend to all of those impacted by the deadly tornadoes that broke out across the South and Midwest over the weekend. We pray and mourn especially for the people of Kentucky, where far too many lives have been lost and the full extent of the damage has yet to be determined.

Over the weekend, President Biden declared a state of emergency in Kentucky, authorizing FEMA to coordinate disaster relief and provide emergency assistance. He also announced he will travel this week to Kentucky to assess the damage and receive briefings of recovery efforts.

It is likely that the storms from this weekend will go down as some of the worst tornado outbreaks on record, and with heavy hearts we will continue to monitor rescue and first response efforts in the coming days.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on another matter, this week the Senate has a lot to get done as we approach the end of the year.

Over the course of the week, we expect to hold a number of votes to confirm more of President Biden's nominees to serve lifetime appointments to the Federal bench. On that front, we will later vote this afternoon on the confirmation of Judge Lucy Koh to serve as a circuit judge for the Ninth District Court of Appeals. Her nomination was favorably reported out of the committee with bipartisan support.

If confirmed, Judge Koh would be the first-ever Korean-American woman to sit on any circuit court in the country. The daughter of immigrants, her background is an inspiring testament to the American dream. Lucy's mom escaped as a child on foot from the oppression of North Korea, eventually coming to the States. Lucy spent the majority of her own upbringing in rural Mississippi, graduating from both Harvard and Harvard Law School.

For the last 11 years, Lucy Koh has served admirably as a district judge for the District of Northern California. She has authored over 3,000 opinions and presided in 270 cases—everything from the rights of criminal defendants in seeking legal representation to the protection of online consumer data in the hands of companies, to ensuring that the Trump administration did not prematurely end its completion of the 2020 census. She did all those things. She wrote on all those things and offered opinions.

All the while, she has conducted herself with impartiality, excellence, and above all, with fidelity to the Constitution and the rule of law. I have no doubt she will continue building on her excellent judicial record as an appellate judge on the Ninth Circuit, and I look forward to voting in favor of her confirmation later today.

Later this week, we will hold votes on other nominees as well, including Samantha Elliott to serve as a judge for the District of New Hampshire and Jennifer Sung to serve as a circuit judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Once we confirm all three judges—Koh, Elliott, and Sung—the Senate will have confirmed a total of 31 judges to the Federal bench, 11 to the circuit courts, and 20 to the district courts. I am proud to say over half of them are women. Over half of them are people of color.

All of them are outstanding, highly qualified, and they bring sorely needed diversity to the bench—not just personal diversity but professional diversity as well. In decades past, it would have been hard imagining many of these nominees getting a serious look in this Chamber, but one by one, Senate Democrats are working with President Biden to expand the possibilities of who can and who should serve as a judge in this country, and we will keep working.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Madam President, now, on other Senate business and Build Back Better, in addition to making progress on nominees, the Senate has been doing the hard work of putting ourselves in a position to finish our other high-level priorities for the rest of the year.

Last week, we advanced bipartisan legislation that will enable this Chamber to address the debt ceiling on a fast-track basis. For the information of all, the Senate will act tomorrow to prevent default. The Senate will act tomorrow to prevent default.

The Senate could also begin processing the annual Defense authorization bill—negotiated on a bipartisan, bicameral basis—as early as tomorrow. Between now and the end of the year, Members should also expect we will hold votes to confirm even more of the President's nominees.

And on a parallel track, the Senate is moving forward on the reconciliation process so we can vote on President Biden's Build Back Better Act before the Christmas holiday. Committees that received reconciliation instructions have been submitting their final text to the Parliamentarian, the Congressional Budget Office, and to our Republican counterparts.

Throughout the week, both Republicans and Democrats will hold bipartisan Byrd bath meetings with the Parliamentarian. Meanwhile, I will also continue to meet with my colleagues, and I know the President will also continue discussions with them as we hammer out the final details of Build Back Better.

This remains a laborious process, requiring a lot of precision and a lot of pieces moving together. I want to thank my colleagues and their staff and especially the Parliamentarian and her team for their dedication and focus as we approach a vote on the floor.

The work is not yet finished, but we are working hard to put the Senate in a position to get the legislation across the finish line before Christmas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

KENTUCKY

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, a powerful tornado stretched across 200 miles, never leaving the land, and perhaps the longest streak of tornado destruction we have ever seen in the United States of America. And my heart goes out to all those families who have been so impacted, all those who are lost, all those who are without a home, all those whose lives have been turned upside down.

We, the Senate, must act to be supportive of our fellow Americans who have faced such incredible destruction.

CHINA

Madam President, I come today to the floor to address another tragedy—a tragedy unfolding in China, where the Olympic Games are scheduled to begin on February 4.

I come to the floor to applaud President Biden for speaking out and announcing a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 February Beijing Olympic Games. This is absolutely the right thing to do, and as Beijing's response has shown, it sends a clear signal to the world that the world will not silently stand by as human rights are so dramatically abused.

For 2 weeks in February, the world will join together in the bask of the spectacle of the Winter Games. We will experience the highs and lows, as athletes from around the globe experience themselves the thrills of victory and the agony of defeat.

Athletes heading to the Games dream of thrilling the world and winning medals, but they also dream of contributing to the Olympic spirit, a spirit often spoken of in terms of working to build a better world through sports, which is why it is so offensive that these Games are set to take place in the shadow of some of the world's most egregious assaults on human rights and human dignity.

It is mind-boggling to me that the International Olympic Committee chose just this past March to characterize their strategic roadmap of the 5 years using such lofty goals as the Games will ''contribute to more inclusive society and to peace,'' and yet allowing the Games to go on in a nation where genocide is taking place at this very moment. It is mind-boggling because it is not some small abuse that is taking place but one of the worst the world has ever seen.

The Chinese Government has been committing, and is continuing to commit, genocide against a religious minority, and they are stripping away the political rights of Hong Kong's citizens, and they are suppressing the free-rights speeches of Chinese activists and advocates and journalists and bullying China's critics at home and abroad.

We cannot allow China to use the shine of the Olympic medals to blind the world to these facts. We have seen this before, and philosophers say that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

So let's return to 1936, the Olympic Stadium, the Olympic flag flying proudly not just in the stadium but throughout the city of Berlin for the summer Games right next to Nazi swastikas. It still shocks me to think of the world watching and cheering on as the Olympic torch was lit in a stadium filled with men and women giving the Nazi salute as Adolf Hitler watched on.

The Nazi regime had already started carrying out their racist, genocidal policies. They had already persecuted Jewish, German, and LGBTQ men and women, and labor activists and other minorities. They had already rounded up and jailed political opponents other nondesirables, including some 800 Roma in and around Berlin, who, just weeks before the start of the Games, were locked away in a camp outside the city.

But the world chose to look away from that unfolding horror. For 2 weeks during the Games, the Nazis took down their anti-Semitic signs, the propaganda ministry made newspapers ease up on hateful rhetoric, and the world praised the German government, legitimizing their regime with such fawning declarations as when the New York Times observed that the Games put Germany back in the fold of nations.

The world allowed itself to be beguiled by the Nazi facade. Behind that facade stood a violent, racist regime. Behind that facade was a government that controlled what the people living within its power could do and what they could say. Behind that facade was a regime that had no belief in anyone's basic human rights and that within 3 years was seeking to conquer the world while simultaneously murdering 6 million Jewish individuals and millions of other non-Jewish men, women, and children.

What if, instead of being taken in by the spectacle of the Games, and what if, instead of allowing the Nazis to use those Games for propaganda, the leaders of the world had stood up and pushed back? How much death and destruction might have been prevented? We will never know.

But what we do know is that we have the opportunity right now to learn from that past mistake and to do better.

Elie Wiesel once said: ''There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.''

We cannot fail to protest the Chinese Government's actions that stain the mission and purpose of the Olympics Games, because there is absolutely no question about the kinds of crimes and atrocities that are being committed by the Chinese Government at this very moment—atrocities like the enslavement and genocide against the Uighur Muslim minority being carried out in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. That genocide has been documented, it has been recognized, and it has been publicly announced by two different Presidential administrations.

That genocide completely reflects the United Nations' official definition of ''a crime committed with the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group in whole or in part.''

At the direction of President Xi of China, at least a million Uighurs are being detained and enslaved in camps in Xinjiang. They are forced to toil and work for the Chinese Government, producing cotton and other goods while undergoing reeducation programs where they are forced to renounce their faith and pledge loyalty to the Chinese Communist Party.

This is a process described in one official Chinese document as ''washing brains, cleansing hearts, strengthening righteousness and eliminating evil.'' It certainly is one of the most dramatic forms of evil taking place at this moment. That is what the Chinese Government is doing to the Uighur people.

The crimes against these individuals include torture, sleep deprivation, sexual abuse, rape, forced sterilizations, and abortions. One woman who fled the country after being released from a camp, who resides here now in the United States, recounted stories to reporters and human rights investigators of women being taken from their cells every night, brought to another room to be tortured and raped by one or more masked men. She, and another woman who was forced to help facilitate these assaults, have spoken about police officers paying good money to have their pick of the imprisoned women and girls. Those who are returned to their cells are threatened with even more pain and more torture if they say anything.

And these crimes and this repression aren't contained just to the camps. Millions in Xinjiang are subjected to Orwellian surveillance and discrimination, restricted from traveling or going to school, from freely speaking or freely worshipping. Meanwhile, the Chinese Government is systematically ripping children from their parents' arms, forcing them to live in state-run facilities where they are being indoctrinated to renounce their faith, ethnicity, and culture; to view their parents as China's enemies; and to praise the Communist Party.

All of that has been going on for years, at least since 2017, and all of it will still be going on as the International Olympic Committee and athletes from around the world gather in Beijing on February 4 for the opening ceremonies. And if the world is silent, if there are no protests or consequences, all that will serve simply to embolden the Chinese Government and their genocidal efforts.

Beijing's egregious actions don't stop with crimes against the Uighur people. We see those crimes in Hong Kong, where the Chinese Government is stripping the rights of Hongkongers, one day after another.

Back in 1998, China promised to adhere to the ''one country, two systems'' model. They signed a contract with

Great Britain to do so. They guaranteed freedom and rights to the citizens of Hong Kong. But we have watched in 2019 and 2020 as the Chinese Government has systematically dismantled the political rights of those in Hong Kong, working to silence any form of dissent, to silence any voice of opinion that might disagree with that of the Chinese Government. Demonstrators are beaten with batons and tear-gassed and pepper-sprayed and shot for asserting basic human rights—rights they were guaranteed when Hong Kong was reclaimed by China.

It fills me with dismay and rage at what the citizens of Hong Kong have lost under this oppression. This time last year, the Hong Kong people were still protesting and fighting for their freedom. Hundreds of thousands gathered, watching as messages of support for their cause came in from around the world and played out on giant screens. There was a feeling of hope.

But that hope lies shattered in the streets of Hong Kong today. Today, China has used the heavy hand of the national security law to ensure that only patriots loyal to Beijing can hold positions of power. They have crushed the hope. They have destroyed the freedom. They have destroyed the political rights of the 7.5 million citizens of Hong Kong.

Rarely in the history of the world have so many people been together celebrating their elections, celebrating their free speeches, and seen it crushed in such short order.

It is in this context that China is hosting the February Winter Olympic Games of 2022. And we, the free world, standing up for the rights of every individual to exercise the fundamental freedoms and the equal and inalienable right of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights that we are all born with, must speak out against these actions.

None of what China is doing is a major surprise because it has unfolded in such a systematic way now for so many years. China engaged in a campaign of controlling its citizens and silencing dissent, including silencing dissent within its borders. Human rights organizations have long and well documented the abuses.

This picture is of Chang Weiping, a Chinese lawyer who the government says was detained for allegedly inciting subversion of state power because he participated in a protest. After he was released on bail, Chang released a video statement describing the physical and psychological torture that he experienced while being detained. So authorities arrested him again and charged him with subverting state power. He is now one of those heroes who have stood up for the freedom of all the people of Hong Kong, and he is being held by the Chinese Government for standing up and speaking out for what is right.

It is not only lawyers and advocates who are detained when they speak out against the Government in China; it is also a three-time Chinese Olympic tennis star who disappeared from the public eye after accusing a party official of sexual assault.

''Where is Tennis Star Peng Shuai?'' The International Olympic Committee says that she is safe and well after two video calls with the Olympian. Critics say these calls and emails supposedly from her and videos of her dining in a restaurant are ''obviously staged'' by the Chinese Government to counter criticism. Where is she really? Is she OK? Nobody but the Chinese Government can say for sure.

The International Olympic Committee, as an organization whose mission, according to its own president, Thomas Bach, ''to put sport at the service of humanity goes hand-in-hand with human rights''—those are the very words of the president of the IOC. An organization that puts sport at the service of humanity and goes hand in hand with human rights should be, like the Women's Tennis Association, refusing to hold events in China until human rights are honored. I give great, great compliments to the WTA for standing up for this abuse of one of their own and more broadly the abuse we see throughout China.

I am thrilled with the administration's announcement of a diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics. I am thrilled that Great Britain and Canada and Australia and Lithuania have joined in this effort. But I say to you right now: Where is the rest of the world? Where is France? Where is Germany? Where is Spain? Where are all the governments of the world that believe in the rights of free speech and free assembly? The chorus must be broader. The free world must join together and stand up for the vision of what it means to be in the free world and how horrific abuses would involve genocide or the obliteration of democratic rights.

The International Olympic Committee says: Well, the Games are all about athletes, so we don't get involved in politics. It is all about the athletes.

Well, I tell you today that staging the Games in the shadow of genocide and the stripping of political rights from those in Hong Kong is putting the athletes in the position of helping build the facade that disguises those assaults on human dignity and human rights. That is a horrific thing to do to the athletes of the world. It is an unacceptable thing to do to the athletes of the world. You cannot force the athletes of the world to be complicit in covering up these crimes. It is wrong, and the Olympic Committee needs to stand up and call out these crimes and know that they are not in keeping with the Olympic spirit. They are not in keeping with human rights, although the president of the IOC has said that is their mission.

It is quite clear the Olympic Committee could have done far more to avert this situation because when the Games were awarded, they received promises on human rights—promises that were not honored. They could have moved the Games years ago. They could have clarified that would happen, but they did nothing. They did nothing except help cover up the genocide in China by leaving the Games as they are and failing to note or criticize or observe the horror that has been unfolding.

Business as usual is unacceptable in the face of genocide. Business as usual is immoral in the face of genocide. Business as usual in any dimension in a country committing crimes against humanity is just wrong.

I say to the IOC today: Stand up. Call out this crime and say never again will you ever stage Olympic Games in a country committing gross violations of human rights.

That statement would be in keeping with the Olympic spirit. It would be in keeping with the Olympic spirit to say that they will defend the freedom of every single athlete at the Olympic Games to stand up and speak their mind in defense of the oppressed people of Tibet, in defense of the enslaved people of Xinjiang Province, in defense of the citizens of Hong Kong who have lost their political rights. Lay out clearly before the world that the Olympic Games will not be a place where freedom of speech is crushed as it is being crushed across China.

Colleagues, I think this viewpoint I am expressing today of the world standing up to the horrors of Chinese atrocities is shared by every Member of this Chamber and every Member of the House of Representatives down the hall. Not a one of us would rise to defend these horrific acts, which is why every one of us should stand together today to condemn Chinese genocide and Chinese destruction of political liberties and make sure that these Games are not ones where the world leaders are silenced; that these Games are not ones where the sponsors look the other way; that these Games are not ones where the athletes are not free to express how tragic they consider it to be that these terrible things are happening and need to end. Let us not repeat the mistakes of 1936 and look the other way.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, the words I just heard from the Senator from Oregon are very refreshing, and I thank him for making those statements.

Thank you very much.

EAGLES ACT

Madam President, today, I come to the floor to once again talk about the tragic shooting that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, now a long time back—February 14, 2018—and the Justice Department's response to it.

Part of my oversight work is to see that the laws are faithfully executed. Before I get to that, I want to express, as we all have done, I am sure, many

times, our condolences to those victims and families of the school shooting in Michigan last month. The shooting was an act of evil, and we ought to pray for the affected victims.

Recently, the Justice Department reached a settlement with the families involved in the Parkland shooting for a reported $130 million. The school shooting was another evil act. It took the lives of 17 innocent students and teachers. Based on reports, the Justice Department settled because the FBI failed to properly investigate tips warning Federal law enforcement personnel about the coming attack that happened on February 14.

This was a concern of mine from the beginning. Even though the Justice Department has settled the matter, the Department hasn't been fully transparent with the Congress on this issue, and they ought to be because this taxpayers' money—however it is used, the public ought to know it. The public's business ought to be public.

I am going to highlight some of the oversight steps that I have taken and how the FBI still hasn't done what they said they need to do.

Two days after the shooting, while I was chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I wrote to the FBI asking about its failure to act on tips that they had received about the dangers that this shooter might cause against the public at large. I also wrote to Google about the threats made in a YouTube comment that the shooter apparently made.

After that, I brought the FBI in to brief the full Judiciary Committee on February 23, 2018. That was just 9 days after the accident happened—the shooting happened. It was not an accident; it was intended. I am sorry I used the word ''accident.'' I did the same thing with Google and Facebook staff to discuss their cooperation with law enforcement.

On March 14, 2018, I led a full committee oversight hearing to hold the Justice Department and the FBI accountable for their failures. In the FBI briefing and at the committee's March 14, 2018, hearing, then-FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich said that the FBI had begun a review of the internal process failures. Those failures related to the intake procedure for call-in tips and what transpired in the Parkland case in regard to those call-in tipoffs.

For months after the hearing, my staff asked for updates regarding the FBI's investigation report. In May 2018, they were told—my staff was told it would be final by approximately mid-June 2018.

On August 27, 2018, I wrote to FBI Director Wray noting that up to this point, ''Committee staff have requested a copy of the report seven times from the FBI.'' Here we are now, 3 years later, 2021, and the FBI still hasn't produced the report to Congress.

Time and again, the Justice Department and the FBI have failed to live up to the standards of transparency required of them. The Parkland shooting and the Department's response to it is another example from a growing list of shortcomings.

Simply put, there is no basis for the Department and the FBI to withhold the Parkland report from Congress, and by withholding it from Congress, they are withholding it from the American people. That is especially true for those families who suffered the tragic loss. Transparency brings accountability, and the more the Department fights that principle, the brighter light will be shined on them.

Going forward, while we can't take back the terrible events of that day, we can and we must take steps to make sure such horrific acts don't ever happen again. That is why earlier this year, along with a bipartisan group of Senators, I introduced a bill that I call the EAGLES Act. It is the EAGLES Act because that is the mascot of the Parkland High School.

The EAGLES Act will help fund and reauthorize the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center. That is where the U.S. Secret Service studies targeted violence and proactively identifies and manages threats before they result in more tragedies. It would also establish a Safe School Initiative to look at school violence prevention and expand research on school violence.

The EAGLES Act is a commonsense bill supported by over 40 State attorneys general and representatives from both sides. In other words, for decades, the Secret Service has been instructing people how to recognize people who may be a threat to the public at large or a threat to themselves so that there can be intervention. So if we do the same thing for people in education—the school teachers, the administrators, other support staff—they could have the same training that the Secret Service gives to other people but not to school people. Then maybe we can have interventions on future school shootings so that they don't happen again.

I ask and encourage all of my Senate colleagues to help pass this bill.

Then, on a shorter version of another subject, I would like to say to my colleagues, last week, all Republican members of the Senate Judiciary Committee sent Attorney General Garland a letter. We said he should withdraw his memo from October 4 that made parents feel like domestic terrorists for going to local school board meetings to express their views on anything that they have a constitutional right to have their express views on, and there is no limit in the Constitution. Also, the members of this Senate Republican minority agreed that true criminal acts should be prosecuted.

Now, unfortunately, the Attorney General is going in the wrong direction. A whistleblower revealed that FBI's Counterterrorism Division is involved in the Department of Justice's effort of intimidation and is keeping track of what goes on at local school board levels, whether it is criminal or not.

This flies in the face of what Attorney General Garland testified to the Judiciary Committee. The Attorney General has insisted to the committee that his instructions to law enforcement have nothing to do with stopping parents from criticizing school boards and that he doesn't think parents are domestic terrorists, but his own FBI doesn't see it that way.

Last week, one of my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee defended the Attorney General and his memo. That member talked about school board members getting angry emails and being threatened. If the facts discussed by my colleague rise to being crimes, they should—they sound like the sort of things local law enforcement can handle just fine on their own. There is no need for FBI involvement or National Security Division involvement, which ought to be involved with strictly terrorism.

But we should all agree that the FBI's Counterterrorism Division should have nothing to do with it. If you are a parent who is upset with how your child's school is being run, you should be able to say so to the very school board making decisions on how that school should be run. But will the FBI's Counterterrorism Division keep a record of what you say at the school board meetings? If so, that ought to concern all of us. I have gotten many letters from constituents worried about this sort of thing.

Mr. Attorney General, parents are not terrorists, not domestic terrorists. You said so yourself; now prove that you mean it. So the simple way to prove it is, call off the FBI's Counterterrorism Division. Withdraw your October 4 memo.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1520

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Madam President, I rise today to once again call for every Senator to have the opportunity to cast their vote on the Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act, which was unceremoniously and undemocratically removed from the NDAA behind closed doors.

I started calling for an up-or-down vote on this bill on May 24 because I feared that this would happen and that the NDAA would not do enough to address the epidemic of sexual violence and serious crimes in the U.S. military. Now that we have seen the text, it is clear that those fears were well-founded.

Committee leadership has overridden the will of a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate and a majority of the House, who called for real reform that would have moved serious crimes to independent military prosecutors. Instead, committee leadership has codified the status quo, leaving commanders as the convening authority—

even in sex crimes cases. That is the same system that everyone supposedly agreed is failing our servicemembers. Unfortunately, this does not fix the issue of convening authority, which was the singular ask from the survivor community.

The NDAA does not make the necessary changes to the military justice system. The change we must make—the change that survivors and veterans have asked for—is to remove all serious nonmilitary crimes from the chain of command. Commanders are not lawyers or judges, and they don't have training or expertise necessary to make those complex legal decisions.

Our servicemembers have told us that they do not trust commanders to be unbiased or to deliver real justice in cases where they know the survivor or the accused.

Although I have heard from my colleagues saying otherwise, the NDAA does not remove sex crimes or any other serious crimes from the chain of command. And I want to be clear about this because the American people and our servicemembers deserve to know the truth. The NDAA keeps the commander as the convening authority. Every single court-martial will still begin with the words: ''This court-martial was convened by order of the commander.''

It tells you everything you need to know.

The NDAA also continues to offer commanders the ability to choose the members of the jury panel. I want to address this point specifically because I have heard a few misleading statements about jury selection.

The NDAA allows a commander who is creating the court-martial to handpick other members of his command to be the jury pool from which the jury will be formed. Our bill, on the other hand, would put this responsibility in the hands of an independent attorney without a stake in the outcome.

Unlike what some who lack an understanding of the UCMJ have said, under our bill, the independent prosecutor is not the same person as the independent convening authority. Those are two separate military attorneys.

Don Christensen, president of Protect Our Defenders, said about the NDAA that ''because commanders retain convening authority and associated powers such as selecting jury court members, commanders will still wield significant influence over the court-martial proceeding. Such influence erodes the independence of the special victims' prosecutor and fails to address the concerns of the survivor community that conflicted commanders still have too much influence over the military justice process.''

The command influence does not stop with jury selection. The NDAA also allows commanders to oversee the preliminary inquiry. It retains commanders' ability to order depositions and to order warrants of attachment. It continues to allow commanders to grant immunity and to approve delays. It retains commanders' power to determine the incapacity of the accused and to select witnesses. It allows commanders to approve of findings and sentences and to order the reconsideration of ambiguous sentences. It also allows the commanders to grant clemency and to allow the accused to separate from the service instead of facing a court-martial—fully eluding the justice system.

Anyone who looks at the system sees a system where the commander is still in charge, where their influence cannot be overlooked. There is no way for the prosecutors to be or to be seen to be independent under that system. There will be no improvement in trust or, necessarily, in the results.

Today, just one-third of survivors of sexual assault in the military are willing to come out of the shadows to report their crime, showing a clear lack of trust in the current system, but 44 percent of survivors indicate that they would have been more likely to come forward if the prosecutor were in charge of the decision over whether to move forward with their case.

The Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act is the only provision that would empower impartial, independent prosecutors to make the vital decisions necessary for a criminal justice system shielded from systemic command influence, while allowing commanders to focus on what they do best: warfighting, training troops.

I want to share the words of Retired Navy LT Paula Coughlin, a survivor who brought the Tailhook Symposium scandal to light 30 years ago. She said:

''The efforts to gut reform are unacceptable to the survivor community and must be rejected. If this effort succeeds, it will be a slap in the face to those who have put it all on the line this past decade.''

Those survivors and the majority of my colleagues here in the Senate who support real reform deserve to have their voices heard.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REED. Madam President, reserving my right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, on military justice reform, I am pleased that the NDAA that we will consider this week will enact sweeping and historic reform that changes how sexual assault and other offenses are investigated and prosecuted in the Armed Forces. This bipartisan, bicameral compromise was achieved after tough negotiations with the House and also with the administration. The House voted last week 363 to 70 to pass this bill with these reforms—an overwhelming endorsement of the work that we do. I look forward to a similar, strong vote in the Senate this week, sending these reforms to the President of the United States.

As you know, there have been many proposals for improving how the military prosecutes sexual assault and other crimes, from Senators, Representatives, from the administration, and from other organizations, all of them with their unique merits. Bringing all this together was difficult and complicated, but I believe we have done so effectively.

Our bill removes all meaningful prosecutorial authority from the military chain of command for the series of sexual assault offenses under the UCMJ, as well as for other offenses, including the wrongful distribution of intimate visual images, domestic violence, stalking, retaliation, murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, and child pornography.

Our bill creates special trial counsel, who are highly specialized, independent prosecutors outside the chain of command of the victims and the accused. They will have exclusive, binding, and final decision-making authority over whether to prosecute these crimes.

Under our bill, no commander will be able to overrule the binding decision of a special trial counsel to prosecute or not prosecute a case. Similarly, our bill ensures that the special trial counsel have the exclusive authority to withdraw or dismiss charges or specifications, removing that power from commanders.

Finally, our bill will make a large number of necessary and conforming amendments to the UCMJ to effectuate this reform, and I am sure there will be need for more of this during the 2-year implementation period.

The bottom line is that the reforms contained in this bill represent a sea change in military justice. At the end of the day, this NDAA will enact the most sweeping reform to the UCMJ in decades, and that is why Protect Our Defenders—probably one of the most effective and vocal organizations founded on the premise of defending the rights of victims of sexual assault—said: ''The provisions included in this year's NDAA are the most transformative military justice reforms in our Nation's history.''

Madam President, having made that statement, I will object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. I would like to thank the chairman for his steadfast work on trying to find common ground

here, but I disagree that ''all meaningful prosecutorial'' actions have been taken away from the commander. These are the actions that still rest with the commander, and these are meaningful: granting clemency, highly meaningful; grant sentencing witnesses, highly meaningful; granting immunity, highly meaningful; ordering depositions, highly meaningful; preliminary inquiries, highly meaningful; separation authority, highly meaningful. These are things that are essential to the prosecution of any case, and so if the prosecutor doesn't have the right to do these things, it means the prosecutor has to go ask the commander: May I do these things? May I call this witness? May I have approval for a witness at sentencing? May I have approval for this preliminary inquiry?

That request alone sends the signal to survivors and to servicemembers that the chain of command is still in charge; that that independent prosecutor, while the language of the bill sounds really good—they are independent and their decision is binding, wonderful. The perception of servicemembers who understand the weight of convening authority, they know what the words ''convening authority'' mean; they know what the command ability and importance is.

They may not receive these changes and these reforms in the way the chairman believes them to be seen. They may not see them as the ''most transformative reforms'' that have ever happened because if they still perceive the chain of command in charge, it may not dent their willingness to report these crimes. They may not have now the ability to report and to have a belief that they can have faith in this system.

And so my question to the chairman is, Why didn't we take the extra step to do the one thing that we have been trying to do for 8 years, which was to make these prosecutors, these independent, specialized prosecutors—which is what we have been fighting for, for 8 years—truly independent and give them all the authority the convening authority had?

The only change they would have had to make is the designation of ''convening authority'' would go from the commander to these new, independent, trained prosecutors. It is a simple change. It is a change we have begged for from the survivor community, from the veterans organizations, from Protect Our Defenders, the best and most effective vocal organization, per the chairman. We have asked for that one change—to be denied by this conference committee of four men in a closed room making the decision themselves.

And for the chairman to get up and say that having such an overwhelming vote by the House of Representatives just shows how right they are, well, then why does 220 cosponsors in the House mean nothing? Why does 66 sponsors in the Senate mean nothing? Why does the endorsement of every veterans group in America mean nothing? Why does the support of 29 attorneys general mean nothing? That is my question.

And it is such a small thing.

So, yes, having an independent, trained military prosecutor outside the chain of command whose decision is binding sounds amazing. That is what we have been fighting for. Why not make it really independent? Why not take the convening authority and give it to the independent, trained military prosecutor?

And, sadly, the answer is the DOD does not want to change the status quo. They don't want to make these changes, and so what they are willing to do is they are willing to put a great label on it. They are willing to pretend that they are doing the thing that we have asked them to do. They are willing to create the impression that they are doing the thing we asked them to do. But they know what ''convening authority'' means, and they retained it.

And when asked: Please, take the convening authority, give it to the trained military prosecutor; please make a truly independent system, like all these people are asking you to do, they said no. They said no over and over and over again.

And, unfortunately, our chairman did not want to disregard the views of the Department of Defense. And, unfortunately, that is my job, to oversee, to provide oversight and accountability over the Department of Defense, over the executive branch. That is what the Constitution requires this Chamber, this body, this Senate to do. We are not supposed to take our marching orders from the Department of Defense. We are not supposed to do what the generals ask us to do.

We are supposed to look hard and fast at a problem that has plagued our servicemembers who give their lives for this country. We are asked to solve the problem, and we have put forward legislation that has the blessing of 66 Senators and 220 House Members and every veterans organizations that we know of and every single of the 29 attorneys general who have written a letter. We have this breadth of support, but it doesn't matter because it is not what the DOD wants to do.

So, yes, having independent, trained military prosecutors who make decisions outside the chain of command that cannot be changed is definitely a step in the right direction, but it is not the independent review that we asked for because without convening authority, the perception of servicemembers, of survivors, of the men and women this justice system is designed to protect will be that all these rights and privileges sit with the commander and that these are rights and privileges that have value, that have ''meaningful prosecutorial value.''

They are not meaningless, and if they were so meaningless, then you would have given it to independent prosecutors.

That is why I will keep fighting on behalf of survivors. It is why we do not just say we are excited, and we go home. It is why we have not decided this is the moment to celebrate because, for us, it is not because I worry that that percentage of sexual assaults, rapes, and unwanted sexual contact—the 20,000 that are estimated every year—that the percentage of those that will be willing to come forward will not go up and the rate of cases will not go down and the rate of cases that end in conviction will not go up.

So that is my concern. It is why I stand here gravely concerned and very dismayed and very disappointed that we did not take this moment in time to do the right thing on behalf of our servicemembers to have a military justice system that is worthy of their sacrifice.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, this week, the Senate is going to take up three Ninth Circuit judges, three Federal judges for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

And in the process, the Biden administration is going to smash an institutional and constitutional norm between the executive and legislative branches, particularly the executive branch, the White House, and the U.S. Senate that every U.S. Senator—all 100 of us—should be concerned about.

Let me explain. This is a really important issue.

Article II, section 2, of the U.S. Constitution says the following:

> [The President] shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States.

Now, that includes Federal circuit court judges,

Throughout this, article II, section 2, provision of the Constitution, it says: ''[W]ith the Advice and Consent of the Senate.'' We are ''of the Senate,'' right here. And this week, we will be voting on three U.S. court of appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Now, this provision in the Constitution, like so many which gives the U.S. Senate the exclusive right for the advice and consent power, was the result of compromise.

If you look at the history in Federalist Nos. 75 and 76, Alexander Hamilton argued that this provision afforded a necessary means of checks and balances against the executive branch, against the President.

The Constitution—according to the U.S. Senate history that I am quoting from—''also provides that the Senate shall have the power to accept or reject

presidential appointees to the executive and judicial branches.''

This was born of compromise, as I mentioned:

> In debating the issue, the framers addressed concerns that entrusting the appointment power exclusively to the president would encourage monarchial tendencies. Additionally, as the Senate was to represent each state equally, its role—

The advice and consent role in the Constitution—

> —offered security to the small states, whose delegates feared they would be overwhelmed by appointees sympathetic to larger states.

For these reasons, since I have been in the U.S. Senate, I have taken this advice and consent role very seriously for all nominees: during the Obama administration, when I was here for the last 2 years of that administration; all of the Trump administration; and now the Biden administration.

And as you can imagine, whenever I have asked for a meeting of any nominee so I could meet with them under this constitutional provision for a Senate-confirmed position, every single administration I have dealt with—the three I just named—has said: Of course, Senator. That is your constitutional role. Of course you should meet with them.

Why is that? Why has every White House said yes?

Because, as I just mentioned, they know that that is literally our constitutional role, as I just mentioned.

So every time I have asked for one of these meetings for a Senate-confirmed nominee of any administration, it has always been granted, until today—until today.

As I said, the Senate's business—a lot of the business this week is actually going to be focused on the advice and consent constitutional role that we have, especially as it relates to judges.

But I have been told by this White House, specifically the White House Counsel, I guess—to be honest, it is often difficult to figure out who is in charge over there—that I can't meet with any of these Ninth Circuit judges that we are going to vote on this week before the vote.

This is a shocking breach of constitutional norms between the White House and the Senate that every Senator here—every Senator, regardless of party—should be concerned about.

Why?

As I mentioned, the advice and consent role is really important for every Senate-confirmed position, mandated by the U.S. Constitution, but it is particularly important for judges—judges who will get life tenure. By the end of this week, it is likely that these three Ninth Circuit judges will be on the bench for the rest of their lives, and right now I can't get a 1-hour meeting with them.

They have enormous power over American citizens. And I am going to talk about the Ninth Circuit and the power it has over my citizens.

So my experience as a Senator is that I meet with as many judges as possible, and whenever I have requested a meeting of any administration to meet with a judge, it has always been granted. But I always, always, always meet with the Ninth Circuit judges.

As I mentioned, until now, I had interviewed every single Ninth Circuit judge that this body has voted on for the last 7 years—every single one—during my entire time in the Senate.

Why is it so important to me?

Why is it so important to everybody?

Well, specifically, as it relates to the Ninth Circuit, if you can look at this map, as many Americans know, our Federal court systems are divided into what are called circuits. The Ninth Circuit, which is this dark brown, is the biggest Federal court of appeals in the country. It is huge. Look at all the States that are under the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit: California, Idaho, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Montana, Alaska, Hawaii. It is enormous. Almost one in five Americans are under the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit. It has enormous power, especially over my constituents in the great State of Alaska.

But here is the thing. If you look at the number of judges that each Circuit Court gets, another reason why the Ninth Circuit is so important and so powerful is that it gets an enormous number of judges. The Ninth Circuit is listed here on the far left. Out of 29 active judges, one judge comes from the great State of Alaska. One judge comes from the great State of Alaska. So, as you can imagine, discussing legal issues with any judge from the Ninth Circuit is very important to me and, more importantly, to the people I represent.

Here is something else about the Ninth Circuit. On so many issues that matter to my constituents, the court gets the legal issues wrong. The court gets the legal issues wrong.

Now, I have seen this firsthand. Almost 25 years ago, I had the honor of being a Ninth Circuit law clerk for the only Ninth Circuit judge we have in Alaska, Judge Andrew Kleinfeld, a phenomenal judge. I watched panel after panel in the Ninth Circuit get cases related to the great State of Alaska wrong.

Now, look. In some ways it is not their fault. Yes, they had different views and a legal outlook. But if you are a judge and you grew up in LA and all you know is LA and California laws, and now you are a Ninth Circuit judge and you are supposed to rule on all these Alaska-specific Federal laws, you really don't know what you are doing. You don't really know what you are doing, and I saw that as a young lawyer.

But don't take my word for it.

In the last 4 years, the U.S. Supreme Court has taken up three specific Alaska cases, two of which were from the Ninth Circuit and one of which was from the DC Circuit. These big, important circuits all got them wrong. They are cases that would have changed the history and future of my State.

So when I meet with nominees for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, it is usually always very cordial. I walk them through a lot of issues, legal issues of which they know very little about—again, not their fault—and to explain why these are so important to the people I represent.

Again, if you are an LA lawyer or a lawyer from Phoenix, you don't know about Native Alaskan law. You don't know about the Alaskan National Interest Lands Conservation Act, called ANILCA—a Federal law, 1,000 pages—that the U.S. Supreme Court, in the last 3 years, twice smacked down the Ninth Circuit, 9 to 0—9 to 0—because the Ninth Circuit continually gets these Alaska-focused statutes wrong.

So I walk them through these issues. That is all I do. It is not a big deal. It is actually trying to help the judges. I think every Ninth Circuit judge I have met with appreciates it.

Let me give you a couple of examples of what I would do if I could meet with these judges.

Like I said, ANILCA, or the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, is a hugely important Federal law that was passed in 1980. We didn't want it, by the way. It federalized almost 100 million acres of land in Alaska. Imagine that. Most States aren't even as big as 100 million acres.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 9 to 0 in favor of a moose hunter who wanted access to Federal land. His name is John Sturgeon. He is a very famous Alaskan right now.

It went back to the Ninth Circuit. They misinterpreted it. It went back up to the U.S. Supreme Court—9-zip—they smacked it down again.

Justice Kagan, who wrote the second opinion, said: ''If [John] Sturgeon lived in any other State, his [law]suit would not have [had] a prayer of success. . . . Except that Sturgeon lives in Alaska. And as we [the U.S. Supreme Court] have said before, 'Alaska is often the exception, not the rule,'" when it comes to these kind of Federal laws in Federal parks.

Do you think it would be good to have a Ninth Circuit judge getting ready to get on the court to understand the Sturgeon case? It would be. So that is what I do. I have the judges read Sturgeon. I have them read other cases. It is all advice and consent. It is our constitutional role. Until today, I have done it with every Ninth Circuit judge.

Like I said, I was over at the White House on Friday, really kind of banging the table on the Biden administration's war on Alaska. Some of you may have seen a speech I gave last week. There are 20 Executive orders and Executive actions singularly focused on my great State—20—crushing working families.

And I said: You know, one thing I would like to do is continue my record of meeting with every Ninth Circuit

judge. I am available Sunday, Sunday night, all day Monday. Give me a call. I haven't heard anything back.

Something else I do with these judges when they come before me is I talk about Indian law. Now a lot of lawyers think, ''Hey, I really know Indian law well.'' And my advice and counsel in the advice-and-consent process, when it comes to Indian law in Alaska, is ''If you think you are an expert, throw out everything you know about lower 48 Indian law when it comes to Alaskan Indian law.

The Native Alaskan law, in Alaska—the Federal law—is 100 percent different than it is in the lower 48. This is just advice I give judges who are going on the Ninth Circuit. They don't know this. An LA lawyer doesn't know this.

This week, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Congress's passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, what we call in Alaska ANCSA, the largest settlement of indigenous land claims, certainly, in America, and probably in the world. It is a really successful act, not perfect, very innovative. But it has been litigated like crazy.

We had a case from the Ninth Circuit several years ago that essentially said: ANCSA created reservation land throughout the entire State of Alaska.

That would have changed the history of Alaska forever. Of course, the Ninth Circuit got it wrong. That case went up to the Supreme Court. Nine-zip, the Supreme Court smacked down the Ninth Circuit. They said: ANCSA doesn't do that. That is not what Congress intended.

Do you think it would be good for these judges this week, if I could sit down with them, to understand that? It would be really good, really important. It would help them for their job.

Just this year, the DC Circuit on another ANCSA-related case, the Chehalis case, got ANCSA wrong again. And guess what. It went up to the U.S. Supreme Court again. They just ruled on it 4 months ago. It was a huge victory for my State, again.

We wrote an amicus brief—Senator MURKOWSKI, Congressman YOUNG, and I. But it was enormously important. This wrong case of the DC Circuit would have changed the history of Alaska forever. The Supreme Court, 6 to 3, said: No, you are misinterpreting Alaska.

Do you think these judges on the Ninth Circuit who we are debating to confirm this week would learn a little bit about that if I could meet with them? They would.

Finally, the other thing I always do with circuit judges is I talk about the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment is really, really important to the people I represent. We use firearms for food, for self-defense in the wild. Well over 60 percent of all the homes in my State have firearms for these reasons.

If you are an LA lawyer, you don't know this stuff. But, all of a sudden, you are going to be ruling on cases that deal with Alaska or Idaho or Montana. And here is the thing: They might not know these issues, these judges. I have looked at their background. I wanted to interview them. Remarkably, I can't get an interview with them.

And here is the thing: As soon as they get confirmed, they are going to get these cases before them, in my State and other States, to rule on these kinds of issues.

Do you think a meeting would help them?

''Boy, I should really think about that. I remember Senator SULLIVAN talked about ANILCA and the Sturgeon case. I am really glad I read the Sturgeon case.''

This is why these advice-and-consent constitutional meetings are so important.

And, as I mentioned, I have been doing this my entire time in the Senate. I have never not had a meeting with a Ninth Circuit judge. It doesn't matter where they are from—Montana, Arizona, Washington State. They are going to rule on issues that relate to my State and my constituents.

And these judges don't mind it. They actually, I think, enjoy it. They learn. But this White House says: You can't meet with them.

This is absurd.

Here is the question: What are they hiding?

What are they worried about?

Are they hiding something? Are the judges hiding something?

Again, this is a precedent that Democrats and Republicans should all be against, because we know what goes around comes around in this body. And this just doesn't make sense.

All three of these Ninth Circuit judges will have life tenure and enormous, enormous power over everybody in the Ninth Circuit. That is 20 percent of all Americans, and, certainly, enormous power over the people in Alaska, whom I am privileged to serve and represent.

These judges are likely to know very little about these issues that I just talked about. Well, I believe I have a constitutional role to help them understand these issues better, and that is the way it has always been. Nobody has complained.

Absurdly, the White House has said: Well, Senator SULLIVAN, you can meet with a Ninth Circuit judge if they are from Alaska.

What? We have one judge, and she is not going to be retiring any time soon. That is it.

Now, here is the thing. I just talked to the previous administration's White House counsel this morning, when I called the Biden administration's counsel this morning. I am still waiting for that phone call, by the way, because I said: Look, if the White House Counsel is saying no to a U.S. Senator to do his constitutional duty, I would like to hear it directly from her.

So she hasn't called me back yet. But I talked to the previous administration's White House Counsel, and I asked: By the way, did you guys do this? I am just double-checking. I mean, I got to meet with all the Ninth Circuit judges President Trump put forward. But did you blackball Democrats? Did you do that?

And they said: Absolutely not.

I made a few phone calls to other people in the White House Counsel's office. They said: To the contrary, when any Senator wanted to meet with any circuit judge, we always made it happen.

So this is a new precedent. And, again, it doesn't matter if you are a Republican or a Democrat. This is just a bad precedent.

And the notion that ''Well, Senator, you get to meet with a Ninth Circuit judge from Alaska,'' when, by the way, California, I think, has close to 20 Ninth Circuit judges—but the notion that you can only meet with the one who is from your State is actually moronic. The people who need to be educated are the ones who aren't from your State, because they are all going to rule on issues from your State.

So I am still waiting for the White House Counsel to call me back—or whoever is in charge in the White House.

But I am going to conclude with this. I am going to go around them. I am going to go around them. Here is what I am going to do, and I hope someone is watching from the White House. But, more importantly, I hope someone is watching from the judge's chambers.

So, Judge Koh, we are getting ready to vote on your nomination tonight.

Judge Sung of Oregon, we are getting ready to vote on your nomination tomorrow.

Judge Sanchez of California, the rumor is, the majority leader is going to file cloture on your nomination.

Those are three Ninth Circuit judges.

Judge Holly Thomas of California, you might get voted on this week too.

Four.

Here is my ask: Give me a call. Give me a call. Give my office a call. I will meet with you tonight. Let's do a phone call. Do you want to learn about ANILCA? Do you want to learn about the Sturgeon case? It will make you a better Ninth Circuit judge. Here is the number: (202) 224–1026. Give my office a call. I am ready to meet anytime.

Here is the thing for the judges: It is 1 hour of your time. You are going to have lifetime tenure. It is 1 hour to talk to a U.S. Senator who is doing his constitutional duty for the people he represents. It shouldn't be that hard. As a matter of fact, this is probably your first test of judicial independence. A U.S. Senator of the Senate—of the Senate; read the Constitution—wants to undertake his advice and consent, his constitutional role, with you, OK?

You guys have read the Constitution, those four judges I just mentioned, but an unelected bureaucrat in the White

House—I guess the White House Counsel, but who the heck knows; it is hard to tell who is in charge over there—is blocking this.

So, again, give my office a call at (202) 224–1026. I am ready to meet and talk to you anytime before the vote. Don't worry—I don't think President Biden is going to yank your nomination if you call me. Heck, he probably doesn't even know this is going on. But you know this is the right thing to do, Judges. You have read the Constitution. Heck, if our meeting goes well, I might even vote for you.

But here is the thing: You will learn more about the issues that you are going to have to deal with very soon in your tenure that you probably don't know anything about—no offense to you. I have read your backgrounds. You don't know anything about Native Alaskan law. You don't know anything about ANILCA. You probably have very different views than I and my constituents do on the Second Amendment. But you need to hear these issues because you are going to be lifetenured on the Ninth Circuit, and you don't have time to talk to me, a U.S. Senator, who is a Senator representing a State from the Ninth Circuit? You know it is wrong.

By the way, my colleagues in the Senate know it is wrong. So I hope my Democratic and Republican colleagues realize that this is not a good precedent. This is not a good precedent. It has never happened as long as I have been here.

You know, from big things to small things, this administration has really focused in many ways on smashing political and institutional norms that have enjoyed strong bipartisan support. It is not good for this body, and it is not good for the government.

The Wall Street Journal, today, had an article about Biden's Federal regulators staging a coup against the Director of the FDIC on bank mergers. One of these regulators doesn't even have the power over bank mergers, and now he is trying to be in charge.

I serve on the U.S. Naval Academy's Board of Visitors. It is a huge honor. The President comes in, President Biden, and fires everybody on the service academies who was appointed by President Trump. Nobody has ever done that before—no President. Everybody on the Board of Visitors of the Naval Academy is furious—the Democrats, the Republicans. The No. 1 thing they are saying is, this President is the first one to politicize the service academies. Then, oh, by the way, he hasn't appointed anyone yet to replace the people he fired, so we didn't have a quorum for our meeting last week.

He is just smashing institutional norms. Yet this institutional norm of advice and consent, when it comes to circuit court judges with life tenure, is something that we have all agreed upon. The previous administration certainly allowed for it. Yet, right now, I can't meet with Ninth Circuit judges who are going to have enormous power for their entire lives over my constituents.

So, to my colleagues, we shouldn't allow this. You guys know it is wrong.

To the judges—like I said, Judge Sanchez, Judge Koh, Judge Sung, Judge Thomas—give my office a call. Do the right thing. Your first test of judicial independence is before you of the Senate. The U.S. Senate—of the Senate, of which I am a part—wants to do our constitutional role. Give us a call so we can do it. Ignore the very bad advice you are getting from the White House Counsel or whoever is in charge over there.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN EDWARD PRITCHARD

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, the time has come to once again bid farewell to another one of Team Blackburn's esteemed fellows.

Over the past year, we have had the privilege of working with Capt. Edward Pritchard, who came to us from the U.S. Marine Corps to serve as our first Department of Defense fellow.

It was a strange year to be a fellow here in the Senate, but Ed rose to the occasion and impressed us. He impressed every one of us with his work ethic, humor, and his singular commitment to maintaining the strength and integrity of the U.S. military. It has truly been an honor having Ed on our team, and I think I speak for each and every one of us when I say we will miss him.

Captain Pritchard, I thank you for your service to Tennessee and to this great Nation and wish you all the best as you head across the river to the Pentagon to start the next exciting chapter in your already distinguished career.

INFLATION

Madam President, last Friday, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released a grim set of numbers that confirmed our worst fears: Inflation is getting worse, and by this month, the American people are in for even more economic pain. Why? Because their paychecks just can't keep up with the skyrocketing prices. On top of everything else, they get to look forward to a pay cut every month for the foreseeable future, and all this is happening just in time for Christmas. It is insult added to injury.

Now, it would be bad enough if this economic nosedive would have happened no matter what the White House had chosen to do, but it would not have happened. It was totally preventable. No, this is the direct result of the Democrats' reckless taxing-and-spending spree that started in March and has lasted all year long.

American families struggled to stretch their budgets through 6.8 percent inflation in November—that was in November—which is the highest we have seen in almost 40 years. We are looking at the largest 12-month increase since 1982.

Think about this: All of this happened just as the experts predicted and just as Tennesseans kept saying they feared this was what would happen.

Now, despite a mountain of evidence proving their recovery strategy has failed, Democrats are ready to lean into the past year's insanity and pump not millions, not billions, but trillions—trillions—of dollars into the economy that they have already destroyed. What is worse is they are trying to leverage this economic pain against their Republican colleagues by refusing to raise the debt ceiling to accommodate their own reckless spending.

You can't make this stuff up. This is Biden economics, it is intentional, and it is painful because what the Democrats are doing is showing they are willing to spend taxpayer money on things that taxpayers don't want, which is this destructive economic agenda.

So I ask my Democratic colleagues: What is it about these numbers that are staring you in the face that you do not understand? Are you so eager to force President Biden's ''Build Back Broke'' agenda on the American people that you are willing to throw reason and accountability and basic economics out the window? Is it really worth watching your fellow countrymen suffer? Is it worth watching people whom you represent, people who elected you, suffer?

If you all bothered to pay attention, what you would see is just how bad it has gotten out here in the real world. The policies that you are so convinced will lead us into a socialist utopia, as some on the left like to say, have dragged the people into a constant—constant—state of fear and worry.

One Tennessee mom told me last week:

> Marsha, this stuff scares me. It just scares me.

RUSSIA

Now, Madam President, this not only makes for an extremely discontented group of people, it makes us vulnerable as a nation. The new ''axis of evil,'' as I like to call them, is watching. Communist China, Iran, and North Korea are all watching the chaos here in Washington play out with great interest, and, if the past few weeks have taught us anything, so is their counterpart in the ''axis of evil''—Russia.

On Sunday, we saw a flood of so-called strong signals coming from the G7 following a meeting to discuss Russia's aggression toward Ukraine. Now, I don't discount the importance of these statements—I do hope Vladimir Putin heard us loud and clear—but I also know that statements mean nothing unless they come from a position of strength and unless they are accompanied by action, and right now, that is not what the Biden administration is projecting or doing.

President Biden's refusal to lead by example is putting us in danger, and it is putting our partners in Kiev in danger. His administration has spent the

past year throwing policy spaghetti against the wall, trying to get something to stick. The American people, of course, aren't interested in what he has to offer. Nevertheless, he persists, pivoting when he needs to recapture the mainstream media's attention.

Meanwhile, over in Russia, Putin is enjoying every single minute of this. He is probably laughing. He knows he can be as belligerent as he pleases because his most powerful and lethal adversary is totally distracted.

Today, I sent a letter to the White House, asking them to clarify the spin they have been putting out on our posture concerning Ukraine. Here is the problem I am trying to get to the bottom of.

On December 9, the Associated Press reported on a diplomatic phone call between Biden and the Ukrainian President. During the call, the White House allegedly made it clear that we support Ukrainian sovereignty. That is good. However, that report also revealed a supposed plan, concocted by the White House, to persuade Ukraine to cede territory—cede their territory—to Russia because it is currently controlled by Russian separatists. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki has denied the latter. I still have some questions about what is going on behind the scenes.

History tells us that autocrats and thugs like Putin find their greatest power in the weaknesses of their adversaries. That is right. When they see weakness, they pounce. Strength is the only thing that deters them.

Have my colleagues across the aisle ever heard of ''peace through strength''? Have they looked at that as a policy?

President Biden must summon the strength to stop playing political games for the cameras and confront this direct challenge to Ukraine's sovereignty. My Democratic colleagues must join him. This will require more than strong words. It does require action.

This year's yet-to-be-passed NDAA authorizes $75 million in lethal assistance to Ukraine. It is time to pass this bill.

And I would add, that the fiscal year 2022 NDAA is the most bipartisan thing that has come out of the Senate all year.

It is a no-brainer. Let's get this done and not just for Ukraine, but also the future of Western Europe. That is also at stake.

The Biden administration must stand firm and reimpose meaningful sanctions on Nord Stream 2. This one pipeline will double the total capacity of Russian gas exports and hand even more economic leverage to the Kremlin. Why would we want to do that? Ukraine, on the other hand, will lose an estimated $3 billion each year in transit fees.

Putin is weaponizing energy in Europe. Our partners in Ukraine are living under the constant threat of invasion, and the Biden administration is just sitting there and letting it happen.

So here we are, at the eleventh hour, Christmas is coming, and we are still waiting for Biden and the Democrats to do the job the American people elected them to do.

They have squandered an entire year trying to conjure up support for their disastrous socialist agenda. We are never going to get this time back, and the American people who are suffering are not going to get this year back.

But now is not the moment to just let things go. We can't afford weakness and spin, not when it comes to the economy, not when it comes to foreign policy, and certainly not when it comes to proving to the American people that there is someone in Washington watching out for them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes, Senator TUBERVILLE for up to 10 minutes, and Senator PADILLA for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

TORNADO

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I come to the floor this afternoon to talk about my friend Bob Dole, who was laid to rest last week. Before I do that, I want to just take a moment to express our heartfelt thoughts and sorrow at the loss of so many lives in more than a half dozen States, including Kentucky, where my sister and her family live; including Arkansas, where other friends live.

We just want the folks to know who are going through a really tough time and tough patch, that when we talk a lot about you are in our thoughts and our prayers, that you literally are, and it is not just words that we are saying. We hope and promise we will be there to help you going forward as you deal with all of this.

REMEMBERING ROBERT J. DOLE

Madam President, having said that, I just want to talk a bit about Bob Dole, as our Nation continues to mourn his loss and celebrate the life of one of the greatest of the ''greatest generation.'' I rise today to add to the countless tributes benefiting the late, great Senator from Kansas, Bob Dole.

Born Robert Joseph Dole on July 22, 1922, in Russell, KS, Bob Dole grew up during a period known as the Dust Bowl in the American heartland, where his family, like so many others, struggled to pay rent and put food on their table.

Bob Dole was the star athlete in high school who wanted to pursue a career in medicine. He began his studies at the University of Kansas, but like many young Americans at the time, including my dad and uncles from West Virginia, like them, his plans were interrupted by the attack on Pearl Harbor and Hitler's army marching across Europe.

Bob Dole enlisted in the Army Reserve and was called up to Active Duty in 1943. Two years later, at the age of 21, as part of the 10th Mountain Division, Bob Dole was severely injured on the battlefield in Italy after bravely pulling a fellow soldier to safety. He sustained grave injuries to his spine, to his shoulder, to one of his hands, and by all accounts was left for dead on the battlefield. But Bob Dole, like the United States and our allies, didn't give up. He persevered.

Despite long odds of recovery, Bob never gave up and wouldn't take no for an answer. He spent 39 months—let me repeat that. He spent 39 months recovering in a hospital bed undergoing numerous surgeries. When doctors told him that he was partially paralyzed, he built a device—he built a device—to help him regain his strength and was able not only to stand upright but eventually to walk again and to run for office many, many times.

Bob Dole knew he was lucky to make it home. And the decades he spent in public service after sustaining his injuries, he dedicated much of his life to ensuring that our veterans, especially our fallen veterans during World War II, like my Uncle Bob, were honored and remembered for their sacrifices.

My Uncle Bob was my mom's youngest brother, one of those sailors who wasn't lucky enough to make it home. He died at the age of 19 in 1944 during a kamikaze attack in the Western Pacific on his aircraft carrier, the USS Suwannee. His body was never recovered. But his memory lives on, thanks in no small part to Senator Bob Dole's work to establish the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. And for that, my family, the Patton family on my mother's side, are forever grateful.

Though they never met, Bob Dole, like so many Americans of the ''greatest generation,'' understood that my Uncle Bob made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation and for the preservation of our democracy. That is why Senator Bob Dole spent so much of his time raising money for the World War II Memorial and why he spent so many Saturdays there, greeting veterans and thanking them for their service. This meant the world to those families, like mine, who lost a loved one during the war.

When Bob Dole was finally able to stand on his own two feet again, the town of Russell, KS, rallied around him and encouraged him to run for office. And he did.

After a short stint in local Kansas politics, Bob served in the U.S. House of Representatives for four terms before being elected to the Senate in 1968, the same year I was commissioned an ensign in the Navy.

For 35 years, Bob Dole proudly served the people of Kansas in Washington—here. His time in Congress, especially as a Senator, is really where his legacy and public service started to take

shape. He was a proud Republican who ran three times for his party's nomination for the Presidency. But I believe that Bob Dole will be remembered most fondly for his ability to find common ground.

I believe he said it best himself. He said:

> When we prioritize principles over party and humanity over personal legacy, we accomplish far more as a nation.

I will read that again. This is worth repeating.

> When we prioritize principles over party and humanity over personal legacy, we accomplish far more as a nation.

He was right. We can accomplish far more when we work together as one Nation rather than as Members of different political parties.

Bob himself said his proudest political accomplishments were passing the bipartisan Americans with Disabilities Act and working to find a principled compromise to save Social Security—a compromise that I was privileged to support as a newly elected freshman in the House of Representatives in 1983.

I believe Bob Dole embodied the admonition of Matthew 25 to care for the ''least of these'' among us. He worked alongside the South Dakota Senator George McGovern, a liberal Democrat, who also ran for President, to improve the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Federal Food Stamp Program, to ensure that struggling families could feed themselves and their children.

Bob Dole took Matthew 25—and Matthew 25 goes something like this: ''For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat''—and he turned it into the law that, to this day, helps lift Americans out of poverty and on to longer, healthier lives because, ultimately, Bob followed his moral compass, even when it wasn't politically convenient. He wasn't afraid to buck his party when he felt doing so was the right thing to do.

He was a fiscal conservative, but he supported tax reforms to raise revenue. He also supported—get this. He also supported the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965—landmark civil rights bills that sought to eliminate racial discrimination from our laws and sought to ensure equal access to the ballot box for all Americans.

These accomplishments required hard-fought—hard-fought—negotiations and courageous votes. But Bob Dole never let that interfere with his commitment to doing what was right and, I might add, an incredible sense of humor.

When Bob's wonderful wife—our former colleague here in the Senate, Elizabeth Dole—was in front of the Senate Labor Committee in 1989, having been nominated by then-President George Herbert Walker Bush, Bob accompanied her to her confirmation hearing and introduced her there as many of us introduce our own constituents when they are nominated for a particular position by a President. One of the things that he said, as he sat there next to his wife Elizabeth, he quipped—and he was great for quips—to his colleagues: ''I regret that I have but one wife to give for my country.''

I regret that I have but one wife to give for my country.

And following his defeat in the 1988 Republican Presidential primary, he opened his remarks by saying: Not only do ''I regret that I have but one wife to give to my country,'' he wanted to add: ''If I had this much coverage in [my] primary, I would be writing my inaugural address.'' He then continued to say:

> I once dreamed of making a name for myself in Washington, but I never thought it would be as the husband of the Secretary of Labor, but I'll take what comes these days.

The truth is, as much as Bob Dole probably learned while serving here in the Senate, the Senate could learn a lot more from the life and example of Bob Dole. And we could use more Bob Doles in this body today, on both sides of the aisle.

While Bob Dole was a serious man, he didn't take himself too seriously. He didn't care for politicians who divided us just for the sake of division. He also didn't care for big egos of folks who wanted to do something just so they could take credit for it.

He believed the words of Abraham Lincoln, one of his personal heroes, that ours is a ''government of the people, by the people, [and] for the people.'' That is why he fought and nearly gave his life in defense of our Nation and our democracy. That is why he continued to serve our Nation also, always striving to improve the lives of Kansas and all of us.

We owe it to Senator Dole, to my Uncle Bob, and to the entire ''greatest generation'' who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice for us to live in a free and democratic country, to uphold the ideals of our democracy, and to work together to create a brighter, better tomorrow for our children and our grandchildren.

So as we mourn the passing of Bob Dole, I would challenge all of us to prioritize principles over party and humanity over personal legacy. We can all work better together to address the challenges of today and confront the challenges of tomorrow.

(Mr. HEINRICH assumed the Chair.)

Mr. President, some of us may recall the famous film, ''The Wizard of Oz.'' It took place in Bob Dole's proud home State of Kansas. Throughout the film, Dorothy is reminded that ''there is no place like home, no place like home.'' Well, Senator Dole entered these Halls one last time last week to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda, just down the hall over my right shoulder. And I, like many of our colleagues, had the chance to pay our respects to a man of integrity, passion, and wit.

Now, it is time to send Bob home back to Russell, KS, as we have, one last time because there is truly no place like home.

As the Presiding Officer knows, I like to—if we are not in session when somebody has a birthday, one of my colleagues has a birthday, I call them. I track them down or send them a text message. And I have done that with Elizabeth Dole, who served in this Chamber with us in more recent years, and I still call her on her birthday.

And her birthday is July 29. I called her on July 29 this year to wish her a happy birthday and to see how she and Bob were doing. I got to talk with him as well as with her, and they both said to me—they said, ''Why don't you and Martha''—my wife Martha—''come down here sometime when we have some free time and you do as well, and we will just go out for dinner together.''

Sadly, we never got to do that. But we are going to take a raincheck. And I promise you, if you are listening out there, Bob, we plan to take full advantage of that raincheck and come and see you, with Elizabeth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

KENTUCKY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I would like to add on to what the other Senators have said. We want to give our blessings and prayers to the people in the southern part of the country after all the tornadoes.

I grew up in Arkansas and now live in Alabama, and there hasn't been a year gone by that we didn't have devastated communities, towns, cities across the South. It seems like it is an every-year occurrence. There has been many people lost, many people injured.

The TV trucks and newspeople will leave in the next couple of days, leaving the destruction behind for the people of these cities and towns to rebuild, and it is a tough time. It is going to be a tough time all around, not just for a few days but for years. And our prayers go out to them and all the families that have to go through one of the toughest times of their life.

BUILD BACK BETTER ACT

Mr. President, on the list of people that my Democratic colleagues are claiming to help on this Build Back Better Act, there is a huge blank.

I worked in education all my life. I worked around people all my life. What is missing from this list is American families, American families all over this country. For example, the childcare program in this tax-and-spend spree is really about only helping certain families. And that is fine—certain families—but we should help all families.

But my colleagues want to help the ones that are structured toward the Democrats that they deem favorable, and that is not the American way. If you are in a two-parent, working household, my colleagues' plan would cost Mom and Dad thousands more each year to pay for their child's care. Think about that: thousands more. And this means tax many and give to a few. Well, that is not what we do here.

Additionally, a once bipartisan initiative, the child tax credit, is being reworked. The cost of that dramatic expansion will be paid for by joint filers; meaning, in other words, couples—our families—will pay the cost.

I want to take a moment to contrast this attack on the family. It is an attack on the family approach with actual American families around the country are facing as we speak. This anti-family bill is not only coming at a time when families have to pay more for groceries and pay more for gas and higher prices at the gas pump but also when families are silently fighting other unnamed pandemic and problems. Those are the worsening problems of mental health and drug addiction issues in our country today, of which they are abundant.

So I ask my colleagues: Why this bill? It doesn't build families back better. It builds them back broke. It helps a few, not all. It doesn't create jobs or support working families. It creates more reliance on Big Government socialism. And why now, when inflation is so high and when so many of our friends and families are struggling to find the help that they need?

It goes without saying that the COVID pandemic has played and is playing a large role in the staggering rise in drug overdoses and increase in mental health crises and homelessness over the past couple of years. Americans were locked down unnecessarily long periods of time. Jobs were lost. And the economic engine of our Nation was brought to a screeching halt.

Children lost out on valuable education opportunities and wondered when they were going to be able to see their friends again. Students' college experiences were forever changed, and working parents had to juggle schooling and full-time childcare in addition to holding down their own jobs.

Throughout this turbulent time, Americans felt lonelier and more detached than ever before, especially in my lifetime.

It is a dream too often turned into a nightmare for an increasing number of Americans, a promising future robbed by deadly drug addiction. And sadly, it is more common now than ever before. According to the latest data from the National Center for Health Statistics, we lost over 100,000 American lives due to drug overdoses from April 2020 to April 2021. That is not including the last 8 months.

This is an increase of 30 percent from the year before. Think of all the open seats that will be at the dinner table for Christmas lunch or dinner, the futures that will never be fully realized, the families forever mourning the loss of a loved one. It is happening every day.

We have these known issues made worse by a pandemic; there is no doubt. Yet Democrats' response has been to open our borders and allow cartels to profit off of trafficking fentanyl and other deadly substances into our country. It is hard to imagine.

Through the first 9 months of this year, the monthly average of fentanyl seized was 830 pounds—a month, 830 pounds. Compare that to a monthly average of 321 pounds from 2018 to 2020. Now, that is way too many—but 830 pounds a month. Two thousand pounds can kill 200 million people—200 million. That is three-fourths of the people in this country.

Instead, we need to look at how we can address mental health and break the cycle of drug addiction and homelessness. That should be a priority in this building. There are solutions out there if we approach the problem the right way. It is clear that the money we are spending and the programs that we have in place are not working.

We need to open our eyes. We should be strengthening the family. We know strong families are the backbone of a strong community, and right now, Democrats are too focused on sneaking in these progressive wish list items—like climate policy and taxes that put us on par with communist countries—into a bill under the guise that it will help all Americans. I am here to help Americans but the right way—all Americans.

Last year, Congress got to work on passing bills to help with COVID relief. While some relief funds were certainly necessary for those who needed it the most, the government's role quickly went from providing targeted stimulus to unchecked spending month by month. And this year, my Democratic colleagues assumed a predictable response to every problem they faced: Just throw money at it.

Folks, money is not the answer. People are the answer. And the money they want to use will be paid for, yes, by the American people. It is not government money. It is the American people, and it is the taxpayers' money.

But pumping more money into the economy is not the solution. It did not work for American families earlier this year when was passed a $1.9 trillion spending package that was passed off as COVID relief. It caused prices to rise and inflation to spike. It didn't address most of the issues families still face today.

We spent all this money, and we have got worse problems. We throw money around in the name of solving problems. And if we do it this time, it won't work this time either. We are putting the country more in debt, and we are making problems worse. People are starting to figure it out.

You know, as a football coach for 40 years, I know a little bit about strategy. I was a defensive guy. I like strategy. That is part of playing defense.

A good defensive player must make a decision based on what is learned in practice and what their experience tells them, then they have the confidence to commit to that decision. But the key to winning the matchup is to always watch where the ball is if you are on defense. We always taught our players to play the game with your eyes. If you go to any practice, you will hear this: Defensive players, play with your eyes and trust your eyes.

Offenses will throw motion across formation. They will run a trick play. They try to get your eye off the ball. You have the chance to go out there and stop the play if you trust your eyes.

The same thing is happening right now. We are playing defense, and we cannot take our eye off—not the ball, but this bill. We have got to trust our eyes. The American people have to trust their eyes. Democratic colleagues are trying all sorts of tricks and political spin to convince Americans that their Build Back Better bill is a championship-caliber win. They are banking on Americans to be too busy and be too caught up in the holidays to understand what is really in this bill.

But here is the thing: Americans should know that the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spend spree is nothing more than a gimmick, a trick play designed to fool the defense or the American people, to help a few, not everybody.

The American people should trust their eyes. This bill is not thoughtful policy that will change American lives. It is a way to increase Big Government socialism and pay for it by increasing taxes on not a few in the 1 percent, but everybody in this country.

Because of the way they are doing this bill, using an obscure procedural tool that is called reconciliation, everything in this bill has to be budgetary, as in related to the budget. Sometimes, this is useful, when you are trying to create a fairer, simpler Tax Code or make tax cuts. It is also a tool used to bypass the majority because it only needs 51 votes.

But the reconciliation process actually limits what Congress can do to address most issues facing Americans because everything in this bill has to be budget related. Reconciliation does not allow Congress to thoughtfully construct policy or to make improvements that do not spend money. Throwing money at existing programs or even creating new programs that simply send out checks is not the same as making meaningful change.

So when my Democratic colleagues say that their bill will help Americans, it will—a few—but not very many. All it does is throw money at problems, which is, as we have seen, not what our country needs. This reckless tax-and-spend spree creates a cradle-to-grave entitlement society but does not actually help people in that society.

If we really wanted to help American families, we would start with a bipartisan effort, meaning that we would discuss the needs of all Americans, not just a few. In this very tough time, all citizens need help. Everybody needs help. It has been a tough time. It has been a tough couple of years. But this has just been a one-way street.

We have folks who represent urban and rural areas, talking with each

other about what American families actually need and what actually works. We could create targeted, thoughtful bills that didn't rely on budget gimmicks or party lines to pass.

So we can't let our Democratic colleagues fool Americans. Their Build Back Better bill isn't making American families better. It is not helping Americans who are suffering from mental health issues. It is not helping our country's drug addiction problems. It is an anti-family bill that will make our country more dependent on Big Government, and it is spending money the wrong way.

I yield the floor.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on three highly qualified judicial nominees: Judge Lucy Koh, nominated to the Ninth Circuit; Jennifer Sung, also nominated to the Ninth Circuit; and Samantha Elliott, nominated to the District of New Hampshire.

These nominees will bring much-needed professional and demographic diversity to the bench. They have the qualifications and character needed to serve effectively in the Judiciary. And all three have records that demonstrate an evenhanded and unbiased approach to the law.

Judge Lucy Koh has served as a district court judge for the Northern District of California for more than a decade. When President Obama nominated her to that role in 2010, she was confirmed in the Senate with broad, bipartisan support, a 90–0 margin. That unanimous support reflected Judge Koh's abilities and experience and also a deep sense of trust that that she would be ready to take on the demands of the Federal district court from day 1.

Well, Judge Koh has certainly risen to the occasion. As a district court judge, she has issued thousands of written opinions. And she has presided over 271 trials. Notably, Judge Koh has grappled with many complex—and often novel—questions of law, particularly those related to technology. These are the kinds of questions that regularly make their way to the circuit courts. So we know that Judge Koh is already wellversed in the types of cases she will encounter on the Ninth Circuit.

What is more, during her time on the bench, Judge Koh has exemplified the hallmarks of what makes an outstanding judge, She engages in thoughtful, well-reasoned analysis; follows precedent, irrespective of whether she agrees with it; and always—always—applies the law to the facts in an evenhanded, impartial way.

Judge Koh was rated unanimously ''well qualified'' by the American Bar Association to serve on the circuit court. And upon confirmation, she will be the first Korean-American woman to ever serve on a circuit court.

Judge Koh received a bipartisan vote in the Judiciary Committee, and I hope she receives bipartisan support here on the floor.

The Senate will also be voting on Jennifer Sung's nomination to the Ninth Circuit. Ms. Sung is a distinguished jurist who will bring a vital, and underrepresented, perspective to the Federal bench.

After graduating from Yale Law School and clerking on the Ninth Circuit, Ms. Sung spent over a decade representing American workers in labor disputes. These workers were often minorities from low-income backgrounds. In 2017, Ms. Sung's expertise in labor law attracted the attention of Oregon Governor Kate Brown, who appointed her to serve on the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

The ERB, as it is called, is a quasi-judicial agency charged with resolving labor disputes. As a member of the three-person panel, Ms. Sung reviews evidentiary records, independently evaluates the law, and works in a collaborative manner to reach a consensus on opinions. In other words, she has already handled many of the responsibilities that come with being a Circuit Court Judge. So Ms. Sung will be right at home on the Ninth Circuit.

In addition to the professional diversity Ms. Sung will bring to the bench as an expert in labor law, she will also bring important demographic diversity. If confirmed, she would make history as the first Asian-American woman to hold an Oregon seat on the Ninth Circuit.

Ms. Sung has presided over hundreds of legal matters—only three of which have been overturned. She has demonstrated a commitment to impartiality, a thoughtful approach to decision-making, and a keen ability to separate her personal views from the law and the facts at hand. That is also reflected by the fact that the American Bar Association rated Ms. Sung as ''well qualified.''

Finally, the Senate will soon take up Samantha Elliott's nomination to the District of New Hampshire. Ms. Elliott has spent her entire legal career in New Hampshire. With her deep knowledge of the State's legal system and her evenhanded approach to the law, she will make an outstanding Federal judge.

Ms. Elliott is an accomplished litigator who has spent much of her career representing New Hampshire municipalities and their employees. She has also dedicated herself to increasing access to justice. As a co founder of 603 Legal Aid, Ms. Elliott has worked tirelessly to provide legal services to members of low-income communities. And she has dedicated countless hours to her pro bono legal work.

With her considerable experience in both State and Federal courts, it is little surprise that Ms. Elliott was unanimously rated as ''well qualified'' by the American Bar Association. She also received a bipartisan vote of 15-7 in the Judiciary Committee.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting these three highly qualified nominees. With their breadth of credentials, experience, and commitment to the rule of law, each of them will make outstanding additions to the Federal bench.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

NOMINATION OF LUCY HAERAN KOH

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Judge Lucy Koh to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Koh is an outstanding legal thinker and a trailblazing public servant. Her commitment to equal justice for all has earned her support on both sides of the aisle. From her first judicial appointment by former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to her unanimous Senate confirmation to serve as a Federal district judge in California, to her strong bipartisan advancement recently from the Senate Judiciary Committee for this appointment, Judge Koh has a reputation for excellence that stretches far and wide.

She built this reputation over the course of a stellar legal career that started right here in this Senate, as a women's law and public policy fellow with the Senate Judiciary Committee. She then spent 7 years with the U.S. Department of Justice, earning numerous accolades for her work, including an FBI award for excellence in prosecuting major fraud.

From the Department of Justice, Judge Koh made her way to California—to Silicon Valley, specifically—where she made a name for herself as an expert litigator on intellectual property cases.

In 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger, as I mentioned, appointed her to the California Superior Court. Just 2 years later, President Obama nominated Judge Koh to the Federal District Court bench, and she was confirmed unanimously by this Senate. And in the decade since, Judge Koh has gone on to distinguish herself as a jurist. She is well known, not only in her district but across the country as talented, thoughtful, smart, and fair.

This nomination is actually her second nomination to the Ninth Circuit. In 2016, she was nominated and advanced out of the Senate Judiciary Committee at that time on a bipartisan basis but, unfortunately, never received a floor vote in this Senate.

But now that we have this vote scheduled, I hope that my colleagues will join me in voting to confirm Judge Koh on a strong bipartisan vote once again. I know the people of California, the Ninth Circuit, and the country at large will benefit from her dedication, her integrity, and compassion as a circuit court judge.

In many ways, the story that Judge Koh brings to the bench is the epitome of the American Dream. The daughter of Korean immigrants who fled communism and dictatorship in search of a better life, Judge Koh was born in Washington, DC, and raised in Vicksburg, MI. And growing up, Judge Koh

studied at public schools and was no stranger to poverty and discrimination.

She spent weekends and summers working in her father's small business, and she was surrounded by the love and lessons of her immigrant family. Now, these experiences all helped to shape the unique and needed perspectives that she now brings as a Federal judge. If confirmed, Judge Koh will become the first Korean-American woman to serve on a Federal circuit court.

Now, as the first Latino to represent California here in this Senate, I know the importance of diversity at all levels of government, and that includes the judiciary. Our country is stronger and fairer when we are guided by the voices and experiences of all of our people. And we still have a lot of work to remake our justice system to better reflect the country that it serves.

Based on Judge Koh's record, her skill, intellect, and respect for the rule of law, her confirmation is a big step in helping us achieve that goal.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm her to the Ninth Circuit.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Lucy Haeran Koh, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

VOTE ON KOH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Koh nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Wyoming (MR. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 494 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Feinstein	Markey
Bennet	Gillibrand	Menendez
Blumenthal	Hassan	Merkley
Booker	Heinrich	Murphy
Brown	Hickenlooper	Murray
Cantwell	Hirono	Ossoff
Cardin	Kaine	Padilla
Carper	Kelly	Peters
Casey	King	Reed
Coons	Klobuchar	Rosen
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Sanders
Duckworth	Luján	Schatz
Durbin	Manchin	Schumer
Shaheen	Tester	Warren
Sinema	Van Hollen	Whitehouse
Smith	Warner	Wyden
Stabenow	Warnock	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Ernst	Paul
Blackburn	Fischer	Portman
Blunt	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hagerty	Rounds
Burr	Hawley	Sasse
Capito	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Collins	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Murkowski	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Inhofe	Moran	Tillis
Lummis	Rubio	

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. WHITEHOUSE assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). 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.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here on the floor to ask for some courtesy for a pair of nominees. These are nominees to the Court of Federal Claims, which is the court to which citizens can come with claims against the Federal Government.

In the Court of Federal Claims, the Federal Government is the defendant, and these two individuals are in an enormous traffic jam that our colleagues have created for nominees. At the moment, I am told we have 159 nominees, out of committee, on the Executive Calendar, backed up on the Senate floor—159.

I am on the Judiciary Committee. These two are judges. They are for the Court of Federal Claims. This is not a partisan thing; this is about letting the Court of Federal Claims do its work.

Both of them are extremely well qualified; neither is partisan. Both were voice voted out of the Judiciary Committee, and I would hope, just as a matter of courtesy and common decency, we could agree tonight to move them forward.

Now, one of them is named Armando Bonilla. He served as the counsel to the Marshals Service. He served as counsel to the Deputy Attorney General.

He served, actually, as Associate Deputy Attorney General. In the Department of Justice it is not an easy thing to move up from being counsel to the Marshals Service to being counsel to the DAG, to being Associate DAG. So that is a pretty impressive record.

Before that, as a trial attorney, he had served in the Public Integrity Section of the Department, in the asset forfeiture and money laundering section, bringing those cases, and in the civil side in the Commercial Litigation Division.

So he has the trial qualifications you would want. He has the experience from the government side that you would want. He got a voice vote out of committee. And if that is not enough, he is a graduate from West Virginia University.

So he is, I think, a very well-rounded individual who would serve well in the Court of Federal Claims.

Also, I will be asking to confirm Carolyn Lerner, who brings her own superb qualifications to this position as well. She is, right now, the chief circuit mediator for the Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. So she deals with litigation conflicts all the time. She obviously is viewed with considerable regard by the court who made her their chief circuit mediator.

She served for many years in private practice. So she would be very familiar with the private practice of individuals who come before the Court of Federal Claims. Again, private person versus Federal Government is what that court's business is. And she even taught law.

So Carolyn Lerner and Armando Bonilla are both very well qualified, and both came out of the Judiciary Committee with voice votes, which means they both had bipartisan support, and this is an important court to proceed with.

Now, what has happened here and the reason we are now up to 159 backed-up nominees for executive and judicial positions is that our colleagues on the other side are insisting on cloture for essentially almost every individual who comes through, and that eats up time on the Senate floor and slows things down and creates a traffic jam. It is like you are driving on Highway 95 and you pull into the middle lane and drive 25 miles an hour. You are going to jam up traffic behind you. And that is what our friends are doing. They are jamming up traffic.

I think there are certain Members of the other party who would like to see the Biden administration not be able to get his team in place just for partisan reasons.

So when Donald Trump came in, in his first year, he was obviously not popular with us on our side, and he had some pretty appalling appointments. But even in that very hostile environment, the Republican leader only had to file cloture for 65 appointees—65 in that first year. In President Biden's year, we are already at 127. So the cloture rate has doubled from even that very difficult, challenging year when Trump first came in.

And I see my friend from Alaska here. So I will just review the bidding. We have 159 nominees backed up on the Senate floor who are all out of committee, all ready for votes, many of whom are coming out of committee by voice votes with big bipartisan majorities. Two of them are the individuals whom I am going to be asking unanimous consent to confirm tonight, Armando Bonilla and Carolyn Lerner.

My friend from Alaska served in the Department of Justice. So he knows that it ain't nothing to be counsel to the Marshals Service and then counsel for the DAG and then Associate DAG. That is a really impressive climb through the top ranks of the Department—and to have served as a trial attorney in the Public Integrity Section and in the asset forfeiture and money laundering section and in the civil side in complex commercial litigation. That is a very impressive resume.

That is ditto for Ms. Lerner, who has been chosen to be the chief circuit mediator for the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. That is a pretty impressive credential all on its own.

So what I would like to do in order to get these two through the traffic jam and on to the Court of Federal Claims, where their presence is needed, is to ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider their nominations, which are Executive Calendar Nos. 489 and 490; and, further, that the nominations be confirmed, that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, I work very closely with my colleague from Rhode Island on many, many issues, and there is a pretty simple solution for my objection here, and it is related to judges, and it is related to the Senate working with the White House to get judges confirmed.

I gave a speech on the Senate floor just about an hour ago, talking about a remarkable breach of Senate protocol, where the White House won't let certain Senators from the Court of Appeals of the Ninth Circuit States to meet with the nominees for the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

That is an outrage. In my entire time in the U.S. Senate, every time I have requested to meet with a judge who is going for confirmation to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, I have had the opportunity to meet with that judge, and it is really important.

I am not going to repeat the argument I made just an hour ago, but there is a simple solution here: We get to meet with the nominees whom we are debating on the Senate floor this week, and I certainly will lift the objection that I am about to make on these two nominees for the Court of Federal Claims.

But I do want to just push back on my good friend from Rhode Island a little bit. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle forced votes on the Court of Federal Claims nominees during the Trump administration, including Judge Solomon, who literally wrote the book on the Court of Federal Claims.

So here is the thing. What often happens in the Senate is that what goes around comes around. But what happened today, when I was requesting what I have always been requesting—what my constituents in Alaska expect me to do is to interview, meet, discuss issues with the judge who is going to get life tenure, who is going to have enormous power over my constituents—Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals judges.

I don't know anybody who has heard this—that the White House Counsel says: No, you are a Senator doing advice and consent, a constitutional duty, and we are forbidding you to meet with a judge going through the confirmation process who is going to have enormous power over your constituents. That is unheard of since I have been here. And, by the way, I talked to the Trump administration's White House Counsel, and they said they never did that.

But here is the point. This could be easily solved. I am sure Mr. Bonilla and Ms. Lerner are qualified. All I need is a call from the White House Counsel's office saying: You know what, Senator, you can meet with the nominees for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. We are going to let you do your constitutional duty.

Well, thank you—pretty simple.

And I think working closely with my colleague from Rhode Island, as I have done throughout my career—and he is on the Judiciary Committee. So maybe he can help convince the White House to take a bit of a different stand when a Senator wants to meet with a judge who is going to have enormous power over his constituents and have lifetime tenure. And they can't take an hour out of their time? Heck, in my speech just an hour ago, I put out my office's phone number and said to these judges: Look, you don't have to have permission from the White House Counsel. Just call me. Let's have a discussion.

I am trying to do my constitutional duty here.

So with that, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. In the spirit of ''what goes around comes around,'' let me just say that the First Circuit is a good deal smaller than the Ninth Circuit. My State of Rhode Island is in the First Circuit. We didn't have many vacancies during the Trump administration on the First Circuit, and the only one we had was not filled.

But I am not aware of any Member on our side being offered to meet with any Trump judicial nominee at the Circuit Court level. And indeed—indeed—those of us who are on the Judiciary Committee didn't even get our 5 or 7 minutes of time in the hearing with Trump Circuit Court nominees because the Trump administration worked out some kind of a deal that their nominees could be put on the same panel—something that had only been done before with the agreement of both parties.

So they would bring in their Circuit Court nominees, and you still got your 5 minutes or your 7 minutes. But now there are two or three on the panel. You get like 1 minute each.

So I just have to say that I like my friend from Alaska and we do work well together. But when I couldn't get 5 or 7 minutes in the committee in the hearing with a Circuit Court nominee, it is hard for me to feel a great sense of outrage that somebody not on the committee doesn't get a special private meeting with judges. We never got special private meetings with judges. We didn't even get our time with the judges in the hearing because they sandwiched a bunch of them on the same panel in our same 5 to 7 minutes.

So what I would like to do is to propose, since the objection has been made to confirming them tonight, that at least we might consider moving through the cloture step so that a vote can be scheduled and everybody can have their vote one way or the other.

So my first unanimous consent request would have confirmed them, and a call could have gone out to them and to their families tonight saying: The holds are off. Your life is back in order. You can go to the job you have been nominated for.

And all would have been well.

There has been an objection to that. So what I would like to do is simply ask that they be allowed to tee up for a vote when scheduled, without having to pursue the cloture path.

So I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding rule XXII, if applicable, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader—in consultation with the Republican leader—the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Again, Executive Calendar Nos. 489 and 490; and that there be 10 minutes of debate, equally divided in the usual form, on the nominations, en bloc; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that if the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order regarding the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

Again, this would not confirm them tonight. Their families will not get this call. But they are freed from our little Executive Calendar traffic jam. But it would at least put them on a pathway toward confirmation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

I have a simpler solution here, and I have already mentioned it.

The White House has denied my ability to meet with one Ninth Circuit judge who just got confirmed. Let me meet with the next two, and then we will UC these. We will UC these nominees whom Senator WHITEHOUSE has been trying to move forward tonight.

I also want to mention to my colleague from Rhode Island that I am certainly more than amenable to working with him on a principle that, I think, all Senators should agree on—all of us—to strengthen this institution, whether you are a Democrat, a Republican. That is this simple idea, which I thought existed here because I have certainly been able to do it: If a judge is up for confirmation, a circuit judge, and if you are a Senator representing one of the States in the circuit and that judge is going to have enormous power over your constituents for life, we should, as a general rule, as a general principle, say always: Of course, you get to meet with that judge. Of course, you can do your constitutional advice and consent duty.

I would be for it for any Democrat who wants it if there is a Republican. Again, I talked to some folks from the Trump administration today. They said that they always offered that. So maybe there is a misunderstanding. I don't want to say that my Senate colleague from Rhode Island is not right or those guys. I don't know. That is what they mentioned to me.

I just think, as a principle, every Senator here should agree with it. Why wouldn't you want to do that?

Like I said, until today, I have met with every single Ninth Circuit judge whom we voted on in my entire career here. Now, it has been a relatively short career, but this is really important to the people I represent because that court is really important to the people I represent. The Ninth Circuit so frequently gets the law wrong as it relates to Alaska, and it negatively impacts my constituents. This is important.

So I object to this date certain request, but as I mentioned, if I can meet with these—two more—Ninth Circuit judges, Senator WHITEHOUSE can come down here and UC these two Court of Federal Claims judges, and I think he can move it. It is a real simple ask.

And the fact that the White House Counsel hasn't even called me back—a U.S. Senator trying to do his constitutional duty, advice and consent of the Senate? The Senator from Rhode Island and I are of the Senate.

So why don't we work on this principle that, if there is a nominee, a circuit judge nominee, and if a Senator from a State in that circuit wants to meet with that nominee—to do his constitutional duty—that we should all agree to do that no matter who is in the White House. I would agree to that principle in a heartbeat.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I think we have concluded this matter for the evening, and I am sorry that it has ended this way because Mr. Bonilla and Ms. Lerner are essentially collateral damage in a fight that does not involve the Court of Federal Claims at all. This involves a dispute between the Senator from Alaska and the White House, whom I do not direct and whom I do not speak for.

Instead of keeping it within the confines of the Ninth Circuit, it has now spilled over to the Court of Federal Claims, and these two completely unrelated individuals are continuing to have their lives interfered with by being kept in the traffic jam for a principle that, in my view, was never followed in the previous administration. I mean, for Pete's sake, if they were not going to even let us have our official time with a circuit court judge, the idea that we were going to get private meetings is, I think, imaginative in the extreme.

I just regret that it has come to this pass. I regret that we are at 159 obstructed nominees backed up. I regret that we have been forced to file cloture twice as much as that first group of Trump's nominees, in his first year—and there were some real beauties there, I have got to tell you.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, Va.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21–63, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Greece for defense articles and services estimated to cost $6.9 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JEDIDIAH P. ROYAL,
Acting Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–63

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Greece.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $5.4 billion.

Other $1.5 billion.

Total $6.9 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Four (4) Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) Ships.

Five (5) COMBATSS–21 Combat Management Systems (4 installed, 1 spare).

Five (5) Vertical Launch Systems (VLS), MK 41 (4 installed, 1 spare; 8 cells per set).

Two hundred (200) Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) BLK 2 (84 installed, 10 test and training rounds, 106 spares).

Five (5) MK 49 Guided Missile Launcher Systems (4 installed, 1 spare).

Eight (8) RAM BLK 2 Telemetry Missiles.

Thirty-two (32) Vertical Launch Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) Missiles (VLA) (12 installed (3 per ship), 8 test and training rockets, 12 spares).

Sixteen (16) 7.62mm M240B Machine Guns with ammunition (8 installed (2 per ship), 8 spares)

Thirty-two (32) MK–54 All Up Round Lightweight Torpedoes (16 installed (4 per ship), 16 spares).

Non-MDE: Also included are additional single, VLS cells for VLA; ordnance; testing; training; follow-on support; TRS–4D radars; Common Anti-Air Modular Missile (CAMM); Common Anti-Air Modular Missile-Extended Range (CAMM-ER); Naval Strike Missile (NSM) RGM–184B and launchers; MK 46 Lightweight Upgrade to MK 54 Lightweight Torpedo; torpedo containers; Recoverable Exercise Torpedoes (REXTORP) with containers; Exercise Torpedoes (EXTORP) with containers; Expendable Mobile A-size Anti-submarine Warfare (ASW) Training Targets (EMATTs); Fleet Exercise Section (FES) and fuel tanks to be used with MK 54 conversion kits; air launch accessories for fixed wing;

76mm OTO STRALES gun with ordnance; Fire Control Radar; Gun Computer System; 20mm Narwhal gun system with ordnance; M2A1 .50 caliber machine gun with ammunition; NIXIE SLQ–25 Surface Ship Torpedo Defense System; Sylena MK 2 Decoy Launching System with CANTO torpedo countermeasure; Elta Electronic Warfare suite with counter-unmanned aerial system capability; Compact Low Frequency Active Passive Variable Depth Sonar–2 (CAPTAS–2); Low Frequency Active Towed Sonar (LFATS); SQQ–89; AN/ARC–210 (RT–2036(C)) radios; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Equipment; Infrared Search and Track/EO director; Naval Laser Warning System; chemical, biological and radiological threat detectors; and 7 meter Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB). Also included are support and test equipment; spare and repair parts; communications equipment, including Link 16 communications equipment; Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System (BICES); AN/SRQ–4 Tactical Common Datalink; Global Command and Control System-Joint (GCCS–J); Air Defense Systems Integrator (ADSI); cryptographic equipment including SY–150, SY–117G, and KYV–5M; Defense Advance GPS Receiver (DAGR); software delivery and support; facilities and construction support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; test and trials support; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (GR–P–SCM).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 10, 2021.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Greece—Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (Hellenic Future Frigate (HF2))

The Government of Greece has requested to buy four (4) Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) ships; five (5) COMBATSS–21 Combat Management Systems (4 installed, 1 spare); five (5) Vertical Launch Systems (VLS), MK 41 (4 installed, 1 spare; 8 cells per set); two hundred (200) Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) BLK 2 (84 installed, 10 test and training rounds, 106 spares); five (5) MK 49 Guided Missile Launcher Systems (4 installed, 1 spare); eight (8) RAM BLK 2 telemetry missiles; thirty-two (32) Vertical Launch Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) missiles (VLA) (12 installed (3 per ship), 8 test and training rockets, 12 spares); sixteen (16) 7.62mm M240B machine guns with ammunition (8 installed (2 per ship), 8 spares), and thirty-two (32) MK–54 All Up Round Lightweight Torpedoes (16 installed (4 per ship), 16 spares). Also included are additional single, VLS cells for VLA; ordnance; testing; training; follow-on support; TRS–4D radars; Common Anti-Air Modular Missile (CAMM); Common Anti-Air Modular Missile-Extended Range (CAMM-ER); Naval Strike Missile (NSM) RGM–184B and launchers; MK 46 Lightweight Upgrade to MK 54 Lightweight Torpedo; torpedo containers; Recoverable Exercise Torpedoes (REXTORP) with containers; Exercise Torpedoes (EXTORP) with containers; Expendable Mobile A-size Anti-submarine Warfare (ASW) Training Targets (EMATTs); Fleet Exercise Section (FES) and fuel tanks to be used with MK 54 conversion kits; air launch accessories for fixed wing;

76mm OTO STRALES gun with ordnance; Fire Control Radar; Gun Computer System; 20mm Narwhal gun system with ordnance; M2A1 .50 caliber machine gun with ammunition; NIXIE SLQ–25 Surface Ship Torpedo Defense System; Sylena MK 2 Decoy Launching System with CANTO torpedo countermeasure; Elta Electronic Warfare suite with counter-unmanned aerial system capability; Compact Low Frequency Active Passive Variable Depth Sonar–2 (CAPTAS–2); Low Frequency Active Towed Sonar (LFATS); SQQ–89; AN/ARC–210 (RT–2036(C)) radios; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Equipment; Infrared Search and Track/EO director; Naval Laser Warning System; chemical, biological and radiological threat detectors; and 7 meter Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB). Also included are support and test equipment; spare and repair parts; communications equipment, including Link 16 communications equipment; Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System (BICES); AN/SRQ–4 Tactical Common Datalink; Global Command and Control System-Joint (GCCS-J); Air Defense Systems Integrator (ADSI); cryptographic equipment including SY–150, SY–117G, and KYV–5M; Defense Advance GPS Receiver (DAGR); software delivery and support; facilities and construction support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; test and trials support; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is $6.9 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally, which is an important partner for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Greece's capability to meet current and future threats by providing an effective combatant deterrent capability to protect maritime interests and infrastructure in support of its strategic location on NATO's southern flank. This acquisition, which will be awarded to the winner of an international competition for Hellenic Navy (HN) frigate modernization, will enhance stability and maritime security in the Eastern Mediterranean region and contribute to security and strategic objectives of NATO and the United States. Greece contributes to NATO operations in Kosovo, as well as to counterterrorism and counter-piracy maritime efforts. Greece will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin of Bethesda, MD. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of approximately 8 additional U.S. Government and 22 U.S. contractor representatives to Greece to support engineering and logistics support for the production and integration of Hellenic Future Frigates into the Hellenic Navy Fleet.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–63

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Multi-Mission Surface Combatant Ships (MMSC) or Hellenic Future Frigate (HF2), a derivative of the Freedom variant of the USN Littoral Combat Ship, will provide Greece with an effective combatant deterrent capability to protect maritime interests and infrastructure. The sensitive technologies include:

a. COMBATSS–21 is the ship's battle management system, which is produced by Lockheed Martin and derived from the USN's latest AEGIS combat management system. The COMBATSS–21 Combat Management System is the backbone of the Freedom-variant self-defense suite and integrates the radar, electro-optical infrared cameras, gun fire control system, countermeasures and short-range anti-air missiles. COMBATSS–21 provides a flexible, reliable next generation defense system.

b. TRS–4D radar is a three-dimensional, air volume surveillance radar with fast target alert, which provides target designation to the combat management system for anti-air warfare (AAW) and anti-surface warfare (ASuW). The TRS–4D radar is manufactured by Hensoldt, a German company. It provides sensor support for surface gun fire control with splash detection, ship-controlled helicopter approach support, jammer detection, tracking and suppression, cued search with enhanced detection performance for a dedicated sector, cued track with high-accuracy target tracking for missile guidance, target classification, integrated IFF, and is integrated with the combat management system. The system is available internationally through Hensoldt.

c. MK–41 Vertical Launch System (VLS) is a multi-cell, vertical missile launcher that accommodates multiple VLS-capable missiles, including CAMM, CAMM-ER and the Vertical Launch Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) (VLA) Lightweight Torpedo. Each HF2 will be configured for eight (8) VLS tactical length cells, delivering up to thirty-two (32) quad-pack missiles, with an additional three (3) single VLS cells for a total of eleven (11) cells per ship. VLS exchanges guidance data with COMBATSS–21.

d. Common Anti-Air Modular Missile (CAMM) is designed to counter highly sophisticated sea skimming anti-ship cruise missiles. It incorporates inertial navigation with uplink/downlink and active RF final homing that requires no target illumination. Sea Ceptor controls missile targeting and flight profiles before launch through to termination. CAMM are quad-packed and could be configured for a thirty-two (32)-missile ship loadout. CAMM is available internationally from MBDA. The CAMM system exchanges guidance data between Sea Ceptor and COMBATSS–21.

e. Common Anti-Air Modular Missile-Extended Range (CAMM-ER) also counters highly sophisticated sea skimming anti-ship cruise missiles with additional range compared to CAMM. It incorporates inertial navigation with uplink/downlink and active RF final homing that requires no target illumination. Sea Ceptor controls missile targeting and flight profiles before launch through to termination. CAMM-ER are quad-packed and could be configured for a thirty-two (32)-missile ship loadout. CAMM-ER is available internationally from MBDA. The CAMM-ER system exchanges guidance data between Sea Ceptor and COMBATSS–21.

f. Vertical Launch Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) missile (VLA) is an all-weather, 360-degree quick-reaction, standoff anti-submarine weapon. VLA are fired from VLS with support from the SQQ–89 ASW combat system. Guidance data is exchanged with COMBATSS–21.

g. The MK 54 All Up Round Lightweight (LWT) Torpedo is a conventional torpedo that can be launched from surface ships, rotary and fixed wing aircraft. The MK 54 is an upgrade to the MK 46 Torpedo. The upgrade

to the MK 54 entails replacement of the torpedo's sonar, guidance and control systems with modern technology. The new guidance and control system uses a mixture of commercial-off-the-shelf and custom-built electronics. The warhead, fuel tank and propulsion system from the MK 46 torpedo are reused in the MK 54 configuration with minor modifications. Greece has not requested, nor will it be provided with the source code for MK 54 operational software.

h. MK 46 LWT Upgrade to MK 54 LWT. All MK 54 LWTs are produced by converting a MK 46 LWT and installing a MK 54 LWT upgrade kit. MK 46 LWT and MK 54 LWT programs have many common components; however, the majority of the MK 54 LWT is assembled with new production hardware.

i. Naval Strike Missile (NSM), RGM–184B, is an anti-ship cruise missile that provides anti-surface, over-the-horizon engagement capability against small-to-medium sized vessels. NSM incorporates an Intelligent Imaging Infrared (I3R) Seeker and Automatic Target Recognition (ATR). NSM is available internationally from Kongsberg Defence & Aerospace (KDA)—partnered with Raytheon. NSM telemetry missiles will also be procured for testing. NSM will not be integrated with COMBATSS–21.

j. The 76mm OTO STRALES gun is a multi-mission, rapid-fire naval gun for primary defense against air and surface threats and for employment in naval fire support missions. The 76mm OTO STRALES provides an accurate, sustained rate of fire of 1 to 120 rounds per minute, and is capable against subsonic, anti-ship missiles. OTO STRALES includes a radio frequency guidance system that increases system accuracy. The 76mm gun is available internationally from Leonardo/OTO Melara; STRALES from Leonardo. The 76mm gun is connected to the fire control radar and gun computer system, which is, in turn, connected to COMBATSS–21.

k. The medium-to-long range fire-control radar system interfaces with the gun computer system and COMBATSS–21.

l. The gun computer system directs the actions of the ship's main gun battery and receives orders for engagement and firing authorization from the Combat Management System. The gun computer system takes target data from ship sensors for air and surface targets, or operator-entered data for targets ashore, and calculates ballistic solutions and outputs gun positioning orders, ammunition loading and firing orders for the mount.

m. Infrared Search and Track (IRST) is a 360–degree, panoramic, day and night, passive air and surface surveillance system. The IRST system provides long-range detection with tracking of conventional, asymmetric and emerging threats.

n. The 20mm Narwhal gun system is a gyro-stabilized mount armed with a 20mm automatic cannon, an electro-optic, charge-coupled device camera, and a closed loop, fire-control system, which can be controlled remotely to enable system operation, target acquisition and tracking, and fire opening by the gun operator. Optional add-ons include a thermal camera, laser rangefinder and target automatic tracking video system. The 20mm gun has a rate of fire of 800 rounds per minute of NATO standard ammunition and is produced by the French Government-owned Nexter Systems. The Narwhal gun will not be integrated with COMBATSS–21.

o. The 7.62mm M240B Machine Gun is an air-cooled, belt-fed and gas-operated weapon.

p. The M2A1 .50 Caliber Machine Gun is an air-cooled, belt-fed machine gun that fires from a closed bolt, operated on the short recoil principle.

q. Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) BLK 2 is a lightweight, quick-reaction, fire-and-forget missile designed to destroy anti-ship cruise missiles and asymmetric air and surface threats. The BLK 2 provides kinematic and guidance improvements for countering maneuvering and low probability of intercept threats. RAM missiles are launched from the MK 49 Guided Missile Launcher System (GMLS). No shipboard support is required after shipboard launch. RAM telemetry missiles will also be procured for testing.

r. MK 49 GMLS is used to deploy RAM.

s. Low Frequency Active Towed Sonar (LFATS) is a low frequency, variable depth sonar used to detect, track and engage submarines. LFATS incorporates active and passive processing with 360-degree coverage. The VDS–100 system is designed for high performance at a lower operating frequency for improved performance.

t. Compact Low Frequency Active Passive Variable Depth Sonar–2 (CAPTAS–2) is a key sensor technology for identifying conventional, diesel-powered submarines operating in difficult sonar environments, such as littoral waters. CAPTAS–2 employs a single winch to tow the transmit tow body and receiver array.

u. The NIXIE SLQ–25 Surface Ship Torpedo Defense System is a digitally controlled, electro-acoustic, soft kill countermeasure decoy system capable of countering wake homing torpedoes, acoustic homing torpedoes, and wire guided torpedoes. NIXIE provides active/passive detection, location, threat identification of torpedoes and other acoustic targets. NIXIE's towed body, the decoy which diverts the threat from the ship, connects to the management system using a fiber optic cable to control the signals emitted by the decoy.

v. Sylena MK 2 Decoy Launching System with CANTO is a torpedo countermeasure. The Sylena MK 2 launches the CANTO decoy, which generates a high-level, 360–degree acoustic signal to jam the full frequency range of an attacking torpedo. Sylena MK 2 is available internationally from Lacroix; CANTO from Naval Group. The Sylena MK 2 decoy launching system and CANTO decoy will exchange data with COMBATSS–21.

w. Elta Electronic Warfare (EW) suite provides Radar Electronic Support Measures (RESM), Communications Electronic Support Measures (CESM), and Electronic Countermeasures (ECM) with Counter-Unmanned Aerial System capability. The Elta EW suite is available internationally through ELTA Systems, a subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries. The Elta EW suite will exchange data with COMBATSS–21.

x. Naval Laser-Warning System (NLWS) provides real time situational awareness of laser-based threats to enhance the tactical picture. NLWS interfaces with the ship's CMS, electronic support measures and the onboard countermeasure system. NLWS is available internationally from SAAB.

y. Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Mode 5 is an identification system designed for command and control. It enables military and national (civilian air traffic control) interrogation systems to identify aircraft, vehicles or forces as friendly. Mode 5 provides a cryptographically secured version of Mode S and ADS–8 GPS position.

z. AN/ARC–210 GEN 6 (RT–2036(C)) version is a radio that provides two-way, multi-mode voice and data communications with military aircraft over Very High Frequency (VHF) and Ultra High Frequency (UHF) range using U.S. Type 1 encryption. ARC–210 radios contain embedded sensitive encryption algorithms, keying material and integrated waveforms.

aa. SY–117G is a combat manpack radio with Type 1 encryption for secure voice communication. In the HF2 configuration, the radio will be used for interoperable, secure Satellite Communications (SATCOM). The SY–117G COMSEC device is a Controlled Cryptographic Item (CCI).

bb. SY–150 is a combat manpack radio with Type 1 encryption. The SY–150 COMSEC device is CCI.

cc. KYV–5M supports tactical secure voice communications. The KYV–5M COMSEC device is CCI.

dd. Air Defense Systems Integrator (ADSI) is a tactical command and control system that integrates land, air and sea domains to report real-time sensor information across the battlespace.

ee. The AN/SRQ–4 provides the Tactical Common Data Link (TCDL) to serve COMBATSS–21 for command and control (C2) functions for radar, FLIR, and ESM data. Also, as the TCDL terminal on the ship, the AN/SRQ–4 exchanges the classified acoustic data with AN/SQQ–89 for real-time shipboard processing of MH–60R deployed sonobuoys, increased sonobuoy processing, updated sonobuoy control and increased ASW tracks. The AN/SQQ–89 accepts MH–60R ASW data and processes the data shipboard as a coordinated tactical ASW picture with the Variable Depth Sonar. ASW Operators, at AN/SQQ–89 consoles, analyze classified data and integrate with COMBATSS–21 to provide full implementation and access to the capabilities of the MH–60R. The MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopters, procured by the Hellenic Navy under a separate FMS case, introduce dipping sonar, upgraded radar, electronic warfare, weapons including MK 54 torpedoes and external command and control systems. With the MH–60R comes the need for a Ku-Band Common Data Link via a shipboard AN/SRQ–4 Radio Terminal System to support the high data rate requirements associated with systems onboard the aircraft.

ff. The Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System (BICES) is a web-enabled, multi-national intelligence system that provides near real-time, correlated, situation and order of battle information.

gg. Global Command and Control System-Joint (GCCS–J) is a command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence system consisting of hardware, software (commercial-off-the-shelf and government-off-the-shelf), procedures, standards, and interfaces that provide an integrated near real-time picture of the battlespace necessary to conduct joint and multinational operations. For the HF2 configuration, GCCS–J will use Type 1 encryption.

hh. Defense Advance GPS Receiver (DAGR) provides secure, military Selective Availability/Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM)-based GPS in the most reliable and proven handheld form available today. It is a military-grade, dual-frequency receiver, and has the security hardware necessary to decode encrypted P(Y)-code GPS signals. Features include: graphical screen, with the ability to overlay map images, 12-channel continuous satellite tracking for ''all-in-view'' operation, simultaneous L1/L2 dual frequency GPS signal reception, extended performance in a diverse jamming environment, and SAASM compatibility.

ii. Improved Point Detection System-Lifecycle Replacement (IPDS-LR) is a ship-based Chemical Warfare Agent (CWA) detector designed for chemical detection of chemical warfare agent vapors onboard navy ships. The detector units have special interference rejection built into the detection algorithm and meets specifications for false alarm thresholds with sensitivity requirements. The sampling system includes specially designed sampling lines, filters, and bulkhead adapters to operate in marine environments.

jj. Enhanced Maritime Biological Detection (EMBD) is an automated biological

point detection and identification system that provides near real time biological detection, warning, and presumptive identification against Biological Warfare Agents (BWAs). EMBD will provide an early indication that a BWA attack has occurred and provide identification information allowing ship commanding officers to select from an array of countermeasures that can prevent or limit exposure to the ship and other ships in the naval task force.

kk. Link 16 is an advanced command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements. It provides the warfighter key theater functions such as surveillance, identification, air control, weapons engagement coordination, and direction for all services and allied forces. With modernized cryptography, Link 16 will ensure interoperability into the future.

2. The highest overall level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness, or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Greece can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Greece.

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO § 620C(D) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED

Pursuant to Section 620C(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the Act), Executive Order 12163, State Department Delegation of Authority No. 293–2, and State Department Delegation ofAuthority 510; I hereby certify that the furnishing to Greece of Multi-Mission Surface Combatant ships and related equipment is consistent with the principles contained in Section 620C(b) ofthe Act.

This certification will be made part ofthe notification to Congress under Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, regarding the proposed sale ofthe abovenamed articles and services and is based on the justification acco anying such notification, of which such justification constitutes a full explanation.

BONNIE JENKINS,
Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY
Arlington, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21–64, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Greece for defense articles and services estimated to cost $2.5 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JEDIDIAH P. ROYAL,
Acting Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–64

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Greece.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment $1.5 billion.

Other $1.0 billion.

Total $2.5 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Greece has requested to buy equipment and services to repair, update, and enhance their four (4) existing Hellenic Navy (HN) MEKO Class frigates. These upgrades will include the following:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Eight (8) Close in Weapon Systems (CIWS) Phalanx BLK 1B Baseline 2 Upgrade Kits.

Four (4) MK 45, 5'' 54 Caliber Gun Overhauls.

Four (4) MK 49 Guided Missile Launcher Systems.

Four (4) COMBATSS–21 Combat Management Systems.

Four (4) AN/SQS–56 Sonar Overhauls.

Non-MDE: Also included is the repair and/or upgrade of existing systems; ordnance; testing; training; systems integration; follow-on technical support; acquisition, upgrades, and overhaul of Narwhal 20A Gun System; Sylena MK 2 Decoy Launching System with CANTO torpedo countermeasure; Radar/Fire Control TRS–4D; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Mode 5; NIXIE SLQ–25 Surface Ship Torpedo Defense System; Helicopter Handling System (Repairs); Defense Advance GPS Receiver (DAGR); Gun Computer System (GCS); Low Frequency Active Towed Sonar (LFATS); Compact Low Frequency Active Passive Variable Depth Sonar–2 (CAPTAS–2); Infrared Search & Track System (IRST); Elta Electronic Warfare (EW), with C-ESM, R-ESM, and ECM capability; Naval Laser-Warning System (NLWS); 7 meter Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB); SQQ–89 ASW System; Fire Control Radar System; Improved Point Detection System-Lifecycle Replacement (IPDS-LR); Enhanced Maritime Biological Detection (EMBD), as well as significant Hull, Mechanical and Electrical upgrades, replacements, and repairs; support and test equipment; spare and repair parts; communications equipment, including Link 16 communications equipment; Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System (BICES); AN/SRQ–4 Tactical Common Datalink (TCDL); Global Command and Control System-Joint (GCCS-J); Air Defense Systems Integrator (ADSI); cryptographic equipment including SY–150, SY117G, and KYV–5M; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, systems integration, technical, and logistics support services; test and trials support; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (GR–P–LJO).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: December 10, 2021.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Greece—MEKO Class Frigate Modernization

The Government of Greece has requested to buy equipment and services to repair, update, and enhance their four (4) existing Hellenic Navy (HN) MEKO Class frigates. These upgrades will include the following: eight (8) Close in Weapon Systems (CIWS) Phalanx BLK 1B Baseline 2 upgrade kits; four (4) MK 45, 5'' 54 caliber gun overhauls; four (4) MK 49 Guided Missile Launcher Systems; four (4) COMBATSS–21 Combat Management Systems; and, four (4) AN/SQS–56 Sonar overhauls. Also included is the repair and/or upgrade of existing systems; ordnance; testing; training; systems integration; follow-on technical support; acquisition, upgrades, and overhaul of Narwhal 20A Gun System; Sylena MK 2 Decoy Launching System with CANTO torpedo countermeasure; Radar/Fire Control TRS–4D; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Mode 5; NIXIE SLQ–25 Surface Ship Torpedo Defense System; Helicopter Handling System (Repairs); Defense Advance GPS Receiver (DAGR); Gun Computer System (GCS); Low Frequency Active Towed Sonar (LFATS); Compact Low Frequency Active Passive Variable Depth Sonar–2 (CAPTAS–2); Infrared Search & Track System (IRST); Elta Electronic Warfare (EW), with C-ESM, R-ESM, and ECM capability; Naval Laser-Warning System (NLWS); 7 meter Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB); SQQ–89 ASW System; Fire Control Radar System; Improved Point Detection System-Lifecycle Replacement (IPDS-LR); Enhanced Maritime Biological Detection (EMBD), as well as significant Hull, Mechanical and Electrical upgrades, replacements, and repairs; support and test equipment; spare and repair parts; communications equipment, including Link 16 communications equipment; Battlefield Information Collection and Exploitation System (BICES); AN/SRQ–4 Tactical Common Datalink (TCDL); Global Command and Control System-Joint (GCCS-J); Air Defense Systems Integrator (ADSI); cryptographic equipment including SY–150, SY–117G, and KYV–5M; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, systems integration, technical,

and logistics support services; test and trials support; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is $2.5 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO ally, which is an important partner for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Greece's capability to meet current and future threats by providing an effective combatant deterrent capability to protect maritime interests and infrastructure in support of its strategic location on NATO's southern flank. This acquisition, which will be awarded to the winner of an international competition for the Hellenic Navy (HN) MEKO Class Frigate Upgrade, will enhance stability and maritime security in the Eastern Mediterranean region and contribute to security and strategic objectives of NATO and the United States. Greece contributes to NATO operations in Kosovo, as well as to counterterrorism and counter-piracy maritime efforts. Greece will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Raytheon Missiles and Defense, Waltham, MA; Lockheed Martin, Bethesda, MD; BAE Systems, Arlington, VA; and VSE Corporation, Alexandria, VA. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of 3 additional U.S. Government and (5) contractor representatives, Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions to Greece.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–64

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The MEKO Class Frigate Modernization (Upgrades) will provide Greece with an increased ability to identify, engage, and defeat maritime security threats in open waters of the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas (NATO's Southern Flank). These enhancements will deliver protection-in-depth for Greece's industrial infrastructure and sea lines of communication.

a. Close in Weapon Systems (CIWS) MK 15 Phalanx BLK 1B Baseline 2 Upgrade Kits is a close-in weapon system for defense against incoming threats such as small boats, surface torpedoes, anti-ship missiles and helicopters. It was designed and manufactured by the General Dynamics Corporation, Pomona Division later a part of Raytheon. The upgraded MK 15 Phalanx 1B Baseline 2 improves detection performance, increases reliability, and reduces maintenance. It also has a surface mode to track, detect, and destroy threats closer to the water's surface, increasing the ability to defend against fast-attack boats and low-flying missiles.

b. MK 45, 5''54 Caliber Gun overhaul by performing a Standard Pier-Side Maintenance & Repair (SPMR) of the MK 45 Gun Systems. The MK 45 Gun is a fully-automatic naval gun mount employed against surface (Anti-Surface Warfare—ASuW), air (Anti-Air Warfare—AAW), and land attack (Naval Surface Fire Support—NSFS) targets.

c. MK 49 Guided Missile Launching System (GMLS) is used to deploy the Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM).

d. COMBATSS–21 is the ship's battle management system, which is produced by Lockheed Martin and derived from the USN's latest AEGIS combat management system. The COMBATSS–21 Combat Management System is the backbone of the Freedom-variant self-defense suite and integrates the radar, electro-optical infrared cameras, gun fire control system, countermeasures and short-range anti-air missiles.

e. Upgrading the existing AN/SQS–56 Sonar is accomplished by replacement of defective transducers and staves and upgrading the electronics in the Hull Mounted Sonar as well as the SQS–56 adjunct processor. The AN/SQS–56 is a modern hull-mounted sonar. The sonar is an active/passive, preformed beam, digital sonar providing panoramic echo ranging and panoramic (DIMUS) passive surveillance. A single operator can search, track, classify and designate multiple targets from the active system while simultaneously maintaining anti-torpedo surveillance on the passive display.

f. The 20mm Narwhal gun system is a gyro-stabilized mount armed with a 20mm automatic cannon, an electro-optic, charge-coupled device camera, and a closed loop, fire-control system, which can be controlled remotely to enable system operation, target acquisition and tracking, and fire opening by the gun operator. Optional add-ons include a thermal camera, laser rangefinder and target automatic tracking video system. The 20mm gun has a firing rate of 800 rounds per minute of NATO standard ammunition, and is produced by the French Government-owned Nexter Systems.

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h. TRS–4D radar is a three-dimensional, air volume surveillance radar with fast target alert, which provides target designation to the combat management system for anti-air warfare (AAW) and anti-surface warfare (ASuW). The TRS–4D radar is manufactured by Hensoldt a German company. It provides sensor support for surface gun fire control with splash detection, ship-controlled helicopter approach support, jammer detection, tracking and suppression, cued search with enhanced detection performance for a dedicated sector, cued track with high-accuracy target tracking for missile guidance, and target classification, integrated IFF, and is integrated with the combat management system. The system is available internationally through Hensoldt.

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l. SY–150 is a combat manpack radio with Type 1 encryption. The SY–150 COMSEC device is a CCI.

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p. Air Defense Systems Integrator (ADSI) is a tactical command and control system that integrates land, air and sea domains to report real-time sensor information across the battlespace.

q. The NIXIE SLQ–25 Surface Ship Torpedo Defense System is a digitally controlled, electro-acoustic, soft kill countermeasure decoy system capable of countering wake homing torpedoes, acoustic homing torpedoes, and wire guided torpedoes. NIXIE provides active/passive detection, location, threat identification of torpedoes and other acoustic targets. NIXIE's towed body, the decoy which diverts the threat from the ship, connects to the management system using a fiber optic cable to control the signals emitted by the decoy.

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v. Infrared Search and Track (IRST) is a 360–degree, panoramic, day and night, passive air and surface surveillance system. The IRST system provides long-range detection with tracking of conventional, asymmetric and emerging threats.

w. Elta Electronic Warfare (EW) suite provides Radar Electronic Support Measures (RESM), Communications Electronics Support Measures (CESM), and Electronic Countermeasures (ECM) with counter-Unmanned Aerial System capability. Elta EW to include C–ESM, R–ESM, and ECM capability. The Elta EW suite is available internationally through ELTA Systems, a subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries.

x. Naval Laser-Warning System (NLWS) provides real time situational awareness of laser-based threats to enhance the tactical picture. NLWS interfaces with the ship's CMS, electronic support measures and onboard countermeasure system. NLWS is available internationally from SAAB.

y. SRQ–4 provides the Tactical Common Data Link (TCDL) to serve COMBATSS–21 for command and control (C2) functions for radar, FLIR and ESM data. Also, as the TCDL terminal on the ship, the AN/SRQ–4 exchanges classified SECRET level acoustic data with the AN/SQQ–89 for real-time shipboard processing of MH–60R deployed sonobuoys, increased sonobuoy processing, updated sonobuoy control and increased ASW tracks. The AN/SQQ–89 accepts MH–60R ASW data and processes the data shipboard as a coordinated tactical ASW picture with the Variable Depth Sonar. ASW Operators, at AN/SQQ–89 consoles, analyze the classified SECRET level data and integrate with COMBATSS–21 to provide full implementation and access to the capabilities of the MH–60R. The MH–60R Multi-Mission Helicopters, procured by the Hellenic Navy under a separate FMS case, introduces dipping sonar, upgraded radar, electronic warfare, weapons including MK 54 torpedoes and external command and control systems. With the MH–60R comes the need for a Ku-Band Common Data Link via a shipboard AN/SRQ–4 Radio Terminal System to support the high data rate requirements associated with aircraft systems.

z. The AN/SQQ–89 Undersea Warfare Combat System is a naval anti-submarine warfare (ASW) system for surface warships. The system presents an integrated picture of the tactical situation by receiving, combining and processing active and passive sensor data from the hull-mounted array, towed array and sonobuoys. The AN/SQQ–89 will interface with the SQS–56 sonar, VDS, SQR–4 and COMBATSS–21. It provides a full range of undersea warfare (USW) functions including active and passive sensors, underwater fire control, onboard trainer and a highly evolved display subsystem.

aa. The Fire Control Radar System is a medium-to-long range radar that interfaces with the Gun Control System (GCS) and COMBATSS–21.

bb. Improved Point Detection System-Lifecycle Replacement (IPDS–LR) is a shipbased Chemical Warfare Agent (CWA) detector designed for chemical detection of chemical warfare agent vapors onboard navy ships. The detector units have special interference rejection built into the detection algorithm and meets specifications for false alarm thresholds with sensitivity requirements. The sampling system includes specially designed sampling lines, filters, and bulkhead adapters to operate in marine environments.

cc. Enhanced Maritime Biological Detection (EMBD) is an automated biological point detection and identification system that provides near real time biological detection, warning, and presumptive identification against Biological Warfare Agents (BWAs). EMBD will provide an early indication that a BWA attack has occurred and provide identification information allowing ship commanding officers to select from an array of countermeasures that can prevent or limit exposure to the ship and other ships in the naval task force.

dd. Link 16 is an advanced command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements. It provides the warfighter key theater functions such as surveillance, identification, air control, weapons engagement coordination, and direction for all services and allied forces. With modernized cryptography, Link 16 will ensure interoperability into the future.

2. The overall highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness, or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Greece can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Greece.

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO §620C (d) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED

Pursuant to Section 620C(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the Act), Executive Order 12163, State Department Delegation of Authority No. 293–2, and State Department Delegation of Authority 510; I hereby certify that the furnishing to Greece of equipment and services to repair, update, and enhance four existing MEKO Class frigates is consistent with the principles contained in Section 620C(b) of the Act.

This certification will be made part of the notification to Congress under Section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, regarding the proposed sale of the above-named articles and services and is based on the justification accompanying such notification, of which such justification constitutes a full explanation.

BONNIE JENKINS,
Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG PRICE

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Craig Price of Richland County as Montanan of the Month for his generosity and service to the Sidney community.

Craig embodies the values and spirit of a Montanan. Through his upbeat attitude, generosity, and passion for volunteerism, Craig has become a pillar of the Sidney community. He has been an active member of the Sidney Lion's Club for 46 ars, where he has helped with important initiatives, including Highway Clean Ups and the Meals on Wheels program.

Craig's enthusiasm for supporting Sidney's youth has made the difference in the lives of countless young Montanans. After working for 18 years as an educator and guidance counselor, Craig has dedicated countless hours to mentoring Sidney High School students involved in the school's Leo Club and instilling in them the same Montana values of generosity and service to their community. He also works with young students each year through the Lion's Club Plus Optics program, screening children for eyesight problems.

Craig's selflessness and passion for volunteerism has not gone unnoticed. He has rightfully received numerous awards for his service including the Lion's Club International President's Award and the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Sidney Leo Club. Craig also received the Citizen of the Year award in 2021.

I have no doubt that the Sidney community is eternally grateful for Craig's countless hours of service and his devotion to instilling Montana values in the next generation. It is my honor to recognize Craig for his commitment to serving his neighbors in the Sidney community and for making Montana a better place. Keep up the great work, Craig. You make Montana proud.•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, 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.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 10, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 610. An act to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the enrolled bill was signed on December 10, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5314. An act to protect our democracy by preventing abuses of presidential power, restoring checks and balances and accountability and transparency in government, and defending elections against foreign interference, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on December 10, 2021, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 610. An act to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC–2791. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2,5-Furandione, polymer with ethenylbenzene, octyl imide, imide with polyethylene-polypropylene glycol 2-aminopropyl Me ether; Tolerance Exemption'' (FRL No. 9233–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2792. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Isoprothiolane; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9063–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2793. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Cyflumetofen; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9234–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2794. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2-Propenoic acid, telomer with N-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-2-propenamide, sodium 2-methyl-2-[(1-oxo-2-propen-1-yl)amino]-1-propanesulfonate (1:1) and sodium sulfite (1:1), sodium salt; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 8652–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2795. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pyriproxyfen; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 8668–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2796. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Methylorubrum populi strain NLS0089; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 8918–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2797. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''AWA Research Facility Registration Updates, Reviews, and Reports'' ((RIN0579–AE54) (Docket No. APHIS–2019–0001)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 8, 2021; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2798. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to end-strength levels for medical personnel for each component of the Armed Forces as of the end of the next fiscal year; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–2799. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, a report relative to an extension on a travel restriction on senior officials' travel to the USCENTCOM AOR through June 1, 2021; to the Committee on Armed Services.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 1192. An act to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as ''PROMESA'') (Rept. No. 117–48).

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 2502. A bill to provide first-time, low-level, nonviolent simple possession offenders an opportunity to expunge that conviction after successful completion of court-imposed probation.

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. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 3376. A bill to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Greenville, South Carolina, as the ''Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. KING, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 3377. A bill to empower the Chief of the United States Capitol Police to unilaterally request the assistance of the DC National Guard or Federal law enforcement agencies in emergencies without prior approval of the Capitol Police Board; considered and passed.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3378. A bill to require agencies to submit certain settlement agreements to Congress, to allow Congress to disapprove of those settlement agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 477. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2021 as ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month'' in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 450

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 450, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 586, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 697

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 697, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth.

S. 1378

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1378, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research, and for other purposes.

S. 1725

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of

S. 1725, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated.

S. 1813

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1813, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

S. 1889

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1889, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an exception to the penalty on early distributions from qualified plans for individuals diagnosed with certain terminal illnesses.

S. 2047

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to ban the use of intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in cosmetics.

S. 2125

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2125, a bill to divert Federal funding away from supporting the presence of police in schools and toward evidence-based and trauma informed services that address the needs of marginalized students and improve academic outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 2607

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2607, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979–1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

S. 2750

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2750, a bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish a precision agriculture loan program, and for other purposes.

S. 2798

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2798, a bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and for other purposes.

S. 2889

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2889, a bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 to address the timing for the use of funds with respect to grants made to shuttered venue operators.

S. 2956

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. 2956, a bill to advance targeted, high-impact, and evidence-based inventions for the prevention and treatment of global malnutrition, to improve the coordination of such programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2990

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2990, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign persons that engage in certain transactions relating to Cuba and to impose sanctions with respect to human rights abuse and corruption in Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 3157

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3157, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to conduct a study of the factors affecting employment opportunities for immigrants and refugees with professional credentials obtained in foreign countries.

S. 3164

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3164, a bill to require non-Federal prison, correctional, and detention facilities holding Federal prisoners or detainees under a contract with the Federal Government to make the same information available to the public that Federal prisons and correctional facilities are required to make available.

S. 3215

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3215, a bill to amend the Act of August 10, 1956, to provide for the payment of pay and allowances for certain officers of the Army who are assigned to the Corps of Engineers.

S. 3325

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3325, a bill to make companies that support venues and events eligible for grants under the shuttered venue operators grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 3349

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3349, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to provide applicants for certain loans and grants with updates with respect to those applications, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 32, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to ''Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Omnibus COVID–19 Health Care Staff Vaccination''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 477—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2021 AS ''SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH'' IN ORDER TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION METHODS, EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 477

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as ''SCD'') is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells, which results in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas SCD causes acute and chronic episodes of severe pain;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with SCD each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn Black or African-American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and 1 in 13 African Americans carries the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD in the United States is often severely limited;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine

(NASEM) developed a comprehensive Strategic Plan and Blueprint for Action to Address Sickle Cell Disease, which, among other things, cited the need for new innovative therapies as well as the need to address barriers that may impact delivery and access to approved treatments;

Whereas, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as ''HSCT'') is currently the only cure for SCD and advances in treating the associated complications of SCD have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas September 2021 has been designated as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from SCD and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise public awareness of the sickle cell trait, preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from SCD, complications from SCD, and conditions related to SCD.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Captain Edward Pritchard, a Department of Defense fellow with my team, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

METHAMPHETAMINE RESPONSE ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 854 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 854) to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 854) was passed, as follows:

S. 854

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 ''Methamphetamine Response Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF EMERGING THREAT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Congress declares methamphetamine an emerging drug threat, as defined in section 702 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701), in the United States.

(b) REQUIRED EMERGING THREAT RESPONSE PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy shall establish and implement an Emerging Threat Response Plan that is specific to methamphetamine in accordance with section 709(d) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1708(d)).

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

SUPPLEMENTAL IMPACT AID FLEXIBILITY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 2959 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2959) to provide that, due to the disruptions caused by COVID–19, applications for impact aid funding for fiscal year 2023 may use certain data submitted in the fiscal year 2022 application.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 2959) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2959

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 ''Supplemental Impact Aid Flexibility Act''.

SEC. 2. IMPACT AID PROGRAM.

Due to the public health emergency directly relating to COVID–19 and notwithstanding sections 7002(j) and 7003(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7702(j), 7703(c)), a local educational agency desiring to receive a payment under section 7002 or 7003 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7702, 7703) for fiscal year 2023 that also submitted an application for such payment for fiscal year 2022 shall, in the application submitted under section 7005 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 7705) for fiscal year 2023—

(1) with respect to a requested payment under section 7002 of such Act—

(A) use the data described in section 7002(j) of such Act relating to calculating such payment that was submitted by the local educational agency in the application for fiscal year 2022; or

(B) use the data relating to calculating such payment for the fiscal year required under section 7002(j) of such Act; and

(2) with respect to a requested payment under section 7003 of such Act—

(A) use the student count data relating to calculating such payment that was submitted by the local educational agency in the application for fiscal year 2022, provided that payments for fiscal year 2023 shall be calculated by the Secretary using the expenditures and rates described in clauses (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) of section 7003(b)(1)(C) of such Act that would otherwise apply for fiscal year 2023; or

(B) use the student count data relating to calculating such payment for the fiscal year required under section 7003(c) of such Act.

CAPITOL POLICE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3377, which was introduced earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3377) to empower the Chief of the United States Capitol Police to unilaterally request the assistance of the DC National Guard or Federal law enforcement agencies in emergencies without prior approval of the Capitol Police Board.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask further that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 3377) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3377

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 ''Capitol Police Emergency Assistance Act of 2021''.

SEC. 2. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR THE CAPITOL POLICE.

(a) ASSISTANCE BY EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—Section 911(a) of division B of the Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002 (2 U.S.C. 1970(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''or in accordance with paragraph (4)'' before ''and on a permanent'';

(2) in paragraph (4)(B)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''advance''; and

(B) in clause (ii)—

(i) in subclause (I), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(ii) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon and inserting ''or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) the Chief of the Capitol Police, if the Chief of the Capitol Police has determined that the provision of assistance is necessary to prevent the significant disruption of governmental function and public order within the United States Capitol Buildings and Grounds, as described in section 9 of the Act entitled 'An Act to define the area of the United States Capitol Grounds, to regulate the use thereof, and for other purposes', approved July 31, 1946 (2 U.S.C. 1961); and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) REVOCATION.—The Capitol Police Board may revoke a request for assistance provided under paragraph (4)(B)(ii)(III) upon consultation with appropriate Members of the Senate and House of Representatives in leadership positions.''.

(b) CAPITOL POLICE SPECIAL OFFICERS.—Section 1017 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (2 U.S.C. 1974) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''or as determined by the Chief of the Capitol Police in accordance with section 911(a)(4)(B)(ii)(III) of division B of the Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002 (2 U.S.C. 1970(a)(4)(B)(ii)(III)),'' after ''Congress,''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''An appointment under this section due to an emergency determined by the Chief of the Capitol Police under paragraph (4)(B)(ii)(III) of section 911(a) of division B of the Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002 (2 U.S.C. 1970(a)) shall be in effect for the period of the emergency, unless and until the Capitol Police Board revokes the request for assistance under paragraph (5) of such section.'';

(2) by striking subsections (c) and (e);

(3) by redesignating subsections (d), (f), and (g) as subsections (c), (d), and (e), respectively; and

(4) in subsection (d), as redesignated by paragraph (3) of this subsection, by striking ''President pro tempore'' and inserting ''Majority Leader''.

SEC. 3. JOINT OVERSIGHT HEARINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives (referred to in this section as the ''Committees'') are authorized to jointly conduct oversight hearings regarding the Capitol Police Board and may request the attendance of all members of the Capitol Police Board at any such hearing. Members of the Capitol Police Board shall attend a joint hearing under this section, as requested and under such rules or procedures as may be adopted by the Committees.

(b) TIMING.—The Committees may conduct oversight hearings under this section as determined appropriate by the Committees, but shall conduct not less than one oversight hearing under this section during each Congress.

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on October 1, 2021.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2021 AS ''SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 477, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 477) expressing support for the designation of September 2021 as ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month'' in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 477) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 14; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Elliott nomination; further, that the cloture motion on the Elliott nomination ripen at 11 a.m. and that notwithstanding rule XXII, if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader following consultation with the Republican leader; further, that following the cloture vote on the Elliott nomination, the Senate vote on cloture on the motion to concur in the House message to accompany S. 1605.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, for the information of Senators, there will be three rollcall votes starting at 11 a.m. on cloture on the Elliott nomination, cloture on the House message, and on the motion to proceed to the joint resolution to raise the debt limit.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:31 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

LAEL BRAINARD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE RICHARD CLARIDA.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ALINA L. ROMANOWSKI, OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ.

CONSTANCE J. MILSTEIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA.

MARGARET C. WHITMAN, OF COLORADO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. THOMAS J. TICKNER

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. MARK A. CUNNINGHAM
COL. VALERIE A. JACKSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. KARL D. PIERSON

IN THE ARMY

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

To be colonel

DAVID S. LIDWELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MICHAEL P. HOFFMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JASON C. ATKINSON

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate December 13, 2021:

THE JUDICIARY

LUCY HAERAN KOH, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CHEHALIS MAYOR DENNIS DAWES

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Dennis Dawes of Chehalis who is retiring from Chehalis City Council at the end of this year. Our community owes Mayor Dawes our sincere gratitude; he has dedicated his professional life to public service. He began his distinguished career in the Chehalis Police Department, where he rose through the ranks to become police chief. Mayor Dawes also served six terms on the Chehalis School Board from 1983 to 2007, and even worked as a bus driver for the Centralia School District. Ever active in his community, Mayor Dawes has also volunteered as a referee in local basketball and football games. Most recently, he has spent the last sixteen years as a city councilor in Chehalis, with eight of those years in his current role as mayor.

Mayor Dawes exemplifies what it means to be a public servant and has worked diligently for decades to improve the community he loves. It is truly my honor to work with exceptional, motivated, and dedicated leaders like him. While his official public service may be coming to an end, I am confident Mayor Dawes will continue to serve his neighbors in the Chehalis community, and I wish him the best in his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts Home Rule Act. This bill would give the Council of the District of Columbia authority over the jurisdiction and organization of the local D.C. courts. The D.C. Home Rule Act (HRA) expressly prohibits the Council from enacting any law with respect to any provision of the D.C. Code title that relates to the local D.C. courts. Congress can correct this injustice to the District's federal taxpaying residents by amending the HRA, even before the District becomes the 51st state.

Forty-eight years after passage of the HRA, matters involving the local D.C. courts almost never come to Congress, so Congress knows virtually nothing about the District's local courts—and could not care less. Notwithstanding the importance of D.C. 's local courts to District residents, the D.C. Council, which is the repository of knowledge and experience for the District's criminal and civil justice systems and the body accountable to our residents, is irresponsibly left on the sidelines while Congress remains the sole entity that may correct flaws in the District's local courts.

Under the HRA, the Council has no authority to "enact any act, resolution, or rule with respect to any provision of title 11 of the District of Columbia Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the District of Columbia courts)." Matters in title 11 are limited primarily to the rules of criminal and civil procedure, court administration, the branches of the courts, the rules of jury service and admission to the bar. Our bill would strike this limitation on the Council's authority.

The District has never had authority over its local courts, even when it was responsible for paying for their operations. Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, the federal government assumed the costs for several state-level functions, including the courts because the federal government alone has jurisdiction over the courts. This bill would not change the courts' funding. This bill also would not change the authority of the President to nominate, or the Senate to confirm, local D.C. judges, which has been within their purview since the creation of the modem local court system in 1970.

This bill is an important step to increase democratic self-government for the District. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MRS. LINDA B. CONLIN

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Linda B. Conlin on the occasion of her retirement.

Linda has served the people of the United States of America in her role as a Department of the Army Civilian for over 39 years. Her long and distinguished career of service began in 1973 as a Kindergarten teacher in a small DoD school in the East-West German border kaserne of Bad Hersfeld, Germany. She finishes her career with over 25 years in the Washington, D.C. area-serving in the Army's Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, and most recently for the last 17 years as the Support Division Chief in the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison. Linda has received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service and several Superior Civilian Service Awards.

As the Co-Chair of the National Guard and Reserve Caucus, I especially want to thank her for her service with the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison.

2021 will undoubtedly go down in history as, "The Year of the National Guard." This year. the National Guard continued its mission to fight the scourge that is the COVID–19 pandemic, conducted a mobilization of 25,000 troops to defend our Capitol—the bastion of our Democracy, responded to countless natural disasters ranging from fires, to floods, to hurricanes, all while continuing to protect us from our adversaries abroad.

Throughout this tumultuous year, the National Guard Bureau's Office of Legislative Liaison supported my office, and all of Congress, in unprecedented ways. Linda was critical in providing this support and embodied the spirit of the Guard's motto: "Always Ready, Always There."

This country is losing a true patriot today, her loss will be noticed. As she begins her new adventures, I wish Linda and her family with nothing but health and happiness in her retirement.

SUPPORTING THE TREAT AND REDUCE OBESITY ACT

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, the number of Americans living with obesity is reaching record levels. Today, nearly 100 million Americans are living with obesity, a complex chronic condition associated with other diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, stroke, and even cancer.

Obesity also disproportionately impacts communities of color, particularly Black and Latino adults. Nearly half (49.6 percent) of Black Americans and 44.8 percent of Latino Americans are living with obesity, compared to 42.2 percent of their white counterparts. In my district in Southern California, which is more than two-thirds Latino, rates of diabetes and obesity are among the highest in the state.

Unfortunately, outdated Medicare rules deny access to effective obesity care for millions of Americans. Despite a 2013 decision by the American Medical Association recognizing obesity as a treatable disease, Medicare still stigmatizes obesity as a choice and denies access to the full continuum of care.

This is something we can change. Right now, there is legislation—The Treat and Reduce Obesity Act—that would modernize Medicare by providing access to anti-obesity medications and intensive behavioral therapy, thus expanding care to millions of Americans.

New data shows that the American people support Congressional action to expand access to coverage for obesity treatments. 70 percent of adults surveyed in a recent Morning Consult poll conducted on behalf of the Obesity Care Advocacy Network support expanding Medicare coverage for prevention and treatment of obesity in adults.

I urge all of Congress to join me in supporting the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act to begin to address our obesity epidemic in California and across the country.

NATIONAL PULSE MEMORIAL

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to oppose the out-of-control defense spending contained in this year's National Defense Authorization Act. At a topline level of $768.2, billion, this bill is larger than any previous pentagon spending bill. It's even bigger than what the President asked for by $25 billion.

This excess is particularly egregious when compared to the military spending of our potential adversaries. We spend more on the US military than the next eleven countries combined.

And all this funding is being poured into an agency that is perennially unaccountable to the American public. It has been 30 years since all federal agencies were required to pass audits. And after three decades the Department of Defense (DOD) remains the only agency in the federal government that has so far failed to pass an audit. The most recent prediction from the department for a clean audit is 2028.

Yet we see numerous examples of fraud, waste, and abuse from this department, from legacy weapons systems built for the cold war, to the billions in documented waste in Afghanistan.

The military has rightly identified the climate crisis as one of the biggest and most immediate threats to American lives and interests. And yet the Pentagon still hasn't fully reported on its own greenhouse gas emissions. And every excessive dollar spent on the Pentagon isn't available for the investments we need to make in mitigation and adaptation to protect us and the world from the impacts of climate change.

Especially frustrating to me about this bill is the fact that needed reforms to advance racial justice and combat extremism and white supremacy were excluded in the negotiations that produced this compromise legislation. Our military leaders have been clear about the need to address extremism within the ranks and provide equal justice for Black and Brown servicemen and women. By failing to address these issues adequately in this bill, we don't just let down our men and women in uniform, we let down the country and betray our ideals.

Enough is enough. Americans are demanding that Congress rebalance our priorities and invest in the biggest challenges America faces. We face imminent threats from the COVID pandemic, Climate Change, domestic terrorism, growing economic inequality, and systemic racial and ethnic inequities. It is time to shift our spending priorities to meet these urgent human security priorities. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

HONORING CPT. MITCH PHILLIPS

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of one of Missouri's finest, Captain Mitch Phillips, who is retiring after 28 years of dedicated service in the Cass County Sheriffs Office.

Cpt. Phillips started his career attending what is now known as the University of Central Missouri. While there, he discovered a call to serve and protect his community and decided to pursue a career in public service. Cpt. Phillips first joined the Garden City Police Department after graduating from the National Police Academy in Warrensburg, Missouri.

Shortly thereafter, Cpt. Phillips became acquainted with the deputies from the Cass County Sheriffs Office and knew that his call to service would lead him there. In August of 1993, Cpt. Phillips joined the Cass County Sheriffs Office as a Patrol Deputy. As a result of his hard work and demonstrated leadership capabilities, Cpt. Phillips quickly rose to the rank of Sergeant in November of 1995.

Cpt. Phillips has held various leadership positions within the Cass County Sheriffs Office and has cultivated an environment that promotes integrity, dedication, and excellence from all his officers. His unwavering, steadfast support for his brothers and sisters in uniform truly represents the values of Missouri.

As any of the men and women that wear the badge can tell you, service does not come without sacrifice. No officer bears the burdens alone. For more than 28 years, Cpt. Phillips put the safety and wellbeing of the citizens of Cass County above his own, with the support of his wife, Michele, his three children, who stood beside their husband and father throughout all the hardships that the nature of law enforcement placed before them. We owe them all a debt of gratitude.

His life verse, Mathew 7:12, is one we all should abide by—"So in everything, do unto others as you would have them do unto you . . ." Cpt. Phillips embodies all the qualities that make an excellent officer and public servant. Please join me in recognizing and honoring this heroic police officer and his years of self-less service to protecting our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. WELCH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 401. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on Roll Call No. 401.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, on December 8, 2021 my vote was mistakenly recorded as "NO" on H.R. 4996—the Ocean Shipping Reform Act, a bill that I was a proud co-sponsor of, despite my vote being correctly announced as "YES" by my proxy. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Roll Call No. 406.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I am recorded as not voting on Roll Call No. 412, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended H.R. 1155—Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. Had I been recorded, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 412.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE N. MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Numbers 436 through 440 on December 9, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 436; NAY on Roll Call No. 437; NAY on Roll Call No. 438; NAY on Roll Call No. 439; and YEA on Roll Call No. 440.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF EL COMERCIO DE COLORADO

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of El Comercio de Colorado for receiving 14 national journalism awards granted by the National Association of Hispanic Publications (NAHP).

In my time in Congress, I have been proud to represent the most diverse district in Colorado. With people from all walks of life and over 120,000 immigrants calling our community home, our diversity makes our community a stronger and more vibrant place to live.

As our district's Latino and Hispanic populations have grown, El Comercio de Colorado has offered high-quality Spanish-language content for our community. As the publication has gained recognition. Jesus Sanchez, chief editor of El Comercio de Colorado, has made it his mission to provide our Spanish-speaking community with a publication that provides well-sourced information about what is happening across our district and nation.

The hard work and dedication shown by Jesus and his staff at El Comercio de Colorado has more than paid off as the publication was awarded 14 national journalism awards by the NAHP, including five first place recognitions for Outstanding Entertainment Section, Outstanding Latin American Article, Outstanding Community Photo, Outstanding Cultural Photo Essay, and Outstanding Editorial Audio. These awards truly demonstrate the hard-earned trust El Comercio de Colorado has built within our community.

It goes without saying that the Latino and Hispanic communities in our district play an integral role in making the Sixth District a better

place to live. Publications like El Comercio de Colorado play a vital role in making our community feel like home for everyone—no matter their ethnicity, religion, or place of birth. Our community owes El Comercio de Colorado a debt of gratitude for their remarkable work and I congratulate them on receiving this well-deserved recognition.

HONORING THE CAREER OF STEVE RICHARDSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 13, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of hardworking public servant, Steve Richardson. After serving nearly 40 years with the Social Security Administration spanning three different field offices, Steve will head onto the next chapter of his life this on December 31st, 2021. Steve has dedicated his life to serving and informing the public, and his loss is a notable one for the Social Security Administration and the Boston region as a whole.

As a fellow native New Englander, Steve graduated from Northeastern in 1984 with a Bachelor's in Political Science. As someone who place strong value in an education, he also went on to obtain a Master's in Public Affairs from Boston's Emerson College in 1999. Equipped with an impressive Massachusetts education, Steve was destined to serve the public of Connecticut's neighboring state.

Before even completing his Bachelor's, he began with the Roxbury Social Security Administration's Field Office in 1982 as a claims representative, working to prove his professionalism and wealth of knowledge from the get-go. It was because of his experience and dedication to the public that he was able to expand his career with the Administration to the Roslindale and Chelsea field offices while wearing numerous hats including the additional roles of supervisor and regional public affairs specialist. He most recently transitioned to the role of regional communications director for the Boston regional office in 2018, where he has remained responsible for the coordination of the Administration's public activities in all six New England states.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet Steve and know of his work on all things related to Social Security. He has been an invaluable resource for my office and longtime Social Security caseworker Karen Weseliza, and has acted as a strong leader, creative teacher, and an excellent administrator to those who have worked with and for him. Even with Karen's sharp expertise, he could always be relied on as the first person to call on the hardest cases and could always be relied upon to assist my casework team with any complications. To that end, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Steve's life of hard work and congratulating him on a well-earned retirement.

EXTENSION OF COVERAGE OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND PAYMENTS TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5119, legislation that would extend availability of CARES Act funds provided to tribal governments through December 30, 2022.

Currently, CARES Act funds will expire on December 31, 2021, and tribes will be unable to use these vital resources. Although $8 billion was set aside for Tribes in the CARES Act to help respond to the coronavirus pandemic, they did not receive any funds until May 5, 2020, and some are still in the process of being distributed.

It is important to note that this legislation does not increase federal spending, rather it extends the timeline to use money already allocated.

After the CARES Act was signed into law, there was minimal guidance offered on what this funding could and could not be put towards, which led to an inadequate timeframe for Tribes to prepare an effective spending plan. A one-year extension will allow them the necessary time to best allocate these resources to their members without a rushed agenda.

Coronavirus Relief Funds have been put towards many essential services such as, improvements to health care, purchasing protective equipment, and distance learning programs.

Tribes used these funds in many different ways. Whether it was turning facilities into emergency operation centers or building meatpacking warehouses to help with the food supply crisis, they stepped up to provide for their members and community during the pandemic.

With the delayed allocations and limited guidance, tribes were put at an unfair advantage to begin with. This is why a December 31, 2022, extension of availability for CARES Act funds is necessary to allow tribes the time to effectively use these resources.

As Co-Chair of the Native American Caucus, I commend Vice Chair Young and Representative O'Halleran in introducing this legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on H.R. 5119.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 14, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 15

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine disaster recovery assistance, focusing on authorization of the Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery Program.

SD–538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider S. 46, to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, S. 3196, to enhance the policies, procedures, and training for midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, an original bill entitled, ''Omnibus Tourism Act'', S. 3309, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production, the nominations of Alan Davidson, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Jed David Kolko, of California, to be Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, and Viquar Ahmad, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary, and to be Chief Financial Officer, all of the Department of Commerce, and Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

SR–253

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Marc R. Stanley, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, Rashad Hussain, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), Thomas Barrett, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Erik D. Ramanathan, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Scott Miller, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein, and Jamie L. Harpootlian, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, all of the Department of State, Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other pending calendar business.

SD–106

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD–226

11:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 3099, to amend title 44, United States Code, to

establish the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program within the General Services Administration, S. 2932, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the ''Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building'', H.R. 767, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the ''Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building'', H.R. 1170, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the ''Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building'', H.R. 1444, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the ''Patsy Cline Post Office'', H.R. 3210, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the ''Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building'', and the nominations of Loren L. AliKhan, and John P. Howard III, both to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Adrienne Jennings Noti, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

SD–342

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SVC–217

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. airline industry.

SR–253

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine the impact of consolidation and monopoly power on American innovation.

SD–226

3 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 731, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the management of information technology projects and investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1607, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve how the Department of Veterans Affairs discloses to individuals entitled to educational assistance from the Department risks associated with using such assistance at particular educational institutions and to restore entitlement of students to such assistance who are pursuing programs of education at educational institutions that are subject to Federal or State civil enforcement action, S. 1664, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for disability compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder, S. 1850, to preserve the memorials to chaplains at Arlington National Cemetery, S. 1936, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of the time limitations for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, S. 1944, to improve Vet Centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2089, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that grants provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for State veterans' cemeteries do not restrict States from authorizing the interment of certain deceased members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in such cemeteries, S. 2431, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General, S. 2513, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the application and review process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for clothing allowance claims submitted by veterans, S. 2514, to rename the Provo Veterans Center in Orem, Utah, as the ''Col. Gail S. Halvorsen 'Candy Bomber' Veterans Center'', S. 2533, to improve mammography services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2624, to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2022, S. 2627, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve assistance for veterans with travel necessary for counseling, mental health services, health care, and others services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2644, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty, S. 2687, to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, S. 2720, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national clinical pathway for prostate cancer, S. 2761, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to maintain demographic information regarding veterans and publish such information on a website of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2787, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2794, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, S. 2852, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of care in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, S. 3025, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, S. 3094, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve homeless veterans reintegration programs, S. 3163, to improve access to medical examinations required by veterans to obtain disability compensation or pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 3293, to expand access of veterans to mental health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, an orignal bill entitled, ''Veterans Benefits Improvement Act'', and the nomination of Kurt D. DelBene, of Washington, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology).

SR–418

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD–106

DECEMBER 16

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Bridget Meehan Brennan, Charles Esque Fleming, and David Augustin Ruiz, each to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, John H. Chun, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, and Katherine Vidal, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

SH–216

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, Steven Scott Cliff, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and John Edward Putnam, of Colorado, to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Transportation.

SR–253

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on defending Ukraine and deterring Putin.

VTC

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S9101–S9126

Measures Introduced: Three bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3376–3378, and S. Res. 477. **Page S9123**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 1192, to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as ''PROMESA''), with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–48)

S. 2502, to provide first-time, low-level, nonviolent simple possession offenders an opportunity to expunge that conviction after successful completion of court-imposed probation. **Page S9123**

Measures Passed:

Methamphetamine Response Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 854, to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and the bill was then passed. **Page S9125**

Supplemental Impact Aid Flexibility Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 2959, to provide that, due to disruptions caused by COVID–19, applications for impact aid funding for fiscal year 2023 may use certain data submitted in the fiscal year 2022 application, and the bill was then passed. **Page S9125**

Capitol Police Emergency Assistance Act: Senate passed S. 3377, to empower the Chief of the United States Capitol Police to unilaterally request the assistance of the DC National Guard or Federal law enforcement agencies in emergencies without prior approval of the Capitol Police Board. **Pages S9125–26**

Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 477, expressing support for the designation of September 2021 as ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month'' in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease. **Page S9126**

Elliott Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Samantha D. Elliott, of New Hampshire, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire. **Pages S9101–15**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, December 14, 2021; provided further that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination ripen at 11 a.m., and that notwithstanding Rule XXII, if cloture is invoked, all post-cloture time be considered expired and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader following consultation with the Republican Leader; and that following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1605, to designate the National Pulse Memorial located at 1912 South Orange Avenue in Orlando, Florida. **Page S9126**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 50 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 494), Lucy Haeran Koh, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S9115**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

Alina L. Romanowski, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq.

Constance J. Milstein, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta.

Margaret C. Whitman, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya.

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

3 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army. **Page S9126**

Messages from the House: **Pages S9122–23**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S9123**

Executive Communications: **Page S9123**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S9123–24**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S9124–25**

Additional Statements: **Page S9122**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S9125**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—494) **Page S9115**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:31 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 14, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S9126.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 6245–6255; and 2 resolutions, H. Res. 846–847, were introduced. **Pages H7642–43**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H7643–44**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5665, to establish in the Department of State the Office to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–215);

H.R. 2043, to amend title 5, United States Code, to require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish and maintain a public directory of the individuals occupying Government policy and supporting positions, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–169, Part 1); and

Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Mark Randall Meadows in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol (H. Rept. 117–216). **Page H7642**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Butterfield to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7641**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Michael Wilker, Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Washington, DC. **Page H7641**

Senate Referrals: S. 610 was held at the desk. S. 2938 was held at the desk. S. 3294 was held at the desk. **Page H7641**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H7641.

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 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: On Friday, December 10, 2021, Full Committee concluded a markup on H. Con. Res. 59, condemning the October 25, 2021, military coup in Sudan and standing with the people of Sudan; H.R. 6140, the "Sudan Democracy Act"; H.R. 5665, the "Combating International Islamophobia Act"; H.R. 6089, the "Stop Iranian Drones Act"; H.R. 3988, the "Mental Health in International Development and Humanitarian Settings Act"; H. Res. 376, condemning Turkey for its occupation of Cyprus and encouraging President Biden to make the resolution of the Cyprus problem a top foreign policy priority; and H. Res. 831, calling on the United States Government to uphold the founding democratic principles of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and establish a Center for Democratic Resilience within the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. H. Con. Res. 59, H.R. 6140, H.R. 6089, and H.R. 3988 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 5655, H.

Res. 376, and H. Res. 831 were ordered reported, as amended.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee To Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol: Full Committee held a business meeting on a report recommending that the House of Representatives cite Mark Randall Meadows for criminal contempt of Congress and refer him to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia for prosecution under 2 U.S.C. §§ 192, 194. Report recommending that the House of Representatives cite Mark Randall Meadows for criminal contempt of Congress was approved.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine stablecoins, focusing on how they work, how they are used, and their risks, 10:15 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Donald Armin Blome, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Eric M. Garcetti, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of India, and Amy Gutmann, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–106/VTC.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, and Michele Taylor, of Georgia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council, both of the Department of State, Alice P. Albright, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Oren E. Whyche-Shaw, of Maryland, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank, Enoh T. Ebong, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency, Leopoldo Martinez Nucete, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, Maria Fabiana Jorge, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending nominations, 2:30 p.m., SD–G50/VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf, of North Carolina, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

House

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, hearing entitled ''A Global Crisis Needs a Global Solution: The Urgent Need to Accelerate Vaccinations Around the World'', 2 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 5665, the ''Combating International Islamophobia Act''; and a Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives Find Mark Randall Meadows in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, 9 a.m., H–313 Capitol.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 13 through December 17, 2021

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Samantha D. Elliott, of New Hampshire, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11 a.m., to be followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1605, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

Following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1605, Senate is expected to vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of a joint resolution to raise the debt limit.

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

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: December 14, to hold hearings to examine stablecoins, focusing on how they work, how they are used, and their risks, 10:15 a.m., SD–538.

December 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine disaster recovery assistance, focusing on authorization of the Community Development Block Grant—Disaster Recovery Program, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: December 15, business meeting to consider S. 46, to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 and to establish the United States Coral Reef Task Force, S. 3196, to enhance the policies, procedures, and training for midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, an original bill entitled, ''Omnibus Tourism Act'', S. 3309, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production, the nominations of Alan

Davidson, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Jed David Kolko, of California, to be Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, and Viquar Ahmad, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary, and to be Chief Financial Officer, all of the Department of Commerce, and Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 10 a.m., SR–253.

December 15, Full Committee, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. airline industry, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

December 16, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration, Steven Scott Cliff, of California, to be Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and John Edward Putnam, of Colorado, to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: December 14, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Donald Armin Blome, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Eric M. Garcetti, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of India, and Amy Gutmann, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–106/VTC.

December 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, and Michele Taylor, of Georgia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council, both of the Department of State, Alice P. Albright, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Executive Officer, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Oren E. Whyche-Shaw, of Maryland, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank, Enoh T. Ebong, of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency, Leopoldo Martinez Nucete, of Virginia, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, Maria Fabiana Jorge, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank, and other pending nominations, 2:30 p.m., SD–G50/VTC.

December 15, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Marc R. Stanley, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, Rashad Hussain, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), Thomas Barrett, of Wisconsin, to be Ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Erik D. Ramanathan, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Sweden, Scott Miller, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Principality of Liechtenstein, and Jamie L. Harpootlian, of South Carolina, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, all of the Department of State, Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD–106.

December 15, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business, 3:30 p.m., SD–106.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: December 14, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert McKinnon Califf, of North Carolina, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: December 15, business meeting to consider S. 3099, to amend title 44, United States Code, to establish the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program within the General Services Administration, S. 2932, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the ''Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building'', H.R. 767, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the ''Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building'', H.R. 1170, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the ''Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building'', H.R. 1444, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the ''Patsy Cline Post Office'', H.R. 3210, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1905 15th Street in Boulder, Colorado, as the ''Officer Eric H. Talley Post Office Building'', and the nominations of Loren L. AliKhan, and John P. Howard III, both to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, and Adrienne Jennings Noti, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 11:30 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: December 15, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–226.

December 15, Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine the impact of consolidation and monopoly power on American innovation, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

December 16, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Bridget Meehan Brennan, Charles Esque Fleming, and David Augustin Ruiz, each to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, John H. Chun, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, and Katherine Vidal, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 9 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: December 15, business meeting to consider S. 731, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the management of information technology projects and investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1607, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve how the Department of Veterans Affairs discloses to individuals entitled to educational assistance from the Department risks associated with using

such assistance at particular educational institutions and to restore entitlement of students to such assistance who are pursuing programs of education at educational institutions that are subject to Federal or State civil enforcement action, S. 1664, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions to improve the processing by the Department of Veterans Affairs of claims for disability compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder, S. 1850, to preserve the memorials to chaplains at Arlington National Cemetery, S. 1936, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of the time limitations for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, S. 1944, to improve Vet Centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2089, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that grants provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for State veterans' cemeteries do not restrict States from authorizing the interment of certain deceased members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in such cemeteries, S. 2431, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General, S. 2513, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the application and review process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for clothing allowance claims submitted by veterans, S. 2514, to rename the Provo Veterans Center in Orem, Utah, as the ''Col. Gail S. Halvorsen 'Candy Bomber' Veterans Center'', S. 2533, to improve mammography services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2624, to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2022, S. 2627, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve assistance for veterans with travel necessary for counseling, mental health services, health care, and others services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2644, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to members of the National Guard who perform certain full-time duty, S. 2687, to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, S. 2720, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national clinical pathway for prostate cancer, S. 2761, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to maintain demographic information regarding veterans and publish such information on a website of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2787, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2794, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, S. 2852, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of care in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, S. 3025, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, S. 3094, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve homeless veterans reintegration programs, S. 3163, to improve access to medical examinations required by veterans to obtain disability compensation or pension under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 3293, to expand access of veterans to mental health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, an orignal bill entitled, ''Veterans Benefits Improvement Act'', and the nomination of Kurt D. DelBene, of Washington, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Information and Technology), 3 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: December 15, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SVC–217.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Committee on House Administration, December 16, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Smithsonian Institution: Protecting Smithsonian Facilities and Collections Against Climate Change'', 12:30 p.m., Webex.

December 17, Subcommittee on Elections, hearing entitled ''Member Day'', 9 a.m., Webex.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: December 16, to receive a briefing on defending Ukraine and deterring Putin, 10 a.m., VTC.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Samantha D. Elliott, of New Hampshire, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Hampshire, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11 a.m., to be followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1605, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022.

Following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 1605, Senate is expected to vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of a joint resolution to raise the debt limit.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Tuesday, December 14

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Baird, James R., Ind., E1358
Barragán, Nanette Diaz, Calif., E1357
Cole, Tom, Okla., E1359
Courtney, Joe, Conn., E1359
Crow, Jason, Col., E1358
Hartzler, Vicky, Mo., E1358
Herrera Beutler, Jaime, Wash., E1357
Jacobs, Chris, N.Y., E1358
Lee, Barbara, Calif., E1358
Murphy, Stephanie N., Fla., E1358
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E1357
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E1357
Welch, Peter, Vt., E1358

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