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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, February 18, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, You are our heavenly parent, and we thank You for every expression of Your love.

Though we hear about war and rumors of war, You continue to deserve our ceaseless praise. We praise You that though wrong seems often so strong, You continue to rule Your universe. Lord, why can't nations learn to live together in peace?

Today, use our Senators for Your glory. Keep them mindful of Your presence, eager to do Your will, and loyal to the royal You have placed in every heart.

We pray in Your sovereign 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FURTHER ADDITIONAL EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING ACT—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6617, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 267, H.R. 6617, a bill making furthering continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Ms. ROSEN assumed the Chair.)

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

CRIME

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, for the first time in 12 years, an outright majority of Americans say crime has gotten worse in their area over the past year.

Many Democrats have spent the last year and a half trying to defund police, smear law enforcement, and go soft on crime. As a result, innocent citizens have spent a year and a half watching murders, carjackings, and other violent crimes literally skyrocket.

On Monday, in my hometown of Louisville, KY, we were stunned by what appears to have been an assassination attempt against a Jewish mayoral candidate by a prominent far-left activist who previously called for defunding our police department.

This far-left Black Lives Matter activist and defund-the-police cheerleader walked into a Jewish Democrat's campaign headquarters and opened fire.

Obviously, every aspect of this is still under investigation, including the suspect's mental condition. But guess what. He has already been let out of jail—already let out of jail.

A leftwing bail fund partnered with BLM Louisville to bail him out. Less than 48 hours after this activist tried to literally murder a politician, the radical left bailed their comrade out of jail.

This is just jaw-dropping. The innocent people of Louisville deserve better.

Since 2020, a long list of prominent corporations have donated or pledged enormous amounts of money to the radical nationwide BLM parent organization. One wonders if any of their corporate money helped spring this would-be assassin from jail.

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

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Now, I am confident that if an activist claiming to be conservative tried to assassinate a politician, whatever his mental state, the media would open a 24/7 national conversation about rhetoric on the right. Somehow, I doubt attempted murder by a BLM activist will get that same treatment. I doubt we will have a national conversation about the constant chorus of powerful voices calling our society evil.

I raise this double standard because it is not limited to media coverage. We have seen this extend into our legal system itself.

In May of 2020, when Minneapolis was engulfed in lawless riots, one rioter broke into a pawn shop and started a fire that burned it down. His act of arson actually killed somebody. But the Federal attorneys, who were supposed to represent the victim and the people, went out of their way to push for an unusually lenient sentence. They asked for the typical sentencing guideline to be cut in half. Why? Well, because, they wrote, the defendant was an angry political protester who simply lost his cool. They wrote, ''As anyone watching the news worldwide knows, many other people in Minnesota were similarly caught up''—as if that were an excuse. This is the sentencing memo from the prosecutors. It reads like it was ghostwritten by the defense. They even tried to quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to explain why this guy burned down a pawn shop. What a backward attitude.

We cannot have Federal officials acting like leftwing political violence is more acceptable than any other violence. If anything, political violence is uniquely unacceptable in a democratic republic.

Now, I placed a hold on President Biden's nominee to take over as U.S. attorney in Minnesota until he pledged he would keep political favoritism out of his prosecutions. Fortunately, he quickly said so in writing. He also knows Republicans will be watching.

The American people need public servants to crack down on crime and defend their safety—crack down on crime and defend their safety—less pandering to woke mobs; more protecting innocent families.

ENERGY

Madam President, now on an entirely different matter, Washington Democrats' inflation is slamming consumers with the highest prices in 40 years. One of the toughest blows has been the soaring cost of a trip to the gas pump. A gallon of regular costs a full dollar more today than it did a year ago.

So after triggering a historic run of inflation and hammering American producers with anti-energy policies designed to restrict supply, our Democratic colleagues are suddenly talking about gas prices. Here is their bold, creative plan: temporarily suspending the gas tax, to the tune of 18 cents—oh, and excluding diesel—a slap in the face to truckers and a further burden on the supply chain. Oh, and just to make the political games transparent, they want this to expire right after the midterms, as soon as the next Congress is sworn in.

Democrats want to blow a $20 billion hole in highway funding so they can try to mask the effects of their own liberal policies on working Americans. They have spent the entire year waging a holy war on affordable American energy, and now—now—they want to use a pile of taxpayers' money to literally hide the consequences.

As the senior Senator from West Virginia has pointed out, ''People want their bridges and their roads, and we have an infrastructure bill we just passed this summer, and they want to take all that away. It just doesn't make sense.''

He added that this half-baked proposal doesn't make any more sense than the President's pointless decision to take oil out of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve last year.

President Clinton's Treasury Secretary, Larry Summers, called this stunt ''short-sighted, ineffective, goofy and gimmicky.'' That is the Secretary of the Treasury in the Bill Clinton administration.

Back in 2008, then-Candidate Obama himself said this:

> We're arguing over a gimmick that would save you half a tank of gas over the course of the entire summer so that everyone in Washington can pat themselves on the back and say they did something. Well, let me tell you, this isn't an idea designed to get you through the summer—it's designed to get them through an election.

That is Barack Obama in 2008, and he was right.

Look, if Democrats actually want to help the American people fill their tanks, they wouldn't have been attacking American energy every way possible for the entire year. President Biden made killing the Keystone XL Pipeline his day 1 priority. Democrats voted in lockstep to endorse President Biden's ban on new energy exploration on Federal lands. At every turn, in every way, Democrats have made it harder to produce affordable and reliable American energy. Take any form of energy, and if people in San Francisco don't find it fashionable, the Biden administration has gone after it.

Three years ago, under Republican policies, the United States became a net exporter of oil for the first time in more than 70 years. From a sheer mathematical perspective, for the very first time since World War II, we were producing all that we needed and then some. Alas, a very different philosophy now controls Washington. In President Biden's first year, our own oil imports from Russia—from Russia—hit a new alltime high.

But as we speak, events in Eastern Europe are reminding the entire world that energy abundance is not just about families' pocketbooks; there is a colossal strategic cost when our Nation and our allies become economically dependent on countries that don't like us very much.

Some of our European allies have spent many years voluntarily winding down reliable sources like nuclear and coal and refusing to tap into their own considerable natural gas reserves via fracking. Instead, they gambled on less reliable sources and outsourced their perceived dirty work to places like Russia. Western European elites decided they wanted their energy production out of sight and out of mind, and Putin was all too happy to oblige them.

Even after Russia invaded Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014, Germany willingly signed up for Putin's Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. It would negate Ukraine's own pipelines and deny the money and leverage that Ukraine needs to keep Russia at bay, but Germany backed it. Meanwhile, Berlin put off building liquid natural gas terminals, instead choosing to rely on Russian gas and refusing to diversify its import options. I am hopeful the latest indications that Germany is reconsidering this will prove to be accurate.

The Biden administration is scrambling to connect our at-risk allies with some energy resources from everywhere else—everywhere else. But it should not have taken this latest Kremlin misbehavior to remind the West that self-sufficiency actually matters. It matters. And Democrats have still not flinched in their broader war against our own—our own—U.S. production.

Glitzy summits in Paris and finger-wagging climate rhetoric are one way to approach energy policy. Actually exploring and developing abundant, affordable, and reliable domestic energy is another approach, and that is the approach that will actually work.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

DOJ APPOINTMENTS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, most people would be stumped by the question I am about to ask, and that is, when it comes to the commission of crime, what is the largest criminal investigation in the history of the United States? The answer is January 6, 2021. Over 725 individuals have been charged with a Federal crime as a result of that insurrectionist mob that descended on the Capitol.

The reason I raise that is that we are going through regular—sometimes daily, sometimes weekly—lectures from Republicans about who is soft on crime, who is really on the side of the American people when it comes to defending their homes and their families.

I listen to this debate on a regular basis as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Every single nominee who comes from the Biden White House is subject to being challenged as to whether they are going to defund the police or whether they are soft on crime. Yet I have to say that it is hard to explain that these same Republicans asking these pointed questions to nominees are nowhere to be found when it comes to discussing January 6, 2021. In fact, many of them were cheerleaders and apologists for the very

demonstrators who came into this United States Capitol.

To think that a national political party like the Republican Party of the United States of America branded this insurrectionist mob and their attack on the Capitol as ''legitimate political discourse''—that was the official statement, the unanimous statement of the Republican Party.

Now, a few Republican Senators have dissented. Thank you. But why haven't more? Why won't they step up and say a crime is a crime? If over 700 people descended on this Capitol and are being charged with a crime, they should have to pay the price, whatever it happens to be, because this just wasn't some idle political exercise. At the end of the day, we had 6 people dead as a result of that insurrectionist mob, including law enforcement officers, and 140 law enforcement officers attacked during the course of that day. We all saw the videos. There are plenty of them.

Imagine, if you will, the so-called innocent, legitimate political discourse travelers to Washington just happened to bring bear spray with them so they could spray police in the face with a poisonous compound that could, in fact, harm them and did. Does that sound like a group of political tourists to you? It doesn't to me. These are violent individuals who are being called to task for having assaulted this Capitol, broken down the windows and the doors, came in here aping along these desks in the Chamber, forcing the Vice President of the United States and Senators who were there that day—and I was one of them—to exit by the backdoor for their lives. And here we have this ''We are not soft on crime'' message from Republicans who are making excuses, not to mention the former President, Donald Trump, who said that given the opportunity, he would pardon these demonstrators. It is no surprise in light of what he has done in the past.

But being lectured to regularly by the Republicans about who respects law enforcement and who is soft on crime—most of them cannot answer the basic question of what they would do when it comes to the January 6 demonstrators, and the answer they give is totally insufficient.

Madam President, you know personally, because you were here on the floor yesterday, that isn't all of it. I listen to all this talk about prosecutors doing their job, and I can't help but think what we went through yesterday on the floor of the U.S. Senate when the junior Senator from Arkansas, a Republican Senator, stood here and vainly tried to defend what he is doing.

Do you know what he is doing? You do personally. He is stopping the appointment of U.S. attorneys, Federal prosecutors, in State after State, and he is stopping the appointment of U.S. marshals who keep those courtrooms safe and the judges safe and transport prisoners and seek out fugitives. He is personally stopping them from being appointed in the ordinary course of business in the U.S. Senate.

You have to ask yourself why. There must be a problem with their qualifications. No. There is not a single question being asked about the qualifications of these individuals.

Mr. Frierson in the State of Nevada, a person whom you and Senator CORTEZ MASTO described on the floor yesterday who would be the U.S. attorney there, clearly is well qualified for that position. The same is true in Illinois.

Our choice, Senator DUCKWORTH's and my choice for the U.S. marshal to serve in the Northern District of Illinois, is an individual with 30 years—30 years—of law enforcement experience, a chief of police in one of the larger suburbs in the city of Chicago.

Do we need the U.S. Marshal's Office to be reinvigorated and dedicated to its purpose? Of course we do. It wasn't that many years ago when the family of one of our highly respected Federal judges was literally murdered in their home by a deranged individual who didn't care for the way he was treated by that judge. It is a very real question of personal safety. Yet one Republican Senator from Arkansas is stopping the appointments of these U.S. attorneys and U.S. marshals to execute the laws of the land.

Don't tell me you respect law enforcement, and don't tell me you want to fight crime and then turn around and tie the hands of the Department of Justice, keeping U.S. attorneys off the job and U.S. marshals away from their responsibilities. That is the reality.

If we are going to get serious about fighting crime—and I believe we should—it is all hands on deck. Every Federal law enforcement official should be doing their part. They cannot do their part when the junior Senator from Arkansas stops us from even approving their appointments to these positions. These appointments remain vacant, and we pay a price for it.

When we receive lectures from the minority leader or from others on the floor about respect for law and law enforcement, I would say he ought to start with his own caucus. He ought to call in the junior Senator from Arkansas and say: Enough. You are stepping on our message. We are trying to show that we are for law and order, and you are stopping the appointment of U.S. attorneys and U.S. marshals who are dedicated to that purpose and risk their lives to do so.

That is not consistent with good law enforcement or sound law and order as far as I am concerned.

(Mr. BOOKER assumed the Chair.)

Let me conclude by saying that the nominees who come before the Senate for these judicial positions are a wide variety of individuals with amazing backgrounds—incredible backgrounds—and who are consistently rated unanimously ''well qualified'' by the American Bar Association. It is true that some of them used to sit at the other table in the criminal courtrooms, not at the prosecutor's table, but there is nothing wrong with some balance on the court, making sure that we have all points of view considered and certainly, above all, the law considered.

We hear, from time to time, compelling anecdotes, such as the one given by the minority leader related to Louisville, KY. I am not familiar with the details. But if we are serious about making America safer, we need to pull together on a bipartisan basis. We need to approve President Biden's budget, which provides more resources for law enforcement but also more resources for violence intervention.

The Presiding Officer knows personally, as mayor of a large city in New Jersey, that we can't arrest our way out of the crime problem in America. Certainly, we should pursue law enforcement measures and responses when necessary and apply the law without question, but it takes more than that. If we are going to reach into the communities around America and try to stop this violence before it occurs, then we have to look at other approaches.

I am happy to report that last week we announced the introduction of the Violence Against Women Act. This is a measure which, for 3 years, we have been trying to find common ground. We did it. We finally did it.

I want to salute Senator FEINSTEIN as the lead Democratic sponsor. I was happy to join her.

I also want to salute Senators LISA MURKOWSKI and JONI ERNST, from Alaska and Iowa, respectively. They have done such extraordinary work in putting together a bill.

You say to yourself: How does this fit in with violence against women, the question of crime in America?

Well, I can tell you—the Presiding Officer knows this personally, and it is worth repeating—that I went to the juvenile facility in Cook County years ago and said: Who are these teenagers who came to the Earth in the usual way and then turned to gangs and guns and killing wantonly? What happened to these kids along the way?

Well, there are plenty of reasons and issues related to mental health, but one of the things that was compelling was the observation that over 90 percent of them had been victims of trauma. Trauma comes in many forms, not just physical trauma but to witness trauma on another person or to be a victim yourself, to have a home where there is no support, no encouragement, and no values being taught. Those kids are the ones who end up, many times, in these predicaments.

What can we do about it?

Well, we can probably arrest them after the crime has been committed, but that really doesn't solve the problem. We have got to do what we can to intervene in their lives at a stage when they can be saved. I don't believe that

everyone can be saved, but I do fundamentally believe in redemption and in our responsibility to engage in it.

That is why this Violence Against Women Act is so important. If we can reach into a home where physical or mental abuse has taken place of a spouse or the children and give that person, first, a caring heart—someone who will listen and hear them out—and then advise them on what to do to keep themselves safe and keep their kids safe and what to do in relation to law enforcement, that is a positive move toward taking violence out of that family and out of America.

So I hope that when we talk about this whole issue of a safer America, which we all aspire to, we do it in a balanced way; that we talk about effective prosecution by members of law enforcement who are playing by the rules and that we also realize it takes more than that. We need an investment in the communities to make a difference. President Biden knows that. He included it in this year's budget and will again in next year's budget. We ought to be standing up and supporting that as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AGRICULTURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, farming and ranching are the lifeblood of my home State and a way of life for many South Dakotans, and advocating for farmers and ranchers is one of my top priorities here in Congress.

As a longtime member of the Senate's Agriculture Committee, I have been able to help shape multiple farm bills and make sure that South Dakota's agriculture producers' voices are heard here in Washington.

Lately, I have been hearing a lot of reports from South Dakota's producers and ag exporters about ocean carriers refusing to transport American agricultural products. This is, obviously, a major concern for farmers and ranchers, who are already struggling with the burden of inflation and high input costs and who rely on exports for part of their livelihoods, which is why I recently introduced bipartisan legislation to address violations of free and fair competition in shipping and to create a more level playing field for American producers.

Our bill gives the Federal Maritime Commission greater authority to respond to discriminatory ocean carrier practices, and it provides the FMC with the tools to more quickly resolve detention and demurrage disputes.

This legislation will bring greater efficiency and transparency to a process that leaves many shippers frustrated and will bring long-term positive changes to the maritime supply chain, which, I hope, will benefit ag exporters, importers, and consumers alike.

Another one of my priorities lately has been to address the Biden administration's proposed Waters of the United States, or WOTUS, rule. WOTUS concerns which water features are regulated at the Federal level.

Now, generally, the Clean Water Act only calls for navigable waters to be regulated at the Federal level, which are things like rivers and streams that connect to larger bodies of water. But, like President Obama before him, President Biden is trying to expand Federal jurisdiction to regulate things like ditches, prairie potholes, and streams that only flow when it rains. Needless to say, this would subject nearly every corner of South Dakota to this DC land grab.

Farmers and ranchers could be subjected to the time-consuming process of having each and every pothole and ditch examined by Federal regulators, and they could face massive fines should they run afoul of DC regulators looking to halt everyday farming and ranching practices. Those fines can be $25,000 a day. That is not acceptable.

Any WOTUS rule that is going to work for farmers and ranchers has to include categorical exclusions for features like ditches, prairie potholes, and stock ponds, which is why I recently led the entire Senate Republican conference in writing to the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Biden administration's proposed WOTUS rule. We urged the administration to suspend its WOTUS rulemaking until the Supreme Court rules on the Clean Water Act case it is currently considering, which would effectively invalidate the Biden WOTUS regulations.

Implementing the WOTUS rule now, when it could be overturned in the near future, would subject farmers and ranchers to an unacceptable level of uncertainty as they plan for the upcoming planting season. It is very likely that the Supreme Court will force the administration to go back to the drawing board, which would, hopefully, result in a less intrusive and more workable rule that won't subject farmers and ranchers to even more Washington redtape.

As a supporter of South Dakota and our Nation's corn and soybean farmers—and as a supporter of clean energy—I have long championed the clean energy potential of biofuels. The EPA's renewable fuel standard, which requires that a minimum volume of renewable fuel be sold in the United States each year, is a significant tool for reducing the carbon footprint of our transportation sector.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration has shown a willingness to undermine the blending targets set by the renewable fuel standard, going as far as a proposal to retroactively reduce the 2020 renewable volume obligation, which had already been finalized.

The Biden EPA tried to suggest that these cuts would be made up for with higher 2022 blending targets, but with a new precedent, there would be nothing to stop the administration from again caving to oil refiners and retroactively reducing volume obligations in the future.

That is why I recently joined a bipartisan group of my colleagues in urging the EPA to prioritize the renewable fuel standard by maintaining the increased blending requirements for 2022, denying all pending small refinery exemptions, eliminating proposed retroactive cuts to the 2020 renewable volume obligations, and setting 2021 renewable fuel standard volumes at the statutory levels.

Unfortunately, the administration remains almost singularly focused on electric vehicles rather than on the readily available and proven clean energy contributions of biofuels. Ethanol, biodiesel, and now sustainable aviation fuel can drive down emissions and help reduce our demand for oil—an important consideration given soaring gas prices and the fact that this administration is forcing us to rely more on foreign oil production.

Now, currently, some of my colleagues are promoting a report that was conveniently issued right before yesterday's EPW Committee hearing on the renewable fuel standard. My colleagues, who rarely pass on an opportunity to malign biofuels, say the report undercuts the growing body of research that says biofuels cut emissions by as much as 46 percent or more compared to gasoline.

To this, I will say that if you are concerned about accurate accounting of biofuel emissions, I invite you to cosponsor my bill, the bipartisan Adopt GREET Act. This bill would require the EPA to update its greenhouse gas modeling for ethanol and biodiesel by using the Department of Energy's GREET model. Let's put energy technologies head-to-head. I call on the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee to mark up my bipartisan bill.

Biofuels also provide a highly important market for corn and soybean farmers whose crops and their byproducts go into biofuel production. And it is incredibly unfortunate that the administration continues to overlook the clean energy potential of biofuels and the associated benefits for our Nation's farmers.

I sent two letters to President Biden with a number of my colleagues seeking a meeting to discuss all the ways biofuels could complement his agenda and noting the bipartisan support for ethanol and biodiesel. Unfortunately, it quickly became clear that the President and his administration had little interest in the proven clean energy potential of biofuels. But I will continue to do everything I can here in Washington to promote this clean energy resource and to expand opportunities for South Dakota producers.

No matter the season, South Dakota farmers and ranchers will always be one of my top priorities here in Washington. I continue to work to help farmers and ranchers deal with the challenges of inflation, which are hitting our farm communities hard, and I continue to press the administration to ensure that the meatpacking industry is held accountable for any unfair practices.

Whatever the challenges—and in the farming life, there are always many—our Nation's farmers and ranchers keep pushing forward to feed our Nation and the world, and I will continue to do all that I can to ensure that they have the resources that they need to carry out that mission.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I want to begin my remarks today with a few words to specifically urge American seniors and the immunocompromised to continue to protect themselves against COVID–19 by ensuring that you are fully vaccinated, including a booster shot and by wearing a high-quality mask.

As States around the country begin to unwind mask and vaccine mandates, I implore America's seniors to remain vigilant against this virus. First, get boosted. The vaccine is the most powerful tool we have to protect yourself against COVID–19 infection. We know that the vaccine continues to be highly effective at preventing serious illness and death from COVID–19, but we also know that thousands of Americans have died from breakthrough cases of COVID–19, and the vast majority are over the age of 60.

In Massachusetts alone, 2,200 vaccinated individuals have died of COVID–19, and more than 93 percent of those deaths were over the age of 60. We are 2 percent of America's population. So you can multiply that 2,000 to get an idea as to what has happened with people who are ''fully vaccinated'' but who are older and who still contract the coronavirus.

So we have to just make sure that everyone gets this message straight. For many Americans, they are going to be told: You don't have to wear masks. But for many others there has to be a strong message: You should continue to wear your mask to protect yourself.

And although I have called upon the CDC to track and share this data about the deaths over the age of 60, they just haven't done so. So if we extrapolate the Massachusetts number, there may very well have been already over 100,000 Americans—overwhelmingly, seniors—who have died, despite the fact that they have received two shots of the vaccine. So let's just make sure that we deliver that message correctly. Keep your mask on.

This is a very good mask. There are KF94s. We have a very good N95 mask here that is absolutely certified by NIOSH. But many of these other masks that people are wearing just aren't going to give you the protection, which you need, so we need a strong message that goes out to seniors especially but to anyone who is immunocompromised and to children who have not been vaccinated. When this ''You can take off your mask'' era begins, let's just understand that there are going to be very many vulnerable people out there.

So from my perspective, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has also reported that the unvaccinated seniors were 90 times more likely to die of COVID–19 than those who received the vaccine booster. But I will say it again: If you haven't already, get vaccinated and get a booster.

An average of 2,300 people died from COVID nationwide in the past week per day—overwhelmingly, people over the age of 60—and each death is a tragedy for their families or their communities. They are our grandmothers, our grandfathers, our parents, our veterans who fought for democracy. They are irreplaceable members of our lives, and we have already lost too many to COVID–19.

But we have a powerful way to help, and that is to wear a mask. Again, if you put on these masks—here is a KF94—this will give you most of the protection you need. But please do not take it off because everyone else is indoors now saying the mask mandate indoors is off—not if you are in this vulnerable category. It should not be. Understand that the risk is still there.

Here is the second point. I am urging you to continue to protect yourself, wear a high-quality mask. The CDC updated in January its masking guidance to recommend that the general public and especially seniors and those who are immunocompromised use higher quality masks, like the N95s, the KF94s, and the KN95s. We are seeing welcome decreases in rates of new infections right now, but these populations are still the most vulnerable to COVID. Just because younger people may be using their masks less, it does not mean that those at higher risk should stop being vigilant. Continue to use a high-quality mask to protect yourself when you are indoors and around others.

Getting a high-quality mask should be an easy thing to do, but with less-than-robust information, sometimes limited supplies, and a lot of counterfeits abounding, it has been harder than it should be for consumers to stay educated and protected. That is why I am pleased to see the Biden administration distribute 400 million nonsurgical N95 masks from the Strategic National Stockpile to the public. The masks are available at retail pharmacies and community health centers, so go get one. Ask a friend or a family member to bring one to you.

Make sure you are wearing a protective mask. Understand that surgical masks give you less protection. A cloth mask gives you much less protection. Just understand that, especially if you are in a vulnerable category.

I want to say this over and over again. If you are over 60, you are in that category, so just protect yourself. That small item can be what it is that protects you and your family members.

Just make sure the masks we use are the best, the most accessible, the most affordable, and the most reliable that they can be. It is not always convenient, but we need to continue to protect ourselves. I urge those Americans over the age of 60 and those who are immunocompromised to continue to mask up.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, now I would just like to move on quickly to a different topic.

As we watch President Putin amass tens of thousands of soldiers on the border of Ukraine, we must confront the fuel that powers this show of military might—specifically, fossil fuels.

Our global addiction to oil and natural gas from Russia and from Saudi Arabia keeps us locked into dangerous cycles of conflict and corruption, but we have a way out. We can build a pathway to a more prosperous future, a more peaceful future. We can build cities powered by cheap, clean electricity, build all-electric vehicles for our roads, and build homes that are healthier and more energy efficient than ever before.

By putting 25 million new electric vehicles on our roads, we can stop all oil imports from Russia and Saudi Arabia into the United States of America. That is 25 million all-electric vehicles. That is a direct message to the business model of Russia and of Saudi Arabia. That is the U.S. Congress passing legislation that propels the all-electric vehicle revolution here and sets a model for the rest of the country.

But rather than invest in that clean, affordable, healthy future, our country and the global economy are being held hostage by the American Petroleum Institute and their Big Oil buddies. Rather than supporting energy policies that secure our independence and our future, Big Oil pushes policies that secure their profit margins. At the same time that we get crocodile tears from Republicans over American fossil fuel leases, those same leases are feeding the American Petroleum Institute and not the United States of America.

In 2021, we exported one out of every four barrels of oil we produced, and we are exporting them abroad because in 2015, the Republicans voted to end the decades-long oil export ban in the United States. It was the Republican votes that put company profits over consumer protections and climate policies. So our energy prices rose at home while we were left to deal with the

health and climate crisis created in this rush to export and profit. At the same time, we continued to import Russian and Saudi oil. That is what we are doing right now—propping up those regimes and supporting their financial reserves.

The journey to energy independence simply does not run on fossil fuels. How does it run? It runs on solar; on wind; on battery storage; on clean, zero-carbon energy; on a clean energy future for our country. We can reimagine a future that is free from fossil fuel conflict. We can reimagine a future powered by the light of the Sun, not by oil controlled by the barrel of a gun. We can tell Russia we don't need their oil any more than we need their caviar. That is a message we can send by passing legislation that unleashes this clean energy revolution. We can reimagine a future where American ingenuity, manufacturing, and jobs drive our allies forward into a global clean energy revolution.

This future isn't far off beyond the horizon. It is right in front of us, and it is already putting Americans to work and keeping lights on across this country.

In 2010, we had 1 million jobs in solar, wind, and energy efficiency. By 2020, that more than doubled to more than 2 million jobs. Now we have all of those millions of workers out there, and we can double it again and double it again. We can create millions of new clean energy jobs for millions of Americans across this country.

In 2008, we only had 26,000 megawatts of solar. Today, we have upwards of 264,000 megawatts of solar and wind capacity combined on our grid.

The electric vehicle revolution is already on its way. Automakers are pledging to produce 40 million new electric vehicles just in the United States. That is 2 million barrels of oil that are out of our system forever that we don't need. That is the oil from Russia that we import today. That is the oil we import today from Saudi Arabia. That is what we have to do in our country. To put that in context, just 10 years ago, there were only 73,000 electric vehicles sold all year in the United States.

We can do this. Our opportunity is great. We have a chance to use the Build Back Better bill to send a message: We are going to save money, save energy, save industrial communities, save all of us from a world made unstable through fossil fuel creating crisis after crisis on this planet.

This is the power of the American-led clean energy revolution. Looking at the alternative, with troops paid by fossil fuel money on the border of Ukraine, I know what kind of future I want and I think the American people want to fight for.

We have to destroy the business model of Russia and Middle Eastern countries that have been sources of problems for American national security for more than a generation. That is the opportunity we are all presented with right now. That is why Build Back Better—that is why President Biden's vision of wind and solar, all-electric vehicles, battery-storage technologies, and clean energy technologies by the millions being deployed in our country, will create millions of new jobs, reduce greenhouse gases, and improve our national security.

This is the healthcare, the environmental, the national security, and the moral issue of our time. If we haven't learned another lesson from Ukraine, it should be that the time is now for us to act so that 10 years from now, the next generation of young Americans can look back and say we did act, we did destroy that business model.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO SHANNON HINES

Mr. SHELBY. Thank you, Mr. President. You are being very kind today.

Today, I rise to pay tribute to a longtime, vital member of my staff, Shannon Hines. There aren't many in the Senate who don't know Shannon or know of Shannon. Her sterling reputation precedes her, as it should.

Shannon has been one of the most valuable members of my staff throughout my career. Those who know her are aware of her resounding work ethic, having spent countless late nights right here in the Senate and long weekends at the office. Not only has she been a trusted asset to me, but she has proved to be essential in our work here in the Senate to fund the government and our Nation's defense during my time in leadership on the Appropriations Committee.

Having grown up in North Carolina, Shannon is a proud graduate of Wake Forest University. She began her career on Capitol Hill as a staff assistant to freshman Representative Fred Heineman of North Carolina and then worked as a legislative assistant to Representative Lamar Smith of Texas.

I first met Shannon in 1999 when she applied for a job in the Senate with my staff. She joined my staff after experience in the House as a legislative assistant.

Shannon has served in many important roles on my senior staff, including my legislative director, which is a very important post, as the Presiding Officer knows; as chief of staff, which is an even more important post; senior policy adviser for the Senate Banking Committee when I was chairman of the Banking Committee; staff director of the Senate Rules Committee when I was chairman of the Rules Committee; and staff director of the Senate Appropriations Committee and its Defense Subcommittee.

Notably, she is, as you would know, the first female staff director for the full Senate Appropriations Committee—first female staff director of the Senate Appropriations Committee—something she was humbly unaware of until it was mentioned by a former colleague.

When I first took over as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee a number of years back, Shannon was able to lead the committee in moving the most appropriations bills, with the help of everybody in the Senate, in 22 years in a bipartisan way. By the end of the fiscal year, 75 percent of the government was funded on time and through an open, bipartisan way. The Presiding Officer will remember; he was part of that.

Shannon's 27 years of service on Capitol Hill deserve the utmost recognition and praise, not just by me but I think a lot of us. She has earned my respect and the respect of countless others. I admire her for her valued commitment to her work and unending determination to get the job done.

Although I am sad to see her go, I remain grateful for her diligence, hard work, and guidance over the years. I wish Shannon all the best as she prepares for a new phase in her remarkable career in the private sector.

I can say without question that I would not have been able to accomplish what we have been able to do on the Appropriations Committee without her.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CHINA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, since coming to the U.S. Senate over 3 years ago, I have regularly spoken about the dangers presented by communist China.

Last month, outside the Kennedy Caucus Room, I was joined by a group of pro-democracy activists from Hong Kong and advocates speaking out against the genocide in the Uighur homeland.

This month, as the Olympic Games have gone on in Beijing, we have seen the dangers that our athletes have faced. Athletes who have tested positive for COVID have been taken away by Chinese authorities, where they have been improperly fed. The FBI urged Team USA to leave their personal phones at home for fear of being surveilled by the Chinese Government and impacted by Chinese hackers.

Of course, we saw the dangers athletes face in communist China several months ago in the case of tennis star Peng Shuai. Peng is one of the most recognizable Chinese athletes. She is a three-time Olympian and was ranked the No. 1 doubles player in 2014 by the World Women's Tennis Association. She has won championships at Wimbledon and the French Open and has represented her country at the highest levels of tennis competition.

In November, when she shared her story of sexual abuse by a former Vice Premier of the Chinese Communist Party on social media, it rightfully caught the world's attention. Communist China's reaction to these disturbing allegations have shocked us all and completely verified all our fears.

Instead of taking Peng Shuai's claims seriously and investigating these allegations, the communist Chinese Government followed its authoritarian playbook: silence, deflect, and cover up. General Secretary Xi and his communist thugs are so thin-skinned, weak, and intolerant of any questioning of their conduct that the government immediately silenced and disappeared Peng.

People around the world asked on social media: ''Where is Peng?'' Chinese state media released what it said was an email from Peng to the Women's Tennis Association contradicting her previous allegations. It read like a hostage note and only raised more concerns as to her whereabouts and safety. Then Beijing shared a couple of videos of Peng at various structured public events and staged several video calls with the International Olympic Committee. The IOC didn't ask about her disappearance; they didn't ask about her allegations of abuse. And in the months since, the IOC has worked hand-in-hand with communist China to cover up Peng's allegations.

In the days after the Olympic opening ceremony, the IOC worked with Chinese officials to publish a highly controlled interview of Peng in a French sports magazine. In answers that were translated by a Chinese official, Peng announced her retirement from professional tennis and denied the previous claim she was assaulted. It was disturbing. And the fact that the IOC helped coordinate the interview shows Thomas Bach is willing to prioritize his relationship with communist China over the safety of athletes.

Compare their response to the World Tennis Association. At the beginning of December, the WTA announced it would be suspending all its tournaments in communist China until it was clear that Peng Shuai was safe and in good health and until there was a completely transparent investigation into her allegations of assault. It is a stark contrast between two organizations meant to protect the athletes—one aiding in the censorship and oppression of athletes, while the other does the right thing.

And now, you have a well-known pundit representing the Chinese Communist Party spouting gross and demeaning comments about Peng. On ''60 Minutes Australia,'' Victor Gao, the vice president for the Center for China and Globalization and former translator for Deng Xiaoping, argued Peng could not have been assaulted because she is strong and athletic, so she should be able to defend herself. Can you imagine even saying that? The Chinese Communist Party is saying that there is no way Peng could have been assaulted, so you better stop talking about this issue.

Well, I am not going to stop talking about this issue, and I am not going to let comments like that slide by. That is why I have introduced a bipartisan resolution with my colleague from Virginia rebuking the IOC for its failure to clearly and forcefully challenge the Party's claims about Peng Shuai's safety. The same resolution was unanimously adopted by the House of Representatives in December, and it is crucial that the Senate do the same.

My colleague from Virginia, Senator WARNER, is joining me to lead this resolution, along with 14 of our colleagues from both sides of the aisle. I am glad that my colleague from New Jersey, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has committed to mark up and favorably report this important resolution in the committee next month. I look forward to seeing its passage there and swiftly bringing it to the floor.

The United States is the leading voice of freedom and democracy around the world. We cannot tolerate this kind of behavior. Today, my colleagues and I are standing together for human rights.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded the call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 599 and Calendar No. 693; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I object, and will submit a statement for the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KING. Senator, are you up for a question? Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. President, I would like to direct a question through the Chair to the Senator from Indiana and ask the reason for his objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Missouri yield?

Mr. KING. Mr. President, do I get a response from the Senator from Indiana?

Mr. President, we have two qualified nominees, reported out on a bipartisan basis by the Armed Services Committee at a moment of heightened international tension.

The Senator from Missouri—I said Indiana—I say the Senator from Missouri objected with no reason whatsoever. I asked him for his reasoning, and he did not respond; he walked out of the room.

I don't understand such an irresponsible action. This is a matter of national security. We have no reason for this objection. I understand that he is objecting to all nominees at the Department of Defense because he is upset about accountability for the withdrawal from Afghanistan.

We have taken action to deal with that question. In the National Defense Authorization Act that we just passed, there was a Commission created expressly to examine the issue of Afghanistan—how we got in, why we got in, what we did, how we left—on a bipartisan basis. I believe that was reported out by the committee unanimously in the National Defense Authorization Act after the committee's markup. So that is accountability.

In addition, the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, which I also serve on, had at least 10—I think it was more like a dozen—hearings on the withdrawal from Afghanistan in the latter part of 2021, before the end of the year—a dozen hearings.

I was going to ask the Senator from Missouri how many hearings were held when he was a member of the Armed Services Committee and his party was in charge of the committee, how many hearings were held on President Trump's agreement to leave Afghanistan in Doha in February of 2020. That was the decision that led to President Biden effectuating the treaty—not the treaty but the agreement that the Trump administration had made with the Taliban that led to the evacuation of Americans and American troops from Afghanistan.

You know how many hearings were held by the Armed Services Committee on the Doha agreement, which was effectively guaranteeing we would leave Afghanistan with some minor conditions? Zero. Zero. Talk about accountability. There were no hearings or discussion in the committee that I can recall of the Doha agreement, where the Trump administration agreed with the Taliban that we would leave by May 1 of 2021, as long as the Taliban didn't attack our troops.

And now the Senator from Missouri is holding up nominees because of some—he doesn't like the way the evacuation occurred or he wants more questions from the Secretary of Defense.

We had hearings over and over. And what is going on here is a compromise

of national security because the Senator from Missouri has questions that, I guess, haven't been answered, although I believe he was at those hearings, had the opportunity to examine and cross-examine the Secretary of Defense and other officials of the Biden administration.

But here we are, at a moment of national tension—and that is putting it mildly—with nominees who are in charge of space and readiness. The Senator from Missouri today blocked consideration and confirmation of an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and for Space, two areas of critical national concern, for reasons that he wouldn't say. He walked out of the room. He walked out of the room. That is not accountability.

If you are going to do something that endangers national defense and block nominees who have been reported out by the committee on a bipartisan basis, accountability is standing in this room and telling the American people why he is doing it. Accountability means being responsible for your actions, not saying ''I object'' and then walking out, and that is what happened just now on this floor. I have never seen anything like it.

These are well-qualified nominations, reported out by the committee on a bipartisan basis, and we need them in these jobs. We need them now, today, in these jobs, and now that is not going to be possible because one Senator, for reasons that he refused to explain or expand upon, objected. That is not responsible. That is not responsible. That is endangering national security.

And to do so without any explanation is just, I believe, not appropriate for a Member of this body.

So we will renew these requests at a later date and hope that the Senator will have thought better of this action and allow these nominations to go forward as requested by a bipartisan majority of the Armed Services Committee.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, it is now February. It has been nearly 6 months since the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Thirteen servicemembers lost their lives in the attack on Abbey Gate, along with hundreds of civilians. As a result of the botched evacuation operation, hundreds, if not thousands, of American civilians were left behind to the enemy.

We hear from our friends on the other side of the aisle that my insistence that we actually vote on nominees is unprecedented. I would humbly suggest that the crisis into which this President has led this country is unprecedented. In my lifetime, it is unprecedented.

And who has been held accountable for this disaster? No one. Who has the President fired? Who has offered their resignation? Which of the planners at the Department of State or the Department of Defense or the National Security Council have been relieved of duty? No one.

Until there is accountability, I am going to ask that the Senate do the simple task of its job, which is to actually vote on these nominees. The least we could do is observe regular order and vote on these leadership positions at the Department of State and at the Department of Defense.

My colleagues say that we have got to put national security first. I agree with them about that. But I believe that begins at the top, with the President of the United States and the leadership of the Department of Defense and the Department of State. I, for one, am not going to stand by and look the other way while this administration systematically endangers our national security, imperils the American people, and watches the sacrifice of our soldiers go by without any accountability, without any change in direction.

Accountability for the Afghanistan disaster is all the more urgent given new revelations from the U.S. Central Command investigation of the Abbey Gate bombing. The investigative report makes clear that the administration had ample warning prior to mid-August that Kabul could collapse rapidly in the face of the Taliban's offensive. It shows further how the administration refused to acknowledge those warnings and act in a timely manner to prepare for Kabul's fall. And it shows in astounding detail just how chaotic the final evacuation effort was, with U.S. servicemembers often left without clear guidance, the State Department constantly missing in action, and the administration itself intent only on evacuating as many people as possible, regardless of whether those individuals were eligible for evacuation or might pose a threat to America's own security.

I am not willing to look the other way and just pretend that Afghanistan didn't happen, which seems to be the posture that many in this body have adopted. I am not willing to do that. I can't do that because I promised the parents of the fallen that I wouldn't do that.

I am going to discharge my responsibility. And as long as it takes, I will continue to draw attention to what happened at Abbey Gate and to demand accountability for the disaster that this administration has pushed upon this country and upon the people of my State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

H.R. 6617

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I had just spoken about this, but it is imperative that we take up and pass H.R. 6617; that is the Further Additional Extending Government Funding Act. Of course, we call it the CR.

I say this because the bill will keep the Federal Government funded and fully operating through March 11, while we work out and are working out the details of full-year appropriations bills to meet the needs of the American people.

And I want to compliment the Appropriations Committee staff who have been meeting with me and others weekends, evenings, for weeks and months now, actually, to get this done.

In a few moments we will vote to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the continuing resolution. As chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I strongly urge all Members, Republicans and Democrats alike, to vote aye.

A government shutdown would be useless, senseless. Imagine how that would look to the Russians?

I am pleased to report that last week the four corners of the Senate House Appropriations Committee reached a framework agreement that will allow us to negotiate an omnibus appropriations bill. And that framework was the result of weeks of careful negotiations between myself, Vice Chairman SHELBY, Chair DELAURO and Ranking Member GRANGER, and I want to thank them. I especially want to thank all their staffs who worked late nights and weekends that it took us to get to this point.

I don't know how many nights I probably turned in about 11 o'clock at night and I still was getting emails from them working on this.

Now, it is like any compromise. I have been here 48 years. I know you have to work these things out. I don't believe any of us walked away from these negotiations with everything we wanted. There is still much work to do. But on the good part, this framework sets the stage for us to make significant investments to the American people and communities across our country.

It provides the biggest increase in nondefense programs in 4 years. Under this framework, we can direct new resources. We can improve healthcare in rural communities. We can expand the middle class. We can protect our national security. And we look forward to presenting our final agreement to Members to review in the coming weeks.

But by passing this continuing resolution, we remove the unnecessary threat of yet another government shutdown and allow the Appropriations Committee to continue to work right through the upcoming recess. Because think of the alternative: a full year continuing resolution? That is untenable. It is far too onerous on the American people. Our government is not meant to run on autopilot; and American taxpayer dollars should not be spent on outdated priorities. We have the responsibility to make the hard choices about how to invest in the American people.

I will give you an example. A full-year continuing resolution would freeze funding at the National Institutes of Health. Think what that does. Think what that does when it brings

groundbreaking medical research to a halt at the time of a pandemic. It would once again pass on new investments that begin to acknowledge the climate crisis after 4 years of setting it on the back burner.

The continuing resolution would fail to increase investments in the education of our Nation's children or to build and renovate affordable housing or expand the middle class.

It would also—and this, people overlook—it would substantially reduce infrastructure spending that was in that bipartisan infrastructure law. We passed this bipartisan infrastructure law with an overwhelming vote, but we also have to fund it. A full-year, continuing resolution would lead to delays and, frankly, worse, a loss of service to veterans.

To draft the full-year appropriations bill allows us to make smart decisions on how to invest in each of these areas on behalf of the American people.

In December, the Secretary of Defense warned that a full-year CR would be unprecedented. It would cause irreparable damage to a wide range of bipartisan priorities from defense modernization to public health. Well, Secretary Austin is absolutely right.

A full-year continuing resolution would actually cut defense spending below last year's level. Some programs would be underfunded; others would be overfunded. And the Department of Defense would lack the transfer authority to correct the imbalance, yet the worst of all possible worlds.

To give an example, a continuing resolution would provide $3.3 billion for training and arming the Afghan security forces. If anybody has been watching the press, the Afghan security forces aren't there anymore, but continuing the resolution would provide them $3.3 billion more. Another example is the Department of Defense might have to lay off some of the men and women in the Armed Forces so they can afford a 2.7 percent pay raise which they rightly deserve that went into effect last month. So they would say: OK. Here is the pay raise, but we have to fire you all to pay for it because we have a continuing resolution. In other words, the continuing resolution would be paying to train a military force that doesn't even exist anymore, while laying off our own troops and civilian workforce in order to pay them.

Well, my talking points say this would not make sense. It is actually baloney to try to do this.

Funding the priorities of yesterday in the world of today would be irresponsible and is no way to govern.

Our four-corners framework provides a path for reaching a bipartisan, bicameral omnibus agreement by March 11. Vice Chairman SHELBY, Chairman DELAURO and Ranking Member GRANGER and I are committed to completing this work. We and our staffs are willing to work straight through until that day. So I urge Members to support the continuing resolution that passed the House with strong bipartisan—Republican and Democrats alike—support so we can finish our negotiation.

And I might say, Mr. President, the continuing resolution—and I was here at a time when something like this was typically passed by a voice vote. But it has to pass in its current form. The House is out of session. We don't have time for a long and protracted debate. The government will shut down at midnight tomorrow if we do not sign the continuing resolution in its current form to the President for his signature.

So I would urge all Members to oppose any amendments—whether they come from Republicans or Democrats—oppose any amendments to the bill and vote yes on the final passage. Be responsible. If we have to be in tonight and tomorrow to finish it, fine. But let's get it done. Come on.

If you took a poll of the American people, 95 percent of them would say: What is taking so long? Let's get it done.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. President, if there is nobody else seeking recognition, I ask the previously scheduled vote begin now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 267, H.R. 6617, a bill making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patrick J. Leahy, Gary C. Peters, Jacky Rosen, Amy Klobuchar, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Jeff Merkley, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Jon Tester, Jon Ossoff, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Alex Padilla.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6617, a bill making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 65, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 60 Leg.]

YEAS—65

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Barrasso	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Blunt	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kennedy	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Capito	Leahy	Shelby
Cardin	Manchin	Sinema
Carper	Markey	Smith
Casey	McConnell	Stabenow
Cassidy	Menendez	Tester
Collins	Merkley	Tillis
Coons	Moran	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Murkowski	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wicker
Hagerty	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Portman	

NAYS—30

Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Cotton	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Toomey
Ernst	Marshall	Tuberville
Fischer	Paul	Young

NOT VOTING—5

Burr	Graham	Luján
Feinstein	Kelly	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 65, the nays are 30.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

UKRAINE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, in November of 2017, I spent some time in western Ukraine, sitting down to be able to have a meal and be able to talk to a group of Oklahomans from the 45th Infantry of the Oklahoma National Guard. Some had been in Ukraine since January of that year, and they were still there in November. They spent the entire year in 2017—the Oklahoma National Guard—training the military of the Ukrainians. Why? Because Russians, in 2014, had moved into Crimea and had crossed the border into the eastern part of Ukraine in what is called the Donbas and taken over two different areas that—they said there were separatists that were doing it. They were Russian speakers, so they clearly should be under Russian domination. And they moved in.

It was an entire year that Oklahomans spent with Ukrainians developing friendships, training them, preparing them for battle against a very large Army in the Russians. They hoped to be able to push the Russians out of the eastern side of their country.

And as we sat and visited and talked, they told me about the tenacity of the Ukrainian fighters, their commitment to their families, and their commitment to be able to be independent, to

be a separate functioning democracy, to engage with the rest of the world as any independent sovereign nation would choose to be able to do. That was 2017.

To Oklahomans, this conversation about Ukraine and the Russians surrounding Ukraine on three sides is not theory. Some Oklahomans know the names of Ukrainians that are currently on those front lines. They served alongside of each other, and they have stayed in contact, calling them friends. If you go into the Ukrainian Embassy today for the United States, you will see a picture of some Oklahomans up on the wall because they remember that group of Oklahomans that came to Ukraine to help them prepare for a day they hoped would never come and to be able to be ready to push the Russians out of the eastern part of their nation.

But today—literally, right now—Ukrainians living on the border, especially in the north, can literally hear the sound of Russian artillery practicing just miles away. They have been able to hear that sound for days and days now as they do live fire exercises just on the other side of the border. They are seeing that the Russians have amassed well in excess of 100,000 troops. They gathered troops from Russia from the far east next to their border with China and had moved them all the way to the west to be able to surround Ukraine on three sides with naval forces and with ground forces.

They are very aware the Russians have moved their special operations. They moved in field hospitals. They are very aware they are doing live training exercises in preparation. They hope that it is only saber-rattling, but they hear the sound of the guns just a few miles away.

Since hearing from the Russian perspective, even within the last 24 hours, the Russian diplomats have spoken to the BBC just in the last few hours. And they spoke and said they have no intention of any aggressive moves, that they are a sovereign nation and that they can move their forces anywhere they want to be able to move on any inch of their land, and if they want to put their forces all right there along the border with Ukraine, that is their sovereign right to do that.

And then they replied back in what must be one of the great Russian statements of all time: that the West is not reporting that the Ukrainians have also moved 100,000 troops next to the border with Russia. They must think the entire world is delusional. A Russian diplomat called it ''myth'' that the Russians intend to do aggression and said they would only move into Ukraine if they were provoked.

Now, mind you, U.S. intelligence released publicly just a few days ago a plot the Russians had, that they already created a film—a movie, if I can say it that way, a newsreel—that they had staged a Ukrainian attack on Russians, and it laid out actors that looked as if they were dead and set up all of these Ukrainian implements from war and these different vehicles surrounding burned-out Russian tanks so they could show the world that Ukrainians actually attacked them first, except our intelligence actually exposed that plan. But the Russians are still repeating over and over again that they will only attack if they are provoked, as they work to be able to stage a provocation.

People forget in the world that when the Russians are in Belarus, they are a half-day drive from Kyiv, but they are also a half-day drive from where they are stationed right now from Warsaw.

This is a tenuous time. This is not a new moment for the Russians to act aggressively toward their neighbors. In 2008, Russia invaded the country of Georgia. In 2014, as I mentioned, Russia annexed Crimea and moved in. In 2014, they also moved into the Donbas region. During that time in 2014, Russians—in July of 2014, the Russian 53rd Anti-Aircraft Brigade launched an anti-aircraft weapon against MH17, a passenger aircraft flying from Amsterdam to Malaysia—not even coming to Ukraine. They launched an anti-aircraft weapon against that flight flying over Ukraine, and the Russians murdered 298 people because they flew over an area that they were working to be able to overtake.

It is clear, the Russians, in their aggression, and Putin, in his attempt to make sure the whole world pays attention to him and shows that he is a powerful man because he can round up the entire world to be able to look at him when his economy is literally in tatters—Russia's gross domestic product for the entire country is smaller than the State of Texas's gross domestic product. Yet, with his nuclear weapons and disproportionate allocation to his military and his control of oil and gas in the region, he continues to be able to saber-rattle and force the world to be able to look at him, the whole while declaring that he is a sovereign and he can move troops anywhere he wants to move. But also, by the way, Ukraine is not sovereign enough to make a decision about their own defense, demanding that Ukraine never become a member of NATO.

Can I remind the world, NATO is a defensive alliance—a defensive alliance. The NATO alliance exists—and it is an incredibly successful alliance—the NATO alliance exists to be able to react if they are attacked. NATO does not cooperate in attacking anyone. NATO is set up to defend each other when attacked. Ukraine is not a NATO nation, but NATO nations surround Ukraine. And we are all extremely aware of Putin's focus on trying to be able to push out and to recreate the USSR again.

We should pay attention. We should not pretend this won't affect the world. We have seen oil prices around the world already accelerate based on just Putin's actions right now. We have seen that he is trying to be able to manipulate oil prices for the benefit of Russia but to the detriment of everyone else. We can see that.

The issue is, what are we going to do about that? How are we going to actually engage? Well, our Nation has given over $400 million in assistance to Ukraine every year since 2014, including this year—$464 million in assistance to Ukraine. As I mentioned before, Oklahomans and multiple others have gone to Ukraine and been able to train their military for them to be able to defend themselves. We have assisted the Ukrainian people with counter-artillery radars, coastal defensive implements, geospatial intelligence, counterunmanned aerial system equipment, electronic warfare, demining equipment, small arms—we have tried to be able to help the Ukrainians defend themselves.

We need to also speak with a unified voice that if Russia decides they are going to move across that border into Ukraine, that there are strong, unrelenting sanctions coming on that nation and that economy that is smaller than the economy of Texas; that we are keenly aware of how they survive based on oil and gas sales; and we are well-prepared to be able to fill in the supply from other nations that are buying from Russia; that they would be welcome to be able to buy from us or from any other nation ready to be able to sell to them; to be able to supplant what Russia is choosing to do; to be able to use energy as a leverage point on every country in the region to say: Don't respond or we will cut off your energy.

We need to make it very clear that the world stands with the free people of Ukraine and we will bring severe consequences on the economy of Russia that will be long-lasting—not only primary sanctions, but secondary sanctions. In other words, if individuals choose to be able to do business with Russia, they have to choose: They can either do business with Russia or do business with the United States of America. You can't do both. You have to pick.

With the largest economy in the world, I believe most would rather work with a free market, a free nation, than to be able to work with an unstable Russia.

But we should be clear. Russia has gone back on its words in the Minsk Agreement. Russia has gone back on its word on multiple different treaty agreements. We cannot trust what they say, but they should be able to trust what we will do if they choose to attack the free people of Ukraine.

Let me just say this: I firmly believe that the best thing that we can do is to work to keep a war from ever starting rather than engage and try to stop it once it starts. We should speak clearly as a nation. We should speak clearly from the administration. We should speak clearly from Congress with a unified, nonpartisan voice that the people of the United States want to do

what it takes to keep a war from starting so that Europe doesn't see yet another land war. That is going to take focus from this body.

So what do we need to do? We should make the clear offer that we will provide energy to the rest of the world, that if Russia cuts them off, we will rapidly move to be able to fill the gap. We should make it clear about our primary and secondary sanctions. We should make it clear on diplomatic channels and in public what we will do. We should continue to be able to work with our allies to be able to build a strong coalition and to reaffirm the NATO alliances there. We should continue to be able to make it very clear to Russia that if they choose to be able to move into Ukraine, it would be not only economically disastrous, but NATO is well prepared to be able to defend our alliance. And we should stand with the people of Ukraine and continue to equip them as they work to be able to protect themselves.

The people of Ukraine, in the times that I have been there—and I have been there several times—the people of Ukraine will be glad to be able to drive you through Kyiv and point out the places where they fought for their independence. They are a proud people. They do not want the Russians taking over their country. And they have fought for their independence once, and they are prepared to fight for it again. They should know we are prepared to stand next to them.

Let's pray for the people of Ukraine who, right now, hear the guns practicing on the other side of their border. Let's pray for peace, but let's also do the work to build the groundwork for peace, as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

CRIME

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the crime wave that has hit our country and specifically hit Democratic-run cities. Over the last 20 months, Democrats have aided and abetted the most dramatic surge in violent crime in American history.

In the summer of 2020, leftwing mobs burned cities like Minneapolis and Portland, OR. Democratic mayors and Governors genuflected to the mob. They started a movement to defund the police in this country. Bill de Blasio in New York cut funding for the New York City Police Department by $1 billion. The Los Angeles City Council voted to cut funding by over $150 million.

Nearly two dozen other cities followed suit, each of them run by a liberal mayor. What followed was a historic exodus from police departments all across the country. Police retirements skyrocketed; resignations increased dramatically among police officers; and recruitment of new officers became almost impossible.

Thanks to the Democratic politicians who have run these cities, our cities have fewer police. Our police have lower morale, and these communities have higher crime.

In 2020, there was a 30-percent increase in the murder rate nationwide—the fastest increase in American history.

In 2021, the murder rate went up even higher. Sixteen cities broke their all-time records for homicide, and, of course, all 16 were run by liberal Democrats. Of course, these included the cities that defunded the police. Austin, TX, defunded the police, and the murder rate there doubled.

Last year, the national murder rate reached its highest level in 25 years. So far, 2022 looks like it may be even worse. So what are the Democrats doing about it? They have the House, they have the Senate, and they have the White House. They are doing two things: They are making it worse, and they are trying to avoid being blamed for what they are causing.

How are they making it worse? Well, just take a look at some of the nominees of President Joe Biden, people he has put in high positions in the Justice Department—radical liberals. Every Member of the Democrat body in this institution voted to confirm them. These are people who hold beliefs way out of the mainstream of the American people when it comes to their service for the Department of Justice. Joe Biden has essentially handed over Justice Department leadership to radical activists who want to defund the police. They are the people running the Justice Department. Every single Democrat voted to confirm them.

The people of America were shocked to learn that last March, Democrats, on a straight party-line vote—every Republican against; every Democrat for—gave almost $1 billion in stimulus checks to 645,000 convicted criminals. These are people either still behind bars or recently released.

Senator TOM COTTON, the junior Senator from Arkansas, and I introduced an amendment to block them from getting stimulus checks. Every Democrat in the Senate voted to block our amendment. In effect, they voted to subsidize criminals, convicted criminals. With Democrats in charge in America, criminals have hit the jackpot.

The second thing the Democrats are trying to do is to try to avoid getting blamed for this incredible spike in violent crime.

Joe Biden recently went to the majority leader's hometown, New York City.

Right now, there is a crimewave in New York City, and it is on the rise. Crime is up 40 percent in New York City so far this year; car thefts are almost double.

Joe Biden went to New York to meet with the mayor, Eric Adams. Now, of course, Mayor Adams is a former police officer and an opponent of the Democrat mantra of defunding the police. So Joe Biden was obviously very interested in engaging and in getting his picture taken with the mayor of New York so that he could pretend to be tough on crime. Voters aren't buying it. The American people know that Joe Biden has supported leftwing radicals who support defunding the police.

There was a recent poll in New York. New Yorkers were asked if crime is a ''very serious problem.'' Three out of four New Yorkers say it is. This is the most in the 20-year history of taking a poll and asking that question.

So crime is the worst now, in the minds of the people who live there in New York City, over the last 20 years.

Two-thirds of all voters say they disapprove of Joe Biden on the issue of crime. I mean, Biden's numbers are in the tank anyway. Only 40 percent of Americans support what he is doing. People think the country is heading in the wrong direction under Democrat leadership in the House and the Senate and the White House. But specifically in the area of crime, as well as in the areas of inflation and the border and others, Joe Biden's numbers drop even further. Two-thirds of all Americans disapprove of Joe Biden on the issue of crime.

While Joe Biden was in New York, he didn't say a word about the radical new district attorney, Alvin Bragg. District Attorney Bragg is another radical, leftwing prosecutor. What does that mean? Well, it is interesting, and I will get to that in a second. But who would support this district attorney? Oh, one of his top supporters for election was the majority leader of the U.S. Senate.

On District Attorney Bragg's first day in office—first day—he told the whole world he would not prosecute certain crimes. He didn't care if they were on the books or not, he wasn't going to prosecute them. In other words, a district attorney said he singlehandedly was going to legalize certain crimes in New York City. He told every criminal in New York that they could commit crimes, not be prosecuted, go home free. These crimes include trespassing, prostitution, and even resisting arrest.

Imagine being a police officer in New York City, where you know people aren't going to be prosecuted for resisting arrest, knowing resisting arrest was legal, according to the district attorney. It is no wonder so many officers are quitting, so many have retired, and why it is almost impossible to recruit.

We know what is causing today's Democrat crimewave: too few police, too many criminals walking free, and too few consequences for the criminals in Democrat cities and States. All of these are the result of Democrat liberal policies.

These are policies that the American people have continued to reject and reject again today. American people want the law to be enforced. They want prosecutors and judges who follow the

law as written. The American people are sick and tired of Democrats coddling criminals. The American people support the police.

It is long past time for the Democrats to reverse course. It is time to reverse these reckless Democrat policies before this Democrat crimewave gets even worse.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATIONS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, the Presiding Officer from Maryland was in committee with me today and heard the President's Council of Economic Advisers talk about the economy, acknowledging that they spend every day worrying about inflation, what we do to combat inflation, everything from—we see the huge, excess profits in the shipping industry, among drug companies, food service companies—especially the meatpackers but also supermarket chains and oil companies. A big part of inflation we need to combat is because these companies understand they can raise prices because they don't have much competition. We see executive compensation continue to rise, sometimes to stratospheric levels. Who bears the burden? The burden is on middle-class and lower income families in places like Baltimore and Cleveland and places like western Maryland and southeast Ohio. And we know what we need to do.

We also know from our work in this committee that the Federal Reserve's job is to make sure that—they are the principal group in Washington, in the government, to combat inflation, the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve has three vacancies and has two other nominees who are Acting Federal Reserve Governors, and we need to confirm them.

Five nominations came in front of our committee last Tuesday—5 nominations—and because of peculiar Senate rules, we couldn't act because all 12 Republicans boycotted the committee. They boycotted the committee because one of the nominees from the Presiding Officer's home State, Sarah Bloom Raskin, even though she answered 189 questions—questions in the committee and then 189 written questions; majority from Republicans—she answered them all in 48 hours. She shouldn't have gotten even more questions. She has met with every Senator of either party, on the committee or off the committee, who wanted to meet with her. She has done everything that they ask of her. Yet they don't like her answers. They don't like that she believes the government has to deal with climate change. They don't like that she is going to stand up to Wall Street. So instead of just going to the committee and doing their job, voting against her, they boycotted the committee so we couldn't vote on the nomination.

So five jobs, five Governors of the Federal Reserve just sit in limbo because Republicans aren't doing their jobs. You come here, and you vote yes or you vote no. You don't vote ''I am not going to show up because I don't like this. I am going to boycott this meeting.''

It simply says that Republicans have been AWOL in the fight against inflation because we need these Fed Governors in place. We need them fighting against inflation. And for Republicans to just say ''Sorry; we are not going to go'' is simply bailing out and not doing their job. They are being AWOL in combating inflation. It is wrong for our country and wrong for our economy.

We in the majority put workers at the center of our economy, workers at the center of our economic policy. We will continue to. Republicans need to show up and—just show up and do their jobs. Vote no if you want, but show up and do your jobs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FREE SPEECH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I was surprised to learn that Facebook recently flagged a news article that I posted on my Facebook pages as ''false information.'' The article I posted was about new Durham investigation allegations against Hillary Clinton's campaign and its associates. The article clearly cited a Federal court filing and a former congressional investigator with a deep understanding of the Democrats' work to concoct the bogus Russia collusion narrative that divided our Nation for years.

This wouldn't be an issue today if more journalists did their job of being the police of our society and governmental system and reported on all investigations, not just ones that appeal to certain political parties.

What kind of a message does this censorship send to a reporter who does take on the new allegations against the Clinton campaign and its associates and then it is labeled ''disinformation''? I don't think that is going to encourage more journalists to cover this issue.

It is truly mind-blowing that these companies continue to interfere in free expression. Big Tech is silencing everyone they disagree with, and clearly they see no check to their powers. The article I cited—I cited two in my post—was on foxnews.com, a mainstream news organization.

Why does Facebook and one of its third-party fact-checker partners get to make the decision that this news article is considered false information? That decision should be made by the American people who should be able to view that content and decide that fact for themselves. It shouldn't be decided by our Big Tech overlords who seem to only find fault with content that is conservative or goes against the liberal narrative.

These are the same outlets that allowed information relating to the Steele dossier to run wild and very free, yet censored Hunter Biden's news articles during the 2020 election.

Now they are doing the bidding for the Clinton camp. Why are they so afraid of reporting that exposes the Russian collusion hoax? Silencing or chilling free speech and the back-and-forth discussion of ideas is entirely wrong. Increasingly, we see the tag ''misinformation'' or ''disinformation'' given to content that the liberal mainstream media simply disagrees with or goes against their chosen narrative. Finding and seeking the truth should not be about silencing voices but allowing robust discourse.

It is time that we examine the section 230 immunity that has enabled these companies to avoid any liability. We must stop these companies from arbitrarily deciding what speech is acceptable for this free country we live in. It has become increasingly clear that these dominant platforms controlling discussion and dialogue are more beholden to cancel culture and not to the fundamentals of free speech principles that this country was founded upon.

These Big Tech companies have few competitors and are immune from liability. These companies are unaccountable to their customers, the courts, and the government. If not for their monopoly power and section 230 immunity, these companies might not be involved in the actions and censorship that we see today.

As a U.S. Senator and someone who has been vocally outspoken about my concerns with censorship on online platforms, I will continue to do everything in my power to prevent the censorship of speech and ideas on behalf of my constituents in Iowa and of course on all Americans. Simply put, we deserve better than ''woke'' monopolists and their liberal lapdogs deciding what we can discuss.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3614

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues—I think they are all going to do this—to support S. 3614. That is the United States-Russian Federation Seafood Reciprocity Act of 2022, a pretty simple bill that will require reciprocity between Russia and the United States of America as it relates to our seafood industry and seafood trade.

Now, let me give you a little bit of background on this because it actually relates to what is going on in the world today. All eyes are currently on the Russian aggression toward Ukraine right now and for good reason. We have seen the stories that the authoritarian dictator Vladimir Putin is going to invade Ukraine. We hope, and I think every one of us hopes, that doesn't happen, but it is looking like it may.

But what is less talked about is the last time there was an invasion by Russia of Ukraine, what ended up happening in terms of sanctions and, in particular, American seafood sanctions, and the ramifications of the last Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Here is what actually happened. In 2014, when Putin invaded the Crimean Peninsula and eastern Ukraine, President Obama put sanctions on Russia. Now, I wasn't here as a Senator then, but I supported them. Russia then retaliated in terms of sanctions in 2014, and here is one of the things they did. They banned all seafood exports from America—whether it is Alaska, Massachusetts—into Russia. So that was about 9 years ago. That ban still exists today.

Let me repeat this. If you are a big fisherman in Massachusetts or the great State of Alaska, as the Senator from Massachusetts knows, we both have thousands of great fishermen, you cannot export one fish to Russia. Nine years of a ban, and guess what. The United States lets Russia's seafood into America almost duty-free.

Let me repeat that. A ban on American exports to Russia, a 9-year blockade, not one Massachusetts fisherman or Alaskan fisherman can export his great American seafood product to Russia. Russia gets to import Russian seafood into America duty-free. That is called unfair by any measure—by any measure. And it certainly is unfair to the great fishermen of my State as well as the fishermen of Massachusetts.

Now, I have talked about Alaskan fishermen for—well, as long as I have been a Senator. About 66 percent of all seafood harvested in the United States comes from the great State of Alaska. So we are big exporters.

What has happened, though, in this regard, is that as we export—we Alaskans, fishermen from Massachusetts—as we export seafood around the world, we have not been able to export anything in that market, the Russian market, for 9 years, and at the same time the value of Russian seafood imported into the United States—surprise—has skyrocketed because there is no tariff on it. It skyrocketed 173 percent since 2013. That was the year before the embargo was imposed—again, directly competing against American seafood producers, American fishermen.

As a matter of fact, the Russians are actually starting to steal market share from American fishermen, whether Massachusetts or Alaska, and we are talking hundreds of millions of dollars. This is unfair by anybody's definition.

So my bill is very simple. It says, like we need in all trade around the world, we need just straight-up reciprocity. Right now, we can't export a thing to Russia, and they export their fish to America duty-free.

So the bill is simple. It just says, until we can export into the Russian market, they shouldn't be able to export into our market.

I can't imagine any U.S. Senator objecting to this. It is called reciprocity. It is called fairness. And it is righting a wrong that has been in the works for 9 years now, whether you are a fisherman in Massachusetts or a fisherman in Alaska.

I have raised this issue with the Obama administration, the Trump administration, now the Biden administration. We are still waiting on reciprocity. So it is time to act. The U.S. Senate can act, and I am hopeful that we are going to act on this today. As a matter of fact, I checked with all my Republican colleagues, and every single one of them is supportive of basic reciprocity for fishermen.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3614 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, 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 (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Is there objection?

Mr. MARKEY. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I just want to say that I sincerely respect the Senator from Alaska's concerns about the Russian seafood imports, and I believe it is unfair. I believe it is improper that Russia has banned American seafood imports since 2014. So I agree with you. And Alaska and Massachusetts are the two fishing giants of the United States of America. We are.

However, I have heard from seafood processors in my home State with concerns about potential sudden effects of a new immediate ban on imports on their workforce, including hundreds of union workers in the seafood processing industry. That would be right now.

So, with that in mind, I am going to object to passage of this bill at this time, but I would say to my friend from Alaska that I would invite a collaboration on this subject because I think we can resolve it so that it benefits not just Alaska, which is very important, but also Massachusetts and every other State. And, again, I think we can, in fact, bring all the stakeholders together, do it very briefly maybe over this break that we are about to begin here in the Senate.

I am very grateful to the Senator from Alaska for raising this very important issue, and I want to assure him and all of the Alaska fishing industry that we want to have conversations that protect the American seafood industry and its workers and I want to partner with him toward that goal and maybe just use the next 10 days or so to accomplish that goal. So at this point I would object to the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I appreciate my friend Senator MARKEY, his offer to work through this.

He and I have worked together on a number of issues, actually a number of issues particularly related to America's fishermen. As he mentioned, Massachusetts has a lot of fishermen, and I have tens of thousands of my fellow Alaskans involved in the industry. And, again, I think he and I certainly agree with this concept. I think every U.S. Senator agrees with the concept of basic fairness in trade, basic fairness, in terms of reciprocity, in trade—all trade but especially the seafood trade. We have had 9 years of no reciprocity from Russia—Putin, the thug. We shouldn't have to take it anymore, and it is hurting my constituents.

Now, my understanding of the issue raised by Senator MARKEY is that it is primarily Russian pollock that is imported into Massachusetts. As Senator MARKEY knows, in Alaska, we have a huge number of fishermen engaged in that fishery. So maybe what we should look at is making sure Massachusetts' workers are actually processing American—Alaskan—pollock, not the authoritarian pollock in Russia. That would be a fair way to resolve this.

I appreciate the offer to work together on this, but I will tell the Senator we need to work quickly because it has been 9 years of nonreciprocal seafood trade. I am almost certain that Massachusetts fishermen who once exported to Russia have been hurt by this seafood blockade as well as my fishermen. I take Senator MARKEY's offer and suggestion in good faith. Hopefully, we can work over the work period in the next couple of weeks and get to a result on this.

Alaskans will supply Massachusetts' workers pollock or cod or whatever you are processing, and then we will bring reciprocity in terms of trade, which currently does not exist, between Russia and the United States. It is wrong. It is unfair. It needs to be fixed by us, and it needs to be fixed by the Biden administration as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF MICHELE TAYLOR

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, in a bit, I hope to be able to put forward and pass a unanimous consent request, asking the Senate to take up and approve the nomination of Ms. Michele Taylor to serve as the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council, with the rank of Ambassador. Before I put that request forward, I want to

take just a few minutes to talk about why Ms. Taylor is, in my view, the right choice for this important role and why the Senate must act on her nomination quickly.

In blunt terms, Michele Taylor is simply a champion for fundamental human and political rights. She now serves on the board of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. She has been a leader with other humanitarian groups, including the Anti-Defamation League and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Council. She has battled for the rights of women and other vulnerable Americans.

On a personal level, I come from a family who lost some relatives in the Holocaust. Ms. Taylor is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. It is absolutely essential that fighting against the rise of anti-Semitism is a key part of America's diplomacy. Ms. Taylor certainly understands that.

I am confident she will work to lead our partners and allies toward a more peaceful, prosperous future, grounded in respect for human dignity.

In the Senate, there is bipartisan interest in ensuring that the United States stands up and battles for human rights around the world. For example, on the Finance Committee, Senator BROWN, Senator CRAPO, and I have put in a lot of hours in recent years to address the scourge of forced labor in China and elsewhere in the world. I know, also, that this is a subject that the President of the Senate cares deeply about. This is just one of the human rights atrocities that our country must stand up to forcefully.

The Senate must show that our concern for these issues is more than just idle talk. That is why the Senate must not delay the nominations of highly qualified individuals, like Ms. Michele Taylor, who are up for consideration in key roles in advancing human rights.

There is a matter of the sensitivity of the time as well. The regular session of the U.N. Human Rights Council begins on February 28, which is, obviously, just days away. It is essential, in my view, that we confirm our representative now. Delaying Ms. Taylor's confirmation simply hinders the United States' ability to advocate for American values and help vulnerable people who are suffering under abuse and oppression around the world.

Moving this nomination forward is an opportunity for the Senate to show this Chamber's commitment to advancing human rights is, in fact, more than just talk. There is a deadline—a specific, concrete deadline, February 28—that is bearing down on the Chamber. There simply is no more time to delay on this important nomination.

We await a colleague who would like to have a chance to be heard on this, to consider it. I do hope that we can work this out here in the afternoon. Hopefully, the Senate will wrap up business this afternoon because this really is time-sensitive.

Members talk about matters that actually may be coming up; this one is upon us. I do hope that we will be able to clear Ms. Michele Taylor to serve as U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Council with the rank of Ambassador before the close of business today.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CHINA

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the aggressive and hostile actions of the Chinese Communist Party pose a massive threat to the global order. The Chinese Communist Party's strategy can be summed up in four Rs: resist, reduce, replace, and reorder.

China resists American economic influence by manipulating American businesses and industries and stealing intellectual property.

It reduces internal dissent and free expression of ideas through surveillance and censorship of its own people. It is essentially a police state. And it seeks to assert its power and influence in the United States by various means.

The Chinese Communist Party intends to replace America as the world's technology leader through its Made in China 2025 initiative, which seeks to achieve Chinese dominance in high-tech manufacturing.

And, of course, it hopes to reorder international norms and institutions around itself.

The CCP's mantra can best be described as ''Win at all costs.'' And, make no mistake, its reckless actions paint an alarming picture for the United States and our allies. For everything from national security to economic policy, there is a clear and urgent need to reorient our way of thinking on how we should respond to this threat from China.

Despite the partisanship that has sometimes gripped this Chamber for more than a year now, this is one area where, thankfully, there is broad bipartisan agreement. Our colleagues on both sides of the aisle recognize the growing threats posed by the CCP and the need to act.

So last summer the Senate took a major step forward by passing the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. This bipartisan bill was the result of intense bipartisan negotiations, with our friend Senator YOUNG from Indiana leading negotiations on our side of the aisle. This legislation addresses a range of issues to help the United States reduce its reliance on China and to counter looming threats from the Communist Party.

Without question, the cornerstone of USICA, as it is called, is funding for programs created by the CHIPS Act, which I introduced with the Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, in 2020 and nearly every Senator in this body has supported. Semiconductor chips, which we have all had to learn a lot more about, are everywhere—from cell phones to cars to agricultural equipment to missile defense systems. Despite our need for a strong supply of these semiconductor chips, we overwhelmingly rely on other countries—most of them in Asia—to produce them. Taiwan alone produces about 63 percent of the advanced semiconductors in the world.

If, for some reason, our supply of these semiconductors was cut off as the result of a natural disaster or another pandemic or military conflict, it would lead to very serious consequences for both our national security as well as our economy. When we talk about the need to address threats to our supply chain and threats coming from the People's Republic of China, semiconductors are front and center.

Now, USICA provided the CHIPS program with $52 billion to bolster domestic semiconductor manufacturing and to secure this vulnerable supply chain. This legislation passed the Senate last summer by a vote of 68 to 32, which is an incredible bipartisan accomplishment these days.

Unfortunately, the House of Representatives refused to act on this bipartisan bill. They said they wanted to pass their own version, which they have every right to do, of course, but they also should have been working at it diligently and acted quickly. The Chinese Communist Party simply isn't sitting around waiting on House Democrats to get their act together.

So it took 8 months before the House of Representatives passed a bill aimed at competition with China; but, unfortunately, they chose to go the easy way, which is to pass strictly a partisan bill, which virtually no Republican supported. Instead of mirroring the bipartisan process here in the Senate, Democrats only negotiated among themselves and excluded Republicans from that process.

Democratic committee chairmen refused to consult with their Republican ranking members, and they ran off with the pen and crafted a partisan and unserious bill. Sure, this legislation does include a few bipartisan measures like CHIPs funding, as well as a proposal I led with Mr. CASEY, the Senator from Pennsylvania, to review limited outbound investments in China.

But House Democrats don't deserve a lot of credit for including a few bipartisan bills that they already support. They kept some of the overwhelmingly partisan pieces of USICA and tacked on a laundry list of unrelated and controversial provisions. The House-passed bill sends a whopping $8 billion to a U.N. climate slush fund, which has provided more than $100 million to China alone. So if the purpose of this effort is to counter threats from China, it doesn't exactly accomplish that goal when we end up sending money to China.

Democrats also added provisions in the House related to immigration, from creating new types of visas to removing green card caps. Now, immigration is a serious and important issue, but these can't expect to see the light of day being haphazardly tacked on to this legislation. They need to be debated and marked up by the appropriate legislative committees and negotiated.

Well, in true fashion, House Democrats added a range of handouts to their political supporters, especially labor unions. From massive slush funds to burdensome new labor requirements, unions would win big with the House bill. The labor bosses apparently were promised some pretty big benefits in the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spending spree bill.

Since that bill is now dead and buried, it looks like this was their way to try to appease their political supporters.

As we have learned over the last year, our colleagues in the House can't seem to resist any opportunity to sneak in ridiculous partisan pet projects. Their bill would also establish a coral reef task force—you heard me correctly, a coral reef task force—and put $6 million toward a national coral reef management fellowship. Believe it or not, the term ''coral reef'' is mentioned more than 300 times in the House bill. No wonder it took them so long to put the bill together.

Of course, it is not just what is in this bill that is a problem; it is what was left out. The bill's trade title—which was one of the most important parts of what the Senate did, championed by the Senator from Idaho, the ranking member of the Finance Committee, Mr. CRAPO—but the House trade bill is entirely inadequate. It extends and expands trade adjustment assistance, which is normally something we do when we approve of a trade deal, like the USMCA, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. But they left out the most important part, which was trade promotion authority.

We know trade promotion authority is absolutely critical to brokering strong trade agreements without extraordinary delays. What the House did by including trade adjustment assistance without trade promotion authority does nothing to advance our goals to open up markets to American-made goods and services and agriculture.

Well, the House bill also fails to push for a digital trade agreement and identify countries, like the People's Republic of China, that use censorship as a way to limit access to our tech industry, and it doesn't narrow relief from tariffs for businesses experiencing severe economic harm that has broad bipartisan support.

So it is no surprise that the House bill was passed almost entirely along party lines. Unlike the bipartisan legislation here in the Senate, the House bill is an unserious attempt to help America compete with China. It just simply doesn't cut the mustard.

House Democrats wasted about 8 months while they waited and waited and waited before even acting in this totally inadequate manner. And there is no chance, of course, the Senate will pass anything that resembles the House bill. We do need legislation to confront growing threats from China, but we need to do it correctly. That means what we need is a formal conference committee between the House and the Senate and to ensure ultimately that the final product looks a whole lot like the Senate bill, which passed, as I said, with strong bipartisan support.

This is really nothing to be toyed with. This is a matter of national and economic security and something far too important for partisan jockeying such as demonstrated by the House of Representatives in their totally inadequate and unserious piece of legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

INFLATION

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, we are about—at least many of us—ready to return home to our States and to visit with our constituents in person, and that is a common practice for me. I can indicate to my colleagues in the Senate that the conversations—they are wide-ranging at home, but certainly, if there is a theme, it is the consequences that Americans and Kansans are feeling in regard to inflation. The things at the grocery store, the price at the pump, rent—all those things are rising, and people are struggling to pay the bills. Things are being left out of what someone can afford in their budget because everything costs more.

Kansas is an energy-producing State. We certainly are an agricultural State. I would tell you, when I talk to farmers and ranchers, commodity prices have gone up. One might think that is something that would be very beneficial to farmers, but this inflation has raised the price of everything they purchase to create the crops that feed us across America and around the world.

One of the components and one of the reasons that inflation is rising so rapidly is energy costs. Even for my farmers, fertilizer is made from phosphates and natural gas. Diesel fuel is used in the vehicles and tractors and trucks. Our ability to provide that food for the world is being hampered because we are going to lose money when we grow crops even though they may bring a higher price than they did just a few months ago.

So many components of what we purchase in this country and one of the reasons costs are all rising is because of the price of oil and gas. I am confused by the policies that many in this body promote. At the same time, they are asking for relief at the pump. Yet, time and time again, what policies, what legislation, what conversations here, what actions are taken—particularly by Democrats—are to reduce the supply of oil and natural gas.

It makes no sense to me when the policy—in fact, how can it make sense for people to propose to eliminate the tax on gas? I suppose their interest in making gas more expensive is to reduce the use of oil and natural gas fossil fuels, but on the other hand, if they lower the tax on gas, it would lower the price, which is to encourage the ability to purchase.

President Biden asked the Russians to increase their production in order to alleviate the price at the pump in the United States. We have been talking to Europe about how we are going to help them solve their natural gas shortage should we have a crisis in Ukraine and natural gas can no longer be imported from Russia, and we are working to provide more natural gas.

We should be doing everything in our country to increase the supply. The definition of ''inflation'' is, I think, pretty basic. It is ''too few goods being chased by the same amount of dollars.''

Even this week in the Banking Committee, the conversation over the last month has been about whether or not the Federal Reserve, which has no ability, no legal ability, no purpose in setting the price of gas and oil—and they would do so by trying to restrict loans by financial institutions to oil and gas energy producers at the same time they are supposed to be combating inflation.

So it seems to me on one hand and on the other hand, they don't make any sense. They are not logical and in so many instances, hypocritical.

We want to have an energy policy that is to produce more. I am ''all of the above'' on energy, but the policies of this country which we see trying to eliminate oil and natural gas, fossil fuels, at a time in which the cost at the pump, the cost in agriculture, the cost at the grocery store is rising—we should be focused on trying to make certain that Americans can afford to live in this country. We will not achieve that by trying to eliminate or reduce the supply of natural gas and oil.

I will be talking to my constituents about this issue, as I return home this week.

I wish we could have a coherent conversation, discussion, on policy development.

We need to produce more. The days in which we became energy independent in the last administration were ones in which we felt a sense of relief, a sense of safety and security, and I long for the days in which we are able to recognize that our national security and our economics are benefited by a strong oil and gas industry meeting the needs of Americans, taking care of ourselves at home and providing greater national security as we deal with crises around the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to commend my colleague and friend from Kansas. He said very, very eloquently that the administration's policies right now, which are anti-energy—they are driving up energy prices on working families. And it is national security suicide to unilaterally disarm energy when Putin uses energy as a weapon. We all know that.

Some of the window dressing here on these bills lately from my Senate Democratic colleagues is just that—political window dressing. We all need to go to the White House and say: Get your act together, Mr. President, your team. Produce more American energy.

That is what we all need. It will help with inflation and will help with national security.

So to my colleague from Kansas, thank you very much. We all come from States that produce energy. And these are great American workers, too, by the way, who sometimes get maligned because they produce energy. Imagine that.

TRIBUTE TO DOUG KEIL

Mr. President, I want to move on to my favorite time of the week. It is Thursday, so I usually come down on the Senate floor and talk about the Alaskan of the Week.

Now, we all believe our States are the best. Each State loves to brag a little bit about their own State. That is great. It is what makes our country competitive, a little bit of competition here in the Senate. But I happen to speak the truth when I talk about how Alaska is the best State, and it is because of the people.

I am going to talk a little bit about Doug Keil, who is today's Alaskan of the Week. I always like to start—you know, the pages enjoy this speech a lot because we get to talk a little bit about Alaska and the adventures and what is happening in the great State of Alaska. So I will give a little update on that.

On January 22, that was the polar night in Utqiagvik, AK, the northernmost town in all of North America. What happened on January 22 is that polar night—as they call it there—finally ended. That is 65 days of darkness finally ended. That is 65 days of darkness.

On January 22, the Sun crept a little over the horizon briefly. Like a long lost friend, the community gathered to say hello to the Sun. It has been cold up North. It has been a cold winter. It is about 20 below in Utqiagvik today. It has been relatively balmy in Anchorage where our Alaskan of the Week lives—warm enough to be sleeting right now.

But in all weather, all around the State, people are getting out, gathering, enjoying the Sun that stays in our skies a little bit longer each day. They are dogsledding—training for the Iditarod. They are snow-machining, playing hockey, skiing, snowboarding—so many winter sports.

We, in our State, are chockful of excellent winter athletes—great winter athletes. We punch way above our weight in terms of Winter Olympics. Many Alaskans are competing now in Beijing, as we speak, and we are rooting for all of them. Of course, we are rooting for all of America's athletes.

We are also preparing to root for the amazing athletes who will be competing in the Paralympics, also in Beijing, starting March 4. Again, many Alaskans will be there competing: cross-country skier, Grace Miller; snowboarder, Katy Maddry, a former Alaskan of the Week alum; and former gold medal Paralympian, Andrew Kurka. He will be competing in Beijing in the sit-ski events.

Now, I am mentioning all of this because our Alaskan of the Week, Doug Keil, says every one of these athletes—both in the Olympics and in Paralympics and all of our amateur athletes across the State—are there because of athletes who have gone before them. I think that is true.

Paving that path, of course, has been all the more challenging for America's Paralympian athletes. But it is a path that Doug, our Alaskan of the Week, has really paved for Alaska—for America—a deep one. And he has done it through grit and pain and determination.

In 1980, Doug Keil brought home two gold medals from the 1980 Paralympic Games in Norway. That was the second-ever Paralympic Games. He was the first American male to bring home gold in those games, and he spent the next 30-plus years building not only the structures and the organizations but, importantly, the culture in Alaska and in America to make sure other athletes with disabilities could come after him.

Let me tell you a little bit about our Alaskan of the Week, Doug Keil. Doug was born in Beirut, Lebanon. His parents Don and Margaret, who went by ''Midge,'' were adventuresome. From New York, they were on a 4-year overseas trip. Don, the father, was teaching high school physics and Midge was working at the United Nations in the Palestinian refugee camps when they had Doug, the oldest of what would be five children, four girls and Doug. I know one of the girls really well, Carrie, Doug's sister, who works as part of my team in Anchorage doing constituent casework. She recently hit the milestone of successfully helping 2,000 different Alaskans. Carrie, great job. You are amazing—just as amazing as your brother Doug. Her success rate is off the charts. I see it every day.

When Doug and Carrie's family came back to America, they moved to Alaska. Don's brother—that is the dad, Don—built houses, and Don helped him for a while. Eventually, Don the father—Doug's father—got a senior job with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Doug, our Alaskan of the Week, was an active kid. He loved sports, mostly baseball and skiing. His plan was to follow in his father's footsteps and go to Springfield College in Massachusetts. He wanted to be a physical education teacher and to play baseball, but he had some tragedy. When Doug was 15, he took a trip to Juneau to visit a school friend. And on August 28, 1968, he and his friend were exploring an old gold mine in Juneau. Doug got struck by 24,000 volts of electricity—24,000 volts of electricity. In the process, he lost an arm and lost a leg. As we can all expect, the next few years were very difficult ones for Doug and his family. As he said, ''When you get hit by 24,000 volts of electricity, it messes you up physically. Mentally, my whole world was gone.''

Talk about grit and determination. He spent about 2 years in the hospital and his dreams, he thought, had died. To make it all the more difficult, his father had to move the family to the DC area for a job with the FAA when Doug was just a sophomore in high school, still learning how to use an artificial arm and artificial leg. But the family stuck together. They had faith, and they pulled through.

Back in Alaska, though, something remarkable happened. At this point, Doug hadn't tried to ski again because he thought those days were over without an arm, without a leg. But someone in their church told his parents about a program in Colorado—in Winter Park, CO—where they were training athletes to ski with disabilities. The first day he was there, Doug went to Winter Park. It coincided with the first day of what was then called the National Handicapped Championships.

Doug said:

> I saw amazing athletes. I saw men and women who had come back [many disabled veterans from Vietnam]. . . . I saw them skiing and it opened up my eyes to a completely different world.

Doug was inspired in many ways by our disabled Vietnam veterans who helped train him, helped inspire him. He came back to Alaska to train in this area and went back to Winter Park in 1977 to race in the Nationals in the slalom event and did so again in 1979, both of which qualified him for the 1980 Paralympics.

Along with two gold medals from those Olympics, he brought a mission back to Alaska: starting a skiing program for people with physical disabilities. He said at the time that skiing was amazing. It would give him a ''feeling of motion. It's like running again. It can be fluid. When it feels good up through your body, your body smiles and when your body smiles, you smile.'' And he wanted others to have that experience.

In the 1980s, of course, Alaska had mountains and snow and landscape begging to be played in but did not have a culture that encouraged people with disabilities to be part of those winter activities. Doug explained to a reporter in 1980 that as a one-legged skier, he was an anomaly in Alaska.

He said:

> I've been skiing [there] for 5 years by myself. Up . . . [in Alaska]—

Someone with disabilities—

[T]hey see me coming down the slopes and they say ''What the [heck] is that?'' People just [weren't] used to [seeing] it [in 1980].

And this is where the story moves from one individual, Doug, to thousands. Doug and a handful of others got busy. They formed a nonprofit called Challenge Alaska, and they hit the road. Doug, who had a full-time job in cable, still made the time for starting this great organization, Challenge Alaska. They got people out on the slopes. They trained them. They gathered all the adaptive equipment they could get their hands on, and they dug in.

Forty years later, with an expanded mission now including all outdoor activities, including summer activities—kayaking, cycling, wheelchair Frisbee, fishing, camping, and so much more—Challenge Alaska, started by Doug Keil, has helped over a thousand people in Alaska get out into Alaska's great outdoors in winter and summer. Some of the most incredible athletes you have ever met started their careers in athletics with Challenge Alaska.

Just two weekends ago, my wife Julie and I had the opportunity to attend Challenge Alaska's 40th anniversary gala dinner. Now, I know a lot of my colleagues here—we go out to a lot of events when we are back home. This was one of the most inspiring events I have attended in a long, long time. Julie and I got to sit with the current executive director of Challenge Alaska, Nate Boltz; his wife, Leah; daughter, Anna; his parents, Jim and Laurie; his grandmother, Adeline. There were amazing speeches. One young man named Ryan Johnson, a recent high school graduate with cerebral palsy, spoke. Incredible. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

And, of course, Doug was there. Doug was there, the founder of Challenge Alaska—40 years of work—and he was honored for this great life achievement.

In that 1980 article I mentioned earlier, I talked about when he was talking about skiing on the slopes alone as someone with one leg, he said that if he could have a plaque that said he was instrumental in starting a program to help other people with disabilities in Alaska to learn to enjoy the outdoors—skiing, winter, summer—he would be a happy man. That was 40 years ago when he said that. Well, he should be happy. He has done that and so much more. Thousands of people have been positively impacted by what he has done.

Here is another remarkable thing. His inspiration went far beyond Alaska. It has literally touched the globe. He tells the story about how in the nineties, 13 people with disabilities from Japan came to ski with and learn from the people in Challenge Alaska. Doug was working at Challenge Alaska. He, unfortunately, wasn't able to ski with our Japanese visitors. But when they were leaving town, he met them at the airport to say goodbye. One of them, who was also missing an arm and a leg from a construction accident, stepped forward and, through an interpreter, told Doug that after his accident, he thought about taking his own life. Then this young Japanese man said to Doug that he saw a documentary about Doug. And he said to Doug:

I vowed that I would learn to ski, [I would] come to Alaska and ski with [Challenge Alaska]. Thank you [Doug] for saving my life.

That is pretty powerful stuff right there—one person in Japan whose life was saved by Doug Keil and all the great people at Challenge Alaska.

So, Doug, thank you for saving lives. Thank you for your inspiration to so many. Thank you for what you have done for Alaska, for Challenge Alaska, for the State, for the Paralympian athletes we are going to watch and cheer on here in a couple of weeks. And congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3632

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, a few days ago or a few weeks—about 2 weeks ago, I was surprised to read in an article that, as part of the American Rescue Plan, there was this $30-million program that would be sending drug paraphernalia to people suffering from addiction in this country.

And so I said something about it, and the administration came out and said that is not true. We are not going to use it for that. We are not going to be sending out crack pipes or meth pipes to anybody. In fact, they even wrote a letter to a fellow Senator here in that regard.

So then I said, well, since—let's just make sure. Right? Like, let's just file a bill language that just makes it clear that we are not going to be sending drug paraphernalia like a pipe or things that work with a pipe, that taxpayers aren't going to be paying for that.

And lo and behold, I was surprised by the response. And now, when you read more carefully the letter that they wrote to Senator BLACKBURN, you see exactly what the problem is here.

They don't plan on sending crack pipes or meth pipes to anybody. What they plan on sending is what they call a mouthpiece. And a mouthpiece isn't what you think. It is not like some flat thing that you put in your mouth. No, the mouthpiece is basically the cylindrical tube—straw-looking thing—that you attach to the crack pipe. So the pipe will have to be shared by the addicts, but they are each going to have their own little tube that they can attach to smoke it.

Well, I just don't think the Federal Government should be paying for that to send that to people. I think, frankly, this is insane. I think most people would agree, and I think most people would be surprised.

And the things you discover when you actually file these things and work on it—because we came up with language. We said: OK. Here is the bill, and here is what we want to do. And they came back and said: We will not agree to it if it includes that device that attaches to it.

So, apparently, they don't want to send out crack pipes, but they do want to send out the tubes that attach to the crack pipes so that those who are addicted to crack or any of these other drugs—illicit drugs that you can smoke can be consumed safely somehow, as if there is any safe way to smoke meth or crack, which there isn't.

And so what I have come here to do today is very simple: I want this bill to pass. I don't know why anyone could possibly object to it unless you believe that you should be sending out cylindrical tubing which attaches to a crack pipe to smoke and that can be removed to allow multiple people to use the same pipe.

And that is the loophole that they want. That is what they want me to change this bill to allow them to send out. And I think that is nuts, guys. I don't know how else to describe it. There is no, like, fancy word for it. It is crazy. This is insane. This is the kind of insanity that people read about and say: This can't be true. It is true. It is actually worse than I thought.

And so that is why I am hoping we can pass this today. Apparently, there will be an objection.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 3632 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the Rubio substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I think my friend from Florida knows I will. This entire issue is a misnomer. There have been a few online things to try to make a big deal out of it, and I am sorry that some have fallen for it, but the Biden administration produced a letter this week clarifying this misunderstanding.

The administration stated clearly they never authorized use of Federal funding for smoke pipes and will not in the future. In fact, I don't think any administration has.

Of course, the bill that the Senator from Florida is proposing goes much further than Republicans say it would. It would severely cripple our ability to respond to addiction, which has taken 100,000 lives a year right now, including lives in his State and mine.

We offered an alternative; but that was rejected.

We actually have to go to the CR now. The House is gone. We have to pass it—the CR and send it to the President without amendments or our government funding runs out.

And I might just say—I mean, everybody has the right to speak about anything they want. Everybody has the right to make any kind of political point for any group they want, but let's talk about being U.S. Senators.

A war is about to start in Ukraine, in all likelihood. And what we are saying is we will start putting all of these things in, slow up a continuing resolution so the United States Government will have to shut down tomorrow night.

And we can stand there and Putin can say: Why should I listen to them? Three or four people can go on their Senate floor and shut down the government. Why should I listen to them?

So I object.

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

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, couple things. To be clear, I am not slowing down the continuing resolution. This is my bill. It has got nothing to do with the continuing resolution.

The reason why we are not voting on the continuing resolution is because there is a bunch of people missing; there are not enough people here yet to vote for it. That is why it is being slowed down. So I took this opportunity to offer my bill.

And I would just say, my observation would be that Vladimir Putin is probably—if he is even paying attention—I don't know what time it is. He probably has his hands full with his plans to invade and conquer parts of Ukraine—I think he would be wondering why would I be scared of a country who is going to send out cylindrical tubing to people addicted to crack and meth, because I think he probably thinks it is crazy too, as crazy as he is.

So, again, my bill goes—I get it. They are not going to send out pipes. That doesn't make me feel better because they are going to send out—with the money of the American taxpayer, they are going to send out cylindrical tubing which is attached to a crack pipe and can be removed so each and every one of the people using that pipe—multiple people can use the pipe but use a different cylindrical tube to attach to it. And I just don't think the American people should be paying for that, and that is what HHS has basically admitted they want to do with this money. And I didn't think this was going to be controversial, but apparently it is because there has been an objection, so here we are.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the suggestion is many people aren't here to vote. Well, let's bring up the continuing resolution. Let's vote it up or down. Let's say to the rest of the world, including Russia, the most powerful nation on Earth can stay open or a few Senators can say: No, golly, we got to get something on television. We ought to close down the government.

The Senator from Florida is welcome to bring up his bill sometime in regular order. Let's not slow up things now. So let's vote on the continuing resolution. Let's show the United States of America and the rest of the world that we can stay open and that we are not afraid to stay open. We will stay open, and we all—I think we could probably say unanimously, I would hope—oppose what Russia apparently is planning to do in Ukraine.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 4930

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, over the next couple hours, we are going to have another CR vote, and we are going to get some votes on amendments.

When I came to the Senate 3 years ago, a little over that, one of my main goals—I always respected the Senator from Oklahoma, Dr. Tom Coburn.

I first saw him when he was actually on one of the shows talking about the same subject that I harp on all the time. The difference is, by standards of indebtedness, we had no real worries other than he was one that could see into the future.

I come from the world of running a business, was on a school board, State legislature. You couldn't get by with what we get by with here. You had a budgeting process. When I was a State legislator, you took it through committees. You brought in witnesses, you fleshed it out. Maybe you didn't need more money. Generally, even at the statehouse, they would ask for more. It wasn't necessarily the case.

You did the hard work, rolling up your sleeves, which Hoosiers appreciated. Do you know what it has given us back in the State of Indiana? The highest credit rating you can have as a State. It has given us rainy day funds.

When COVID came along, we could have gotten by without a dollar from the Federal Government. That is what happens when you live your everyday life with responsibility, just like every American has to, just like you have to do in any other level of government.

Think about running a business. Imagine, up until the recent spending spree, we were only borrowing roughly 23 percent of every dollar that we spend here—and this isn't on tangible investments; this is on consumption. There is nothing to show for it.

A lot of the things we do, a lot of the things that people look to us to do, we need; but we are doing a disservice to our kids and our grandkids—by the way, who we are actually borrowing the money from—when we run the biggest business in the world by the seat of its pants.

I am going to tell you just generally how this all plays out. In 4½ years, we are going to completely go through the Medicare trust fund. And by the way, healthcare expenses based upon a broken healthcare industry that is not transparent does not deliver the consumer good value, something that all of us that own businesses other than the healthcare business have to grapple with every year. They need to reform themselves, and that would bring Medicare and Medicaid into where it wasn't costing us so much. But still then, even if you save there, we probably would find a way to spend the savings.

We are currently, basically the only reserve currency. That is what keeps our interest rates so low. Historically, they have been three to four times what they are now. And you cannot run now probably close to $1.5 trillion deficits on to the $30 trillion we are already in debt and think that is a good business plan for the biggest business in the world.

So especially for the folks on the other side of the aisle, but I am going to say we have been complicit as Republicans. We roll over to give them what they want on domestic spending, and they do the same on defense spending, which I think is probably the most important thing we do. And all of a sudden, everybody is happy. It is called bipartisan, but it is not honest to the American public.

So, here, we are going to do what we have been doing for years. We are going to vote on a CR later. But if we are ever going to get this place back in good shape, we have to have the political will and the discipline to get back to budgeting and not spend beyond our means because, some day, we may not be the reserve currency. And after we go through the Medicare trust fund, which will probably replenish by borrowing more money, Social Security depletes in about 11 years. I say that because nobody here talks about it, and it wouldn't be that difficult to solve.

In the real world, you make the tough decisions, you get through it, and you are better off for it when you get that behind you.

So I am going to leave it there this evening. I am going to ask all of my colleagues to please vote on a balanced budget amendment that makes it so easy that it just says your resolution that you bring up each year—you have got to do it, you have got to do it on time—has to balance the budget in 10 years. That even gives a lot more latitude than what I really thought was necessary, but I also want to make it to where every one of us can say yes to a balanced budget amendment like this because we owe it to our kids and our grandkids.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 267, H.R. 6617; that the only amendments in order be the Lee amendment No. 4929, Braun amendment No. 4930, Cruz amendment No. 4927; that at 5:15 p.m., the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed; that upon disposition of the Cruz amendment, the bill be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with 60 affirmative votes required for adoption of the Braun amendment and on passage of the bill; and that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form prior to each vote, all without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

FURTHER ADDITIONAL EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 6617, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6617) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

AMENDMENT NO. 4929

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 4929, and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. LEE], for himself and Mr. MARSHALL, proposes an amendment numbered 4929.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit funding for COVID–19 vaccine mandates)

After section 101 in division A, insert the following:

SEC. 102. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2022 (division A of Public Law 117–43), as amended by this Act, may be obligated or expended to—

(1) implement or enforce—

(A) section 1910.501 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation);

(B) Executive Order 14042 of September 9, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 50985; relating to ensuring adequate COVID safety protocols for Federal contractors);

(C) Executive Order 14043 of September 9, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 50989; relating to requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 vaccination for Federal employees);

(D) the interim final rule issued by the Department of Health and Human Services on November 5, 2021, entitled ''Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination'' (86 Fed. Reg. 61555); or

(E) the memorandum signed by the Secretary of Defense on August 24, 2021, for ''Mandatory Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination of Department of Defense Service Members''; or

(2) promulgate, implement, or enforce any rule, regulation, or other agency statement, that is substantially similar to a regulation, Executive Order, rule, or memorandum described in paragraph (1).

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, vaccine mandates are morally wrong and widely unpopular. Millions of Americans are still required by this Federal mandate to be vaccinated or lose their job.

The people's elected lawmakers here in Congress haven't instituted these mandates. No, there is no Federal law putting them in place. President Biden and his bureaucrats are just treading deeply into the personal medical choices of Americans without an act of Congress authorizing them to do so.

Now, Congress has the chance to make these millions of voices across America be heard. That is, after all, our job. Our sole job is to make Federal law, to give voice to those who elected us. We can state clearly, boldly, decisively today that Federal vaccine mandates do not belong in the United States of America.

We can stand for millions of vulnerable Americans who just want to go to work so that they have the chance simply to put food on the table for their families. That is not too much to ask.

The pandemic is waning, but it is waning just as our economic problems are just beginning. If we want to control the high price of everything, the lack of availability that comes with the related supply chain crisis, and keep the American economy moving, we must stand against these illegal, immoral, and unconstitutional mandates.

Look, the American people are sick and tired of the Federal Government micromanaging every minute detail of their lives. They are exhausted from the mandates and from the bureaucrats who they didn't vote for and never could vote for and never would vote for.

The brave men and women of our military, the Federal workers, the Federal contractors, people who work for Federal contractors—even a subdivision of a Federal contractor that doesn't actually provide any Federal contract work—along with medical professionals—all these workers across every part of our great land who are sucked up into this mandate, they all deserve better than pink slips and boots out the door, simply for making their own medical choices.

So I implore my colleagues with all the urgency I am capable of communicating, to stand up for American workers, stand up for our economy, stand up for freedom, and vote to withhold funding from these unconstitutional mandates.

It is quite significant that the very first clause of the very first section of the very first article of the Constitution says that ''all legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in the Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.''

It matters that this clause comes first, before everything else. And the reason it matters is because it is there to remind us of something. The most dangerous power within our Federal Government is not with the judiciary, it is not with the executive branch; it is right here in this branch because we have the power to prescribe law. We have the power within our Federal Government to provide what should be, what the law says, what people have to do. That is why the Founding Fathers were careful not to entrust it to any branch of government other than this one, not because those who would occupy these positions would necessarily be any wiser or any brighter or inherently more cautious than everyone else, except in one critical respect: This is the Federal branch most accountable to the people at the most regular intervals. You can fire every Member of the House every 2 years. You can fire one-third of us every 2 years.

We are the branch that is accountable. That is why we have been given the most dangerous power within government, the power to make Federal law. How then does this relate to illegal, unconstitutional, immoral, and wildly unpopular vaccine mandates? Well, it matters because that is an exercise of Federal law. It is an exercise of Federal law that Congress never enacted.

They have arrogated to themselves within the executive branch an authority that they do not have based on a contrivance, based on a tortured, butchered manipulation of statutory text that doesn't tell people that they have got to choose between getting an unwanted medical procedure and unemployment, unemployment in a context that it is likely to lead to unemployability. And, indeed, it was designed to do that. We know that because those who put these policies in place have told us as much.

Look, everybody has been through a lot in the last 2 years—Democrats, Republicans alike. This virus has been no respecter of persons, of red States and of blue States. Just the same, the American people understand that we are ready to move on. We are ready to not have government dictating every aspect of our lives.

COVID is no excuse for a government to do something that is categorically immoral. It is no excuse to do something that we all know is wrong. We would never justify anyone in rendering a threat against their friend, their neighbor, their employee, that if you don't bow, if you don't defer to Presidential medical orthodoxy, I am going to make you lose your job and make it impossible for you to put bread on the table for your children. No sane, moral, decent person would do that. We must not allow them to do that. We must never allow the executive branch of government to exercise authority

that they don't have because we didn't give it to them and they could never have it because the Constitution doesn't allow it.

We have got the chance right now to bring together red States and blue States alike, because, remember, it is not just red States anymore that are ditching these kind of draconian measures within their own State government systems. No. It is blue States left and right—Michigan, New York, New Jersey, Illinois. Many, many more blue States are joining the number of red States that have made this decision.

Enough is enough. It is time for us to live our lives. I encourage my colleagues to vote yes on my amendment, No. 4929, and let America work again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for votes be as follows—LEE, CRUZ, and BRAUN—and that upon the disposition of the Braun amendment, the Senate vote on the passage of the bill, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

AMENDMENT NO. 4927

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 4927 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CRUZ] proposes an amendment numbered 4927.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of Federal funding for schools and early childhood development facilities that enforce COVID–19 vaccine mandates on children in order to protect the rights of parents to make medical decisions that affect their child)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF SCHOOLS OR CHILD CARE CENTERS WITH STUDENT COVID–19 VACCINE MANDATES.

None of the funds made available under this Act or an amendment made by this Act may be provided or awarded, including by way of grant or subgrant, to any State educational agency, local educational agency, public school (including a public charter school), private or parochial school, child care center, or Head Start facility, that enforces any coronavirus SARS–CoV–2 vaccine mandate that requires a child or student under the age of 19 years to be immunized against COVID–19 as a condition of enrollment or in-person attendance at such school, center, or facility or to participate in any school-based or school-sponsored activities, including extracurricular activities.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in opposition to the abuse of power we have seen with vaccine mandates.

Let me say that I emphatically support Senator LEE's amendment about which he just spoke.

President Biden's vaccine mandates are illegal. They have, in significant part, been struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court, and they are abusive.

When this pandemic began, Senators on both sides of the aisle gave passionate speeches about the heroes in our society—about the doctors and nurses risking their lives to keep us safe. Well, now, under this vaccine mandate, Democrats are firing doctors and nurses and then complaining that we have a shortage of doctors and nurses.

We have heard speeches about the heroes of our military men and women, and they undoubtedly are heroes. Yet, under President Biden's illegal vaccine mandates, this administration is preparing to fire soldiers and sailors and airmen and marines. This administration is preparing to fire Navy SEALs, who have spent decades training and fighting to defend this Nation, but because they will not submit to an arbitrary and illegal mandate, Democrats are preparing to fire them.

We have heard Members from both sides of the aisle give speeches about police officers and firefighters—the heroes of 9/11—who, on that tragic day, ran into the building while it was on fire instead out of the building while it was on fire. Yet, under these illegal vaccine mandates, Democrats are firing police officers and firefighters.

We are seeing airline flights canceled all over the country. Yet, under these illegal vaccine mandates, airline pilots and flight attendants and mechanics and ticket agents are being fired from their jobs.

Typically, when I fly back and forth to Houston, I fly either United Airlines or Southwest. United, the company, has an arbitrary policy wherein they are firing or putting on involuntary and unpaid leave any employee who refuses to get the vaccine. United is different from other airlines in that regard. They have done so because they want to curry favor with the Biden White House because United's CEO believes that making Democrats at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue happy is somehow in its best interests.

Without exaggeration, every single time I board a United plane, a pilot, a flight attendant, a ticket agent pulls me aside and says: Thank you. Thank you for standing up and fighting for my rights. Why the heck won't my CEO fight for my rights?

We are seeing blue State Governors and blue State mayors who realize that firing American heroes and forcing people to make healthcare decisions against their wishes is bad politics. We are seeing blue State Governors and blue State mayors backing down. Yet I fear we will see blue State Democrats in the Senate—many of whom are not on the ballot, two-thirds of whom are not on the ballot this November—believing they can arbitrarily ignore the will of the people.

Just yesterday, the people of San Francisco—bright blue, leftwing San Francisco—voted out three members of the school board over their arbitrary and tyrannical COVID policies that shut down schools for a year. The vote was nearly 80 percent to throw them out. I would note, by the way, that their defense was, they said, that everybody voting against them was a White supremacist. These were closet Republicans, they said, in San Francisco. San Francisco voted 85 percent for Joe Biden, but apparently there are a bunch of closet Republicans there.

My Democratic colleagues are ignoring the will of the people and giving in to extreme partisan positions on COVID.

Any Democrat, particularly any Democrat on the ballot in November, ought to look to San Francisco, ought to look to the Virginia Governor's race, ought to look to the New Jersey Governor's race and realize the Democratic Party is out of step with the American people.

Senator LEE's amendment repeals the illegal and abusive vaccine mandates from President Biden.

My amendment is focused on an area that people, understandably, rightly, are deeply passionate about, which is stopping the vaccine mandates on children.

We have seen jurisdictions all over the country impose vaccine mandates and say to parents: If you want your child to go to school, either give the child the vaccine or you can't send your kid to school.

That is an absolute abuse of power.

The choice of the healthcare your kid gets ought to be the choice of the parents. If you want to vaccinate your children, that ought to be your choice; you ought to have the right. Yet we are seeing arrogant blue State Democrats across the country say to moms and dads: I don't care what your views are.

Indeed, the Democratic candidate for Governor of Virginia said quite brazenly: Parents should have no say in what is taught to their kids.

By the way, this is applying to children as young as 5 years old. We are, right now, in the District of Columbia. If a Member of Congress has children in the schools in DC, the District of Columbia is mandating you must vaccinate your 5-year-old whether you want to or not.

That is wrong.

My amendment is very simple. It cuts off Federal funds for any institution that forces a vaccine mandate on kids. There are nearly 81 million kids in America whose rights are in jeopardy.

The arrogance of these petty authoritarians' at-a-time-of-crisis character is revealed, and we are seeing petty authoritarians who say: Mom, you don't have the right to decide whether or not your 5-year-old, your 6-year-old, your 7-year-old will get this vaccine.

Who the heck do they think they are?

I repeat: If you want to vaccinate your kids, that is your right, and you

should do so, but these petty tyrants have no right to force parents to vaccinate children with a new and untested vaccine.

Let me be clear. I am vaccinated—I am pro-vaccine—but I believe in individual choice. If you want to be vaccinated, fantastic, but it ought to be your choice in consultation with your doctor, and if you have kids, you ought to talk to your doctor and say: Hey, Doc, what does the evidence show about the impact on kids? You ought to have a real and candid conversation with your doctor, not with some political bureaucrat in Washington, DC, or in the State capitol or at city hall.

These mandates are wrong. They are wrong in every capacity but especially as it concerns kids.

I say to the petty tyrants—the same people, by the way, who shut down schools for a year. I mentioned a second ago the San Francisco school board. One of the school board members voted out by nearly 80 percent of the voters in San Francisco said—and I mentioned this—the people who voted against me and the people who want to open schools are White supremacists.

The millions of kids who have been hurt by school closures will be academically behind for the rest of their lives, and that harm has fallen disproportionately on low-income kids. It has fallen disproportionately on African-American kids. It has fallen disproportionately on Hispanic kids, and we have got a bunch of rich, White liberals saying to low-income minority kids: Well, tough luck. You don't get to go to school.

Mind you, many of those rich, White liberals can afford to send their kids to private schools so their kids keep getting educated, but the low-income kids are out of luck.

Then, in this ''Alice in Wonderland'' world we live in, arrogant leftists say: If you want schools open—if you want African-American kids and Hispanic kids to be able to go to school and learn to read and learn to write and learn math and history and science and art and climb the economic ladder and have a chance at the American dream—and if you want minority kids to have a chance to succeed, you are a White supremacist.

Anyone listening to those words understands why the American people are angry.

I pray that, in just a few minutes, the Senate does the right thing and rational thing. These votes, in any sane world, should be 100 to nothing. We should stand for people's individual rights, individual liberties. We should stand against petty tyrants trampling on our rights. In just a few minutes, we will see where every Senator in this body stands. I pray that we stand with the people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 4929

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise to speak against the Lee amendment, which we will be voting on in just a minute.

We are working to rebuild our economy, and we are working to end a pandemic that has killed over 900,000 people. So why are a few Senate Republicans, once again, risking a government shutdown and creating problems rather than trying to work with us on the ones that our country already faces?

This is not the first time I have had to point out to a handful of Senate Republicans that shutting down the government in the middle of a pandemic is a bad idea. It should be obvious, but here I am, once again, because my colleagues are here, once again, pretending that the biggest threat to our Nation is not the virus but, instead, vaccines and tests and masks, which have helped to actually save lives. This makes about as much sense as blaming the rescue crew for a shipwreck and threatening to sink the lifeboat unless they don't stop helping.

We all want this pandemic to end; we want our schools to stay open safely; and we want people to be able to go to work safely and go about their lives like before.

We are making real progress toward the goal of putting this pandemic behind us. One way to continue this progress is to do what the vast majority of Senators—Democrat and Republican—are prepared to do: vote to keep the government open so we can work together on funding the Nation's priorities through regular order.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote against this completely unnecessary amendment, against a government shutdown, and for common sense.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

AMENDMENT NO. 4927

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to speak in opposition to Senator CRUZ's amendment, No. 4927.

Everyone in this body who attended school in the United States had to get vaccines to attend school—measles, mumps, rubella, polio, chickenpox. Everyone in this body who sent a child to school in the United States had to make sure that they got their children vaccinated.

Is that because of a big Federal mandate? No.

All 50 States—Utah, Texas, New York, Maine, Washington, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, Virginia—embraced their own vaccine mandates—all 50. There are some variations. Iowa doesn't mandate a mumps vaccine, and Virginia mandates a human papillomavirus vaccine, but we leave it up to local school boards and State superintendents of instruction to decide if a vaccine is warranted.

This is unprecedented in this body, an effort by the Federal Government to force local school boards and State superintendents of instruction to not have a vaccine mandate at the cost of taking money away from the students and the teachers and the parents.

In Virginia, parents very strongly support vaccination of children. Why would we not listen to parents? Why would we not listen to the local school boards that are hearing from parents about this?

I urge my colleagues to reject a massive Federal overreach that would disempower school boards and States and take funding away from their children's education.

Please vote no on the Cruz amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the American people do not want a Federal vaccine mandate. The American people just want to be able to go about doing their jobs. They want to be able to go work. They don't want to be told by someone who lacks the authority that they have to choose between an unwanted medical procedure on the one hand and on the other hand, losing their ability to put bread on the table.

It is not just illegal; it is not just immoral; it is wrong. We all know it is wrong, and we know that it is time to end this.

Please vote yes on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all remaining time be yielded back before the Lee and Cruz amendment votes and that the Senate now vote in relation to the Lee amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 4929

Under the previous order, the question occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 4929, offered by the Senator from Utah, Mr. LEE.

Mr. LEE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY).

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 61 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Barrasso	Collins	Ernst
Blackburn	Cornyn	Fischer
Blunt	Cotton	Grassley
Boozman	Cramer	Hagerty
Braun	Crapo	Hawley
Capito	Cruz	Hoeven
Cassidy	Daines	Hyde-Smith

Johnson
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell
Moran
Murkowski
Paul
Portman
Risch
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shelby
Sullivan
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Tuberville
Wicker
Young

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—7

Burr
Feinstein
Graham
Inhofe
Kelly
Luján
Romney

The amendment (No. 4929) was rejected.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I think the Members will like this announcement. I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes be 10 minutes in duration each.

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

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 4927

Under the previous order, the question occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 4927, offered by the Senator from Texas, Mr. CRUZ.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The yeas and nays have been requested.

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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY).

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Leg.]

YEAS—44

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

NAYS—49

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

NOT VOTING—7

Burr
Feinstein
Graham
Inhofe
Kelly
Luján
Romney

The amendment (No. 4927) was rejected.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Indiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 4930

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 4930 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Indiana [Mr. BRAUN] proposes an amendment numbered 4930.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strike the Statutory PAYGO exemption and require balanced budgets in concurrent resolutions on the budget)

On page 8, strike lines 3 through 6 and insert the following:

(a) POINT OF ORDER AGAINST BUDGET RESOLUTIONS THAT DO NOT INCLUDE A BALANCED BUDGET.—

(1) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a concurrent resolution on the budget that does not reduce the deficit to zero on or before the end of the 9th fiscal year after the budget year.

(2) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Paragraph (1) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under paragraph (1).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on amendment No. 4932, offered by the Senator from Indiana, Mr. BRAUN.

There are 2 minutes of debate.

Mr. BRAUN. I came here 3 years ago with a mission to rein in debt and deficits. I think few of us actually care much about that here, in my observation. If we did, we wouldn't be passing our third short-term spending measure in 5 months. It should have been done last year.

In a few weeks, we will pass an Omnibus bill that we will all say was bipartisan, and we will go on down the road. Meanwhile, inflation will be surging ahead—7 percent, 8 percent—the highest since 1982. The last time we voted on a balanced budget amendment was in 2011. By the way, both Democrats and Republicans supported it back then.

I am proposing something very simple, very low-threshold. It creates a point of order against any budget resolution that doesn't reach a balanced budget in 10 years. That is so simple, everyone, including the Presiding Officer banging the gavel, ought to be for it for the sake of our kids and our grandkids.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the amendment offered by the Senator from Indiana would mandate extreme, across the board cuts to Federal programs that the American people rely on.

Under this amendment, Congress would need to callously slash $1.4 trillion in a vain effort to close the budget deficit through spending cuts in the 10th year of a budget resolution. Spread evenly across all Federal programs, this would result in a $350 billion cut to Medicare, a $180 billion cut to Medicaid, and an $82 billion cut to veterans' programs, in just 1 year.

Nutrition programs that help families make ends meet by putting food on the table would be slashed by a quarter. Affordable housing, healthcare, education, name the Federal program that people in your communities rely on, and it will be cut by a quarter.

The Senator's amendment would require a two-thirds vote to pass any budget resolution that does not balance the budget in the 10th year. The last two budget resolutions written by Senate Republicans would have violated this rule.

Being responsible stewards of Americans' hard-earned tax dollars is a bipartisan priority, but this is not responsible stewardship. I urge a no vote.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Does anybody yield back in opposition?

Mrs. MURRAY. I yield back our time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator yields back time.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 4930

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on adoption of the amendment by the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN).

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ROSEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr.

INHOFE), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY).

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Leg.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—8

Burr	Inhofe	Romney
Feinstein	Kelly	Rosen
Graham	Luján	

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 45.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of the amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 4930) was rejected.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There are two minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote on passage.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The yeas and nays have been requested.

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

There is a request for the yeas and nays.

VOTE ON H.R. 6617

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY).

The result was announced—yeas 65, nays 27 as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 64 Leg.]

YEAS—65

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Barrasso	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Bennet	Hirono	Rubio
Blumenthal	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Blunt	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	Kennedy	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shelby
Capito	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Manchin	Smith
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	McConnell	Tester
Cassidy	Menendez	Tillis
Collins	Merkley	Van Hollen
Coons	Moran	Warner
Cornyn	Murkowski	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Whitehouse
Durbin	Ossoff	Wicker
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hagerty	Peters	Young
Hassan	Portman	

NAYS—27

Blackburn	Fischer	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Sasse
Cotton	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Toomey
Ernst	Marshall	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—8

Burr	Inhofe	Romney
Feinstein	Kelly	Rosen
Graham	Luján	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). On this vote, the yeas are 65, the nays are 27.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (H.R. 6617) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF MICHELE TAYLOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, earlier this afternoon, I made it clear I was going to put forward a unanimous consent request asking the Senate to take up and approve the nomination of Michele Taylor, to serve as the U.S. Representative to the UN Human Rights Council with the rank of Ambassador, and in just a minute and a half or so, I will make that unanimous consent request.

Ms. Taylor has an exceptional record with respect to humanitarian issues. She has served on the Anti-Defamation League, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. She has been a strong advocate for the rights of women.

I come from a family who lost relatives in the Holocaust. Ms. Taylor is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. And it is absolutely essential that we up the ante in the fight against anti-Semitism, and that is a key part of this country's diplomacy.

The reason that I am making this unanimous consent tonight is that Michele Taylor is unquestionably qualified for this important post, but there is a real time sensitivity to her nomination being cleared tonight. The regular session of the U.N. Human Rights Council begins on February 28, obviously just a few days away. It is absolutely essential that we confirm our representative now. Delaying Ms. Taylor's confirmation would obviously hinder the U.S. ability to advocate for American values and help vulnerable people who suffer under abuse and oppression around the world. And she will be able to build on some particularly important work that is going on in the Senate Committee on Finance, led by Senator BROWN and Senator CRAPO, working, for example, on forced labor and other issues that involve critically important human rights questions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 640, Michele Taylor, of Georgia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council; that the Senate vote on the nomination without any intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michele Taylor, of Georgia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it has been a busy and productive work period in the Senate.

First, the good news is that we have kept the government open. It took some work, especially when the Senate rules lend themselves to delay and obstruction. Still, I thank Senators LEAHY and SHELBY, as well as Leader MCCONNELL, for helping us get this done. To have allowed the government to close would have caused undue hardship for millions of blameless Americans.

We have gotten other things done, too, in this work period.

We passed forced arbitration reform, made progress to fix our post office, and confirmed more of the President's nominees.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. President, next session, we are picking up right where we left off, to pass postal reform so we can send it to the President's desk.

I have also taken the first procedural step for the Senate to consider the Women's Health Protection Act. Across the country, the assault on women's healthcare has intensified to levels not seen in decades. So the Senate is going to vote, when we return on February 28, to take action.

Democrats will also continue focusing on lowering costs for everyday Americans, including by taking aim at the costs of insulin. It is just preposterous—beyond preposterous—that Americans with diabetes sometimes pay more than $600 just for a 40-day supply of insulin. So my colleague Senator WARNOCK has introduced legislation that will cap insulin costs to just $35 a month.

There is enormous interest in our caucus to pursue this proposal, so it will be a priority for Democrats in the weeks ahead. This has long been a bipartisan issue. As many as 20 States across the country, many with Republican legislatures and Governors, have passed State-level insulin caps. There is no reason this shouldn't be bipartisan in this body, and I invite my Republican colleagues to join us in this effort.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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 for up to 10 minutes each.

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

UKRAINE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I rise today in support of my resolution to convey strong bipartisan opposition to Russian President Vladimir Putin's unprovoked aggression against the United States' partner, Ukraine. I was proud to lead this resolution with Senator ROB PORTMAN, in addition to Senators DURBIN, CORNYN, MENENDEZ, and RISCH, and was pleased to see 38 Senators join this resolution and push for its passage.

As the Senate prepared to adjourn for the next week, Senator PORTMAN and I believed it was absolutely critical that we deliver this message of strong bipartisan support for the brave and resilient people of Ukraine. It is important to send a message of bipartisan resolve and to stand up to Putin in response to his continued aggression and especially given recent indications that he is increasingly likely to eschew the diplomatic path available and further invade Ukraine. And as I join a large bipartisan delegation to the Munich Security Forum this weekend, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle agreed that it was paramount that the Senate pass this resolution. This resolution demonstrates the fierce bipartisan support for the NATO, for the transatlantic alliance, for our democratic partners in Ukraine and in repudiation of Putin's efforts to violate Ukraine's sovereignty.

This Senate has a long history of supporting an independent and democratic Ukraine. Since Russia's initial invasion of Ukraine in 2014, this Congress has provided more than $2.7 billion in security assistance and supported critical reforms to help Ukraine on its journey to greater euro-Atlantic integration.

I am proud to have been involved in a number of bipartisan efforts to support Ukraine. Last month, I traveled to Ukraine with Senator PORTMAN as part of a bipartisan congressional delegation to meet with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and his national security team to discuss the Russian threat and how the United States can help our Ukrainian friends. In January, I reaffirmed the United States' commitment to our democratic partners, which I also shared during a congressional delegation visit last June, that our Nation believes fervently that Ukraine and Ukraine alone should determine its future.

In our meetings, the message from the Ukrainians was clear. They see their future in partnership with the West. They share our democratic values, and their people are proud of their hard-won independence. I would like to make one point perfectly clear: The unprecedented Russian threat to Ukraine's sovereignty is on Vladimir Putin and no one else. He has designed this crisis to advance his own revanchist agenda. The global community is not blind to his malign ambitions. He wants to reconstruct the Soviet Union and recreate his own sphere of interest. And he—wrongfully—sees Ukraine as part of this authoritarian future.

Putin wants to diminish the U.S. presence in Europe and to rewrite the European security order for his benefit and in blatant disregard for previous international agreements and treaties that Russia signed. And Putin has shown repeated attempts to subvert democratic institutions in the United States, threaten our election security, attack our infrastructure, and compromise the sovereignty of our allies around the globe.

This is why what happens in Ukraine matters to the United States. How we respond to Putin's aggression against Ukraine will have implications for our national security and global stability for decades to come. It is important that we stand up for our values. It is necessary that we stand up to protect our national security. And it is critical that we continue to uphold and protect the European security order that has afforded us peace and prosperity for over 70 years. As Putin tries to dismantle and divide the very alliance that has kept us safe for over 70 years, it is all the more important that we strengthen our resolve through a strong message of unbreakable unity.

This is why the passage of today's bipartisan resolution on Ukraine is so important. I want to covey my appreciation to Senator PORTMAN for his work and leadership. Especially on this issue, we believe that bipartisanship is critical in advancing U.S. foreign policy, especially in support of our partner, Ukraine. And we must lead by example and convey, as we have done to our Ukrainian partners and our transatlantic allies, that we must not leave any space for Putin to sow further discord.

On Monday, I spoke on the floor and said that the Senate does not have a choice; we must send a message of strong, unequivocal bipartisan resolve. And today, we did just that.

Along with my fellow Senators, I wish to send an unequivocal message to Putin; you will not divide this Senate. You will not divide this country. And you will not divide the transatlantic alliance. Diplomacy remains an option to deescalate this situation and pursue a peaceful resolution. But if Putin decides to further invade Ukraine, he will only succeed in uniting us all—Democrats, Republicans, Americans, and the transatlantic alliance—in sending a message of unmistakable resolve against his belligerence.

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)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0B–22. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described

in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 19–72 of October 30, 2019.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0B–22

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Croatia.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 19–72; Date: October 30, 2019; Military Department: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On October 30, 2019, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 19–72 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of two (2) UH–60M Black Hawk Helicopters in standard USG configuration with designated unique equipment and Government Furnished Equipment (GFE), up to nine (9) each T700–GE–70 ID engines, and up to nine (9) each H–764GU/Embedded Global Positioning/Inertial Navigation (EGI). Also included was Communication Security equipment including an AN/APX–123A Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponder, AN/ARC–201D RT–1478D, and AN/ARC–231 RT–1808A radios, aircraft warranty, air worthiness support, calibration services, spare and repair parts, support equipment, communication equipment, weapons, ammunition, night vision devices, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training devices, site surveys, tool and test equipment, U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost was $115 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted $60 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of additional non-MDE articles that were not previously notified: AN/ARC–201D RT–1478D radios. The total estimated non-MDE value will increase by $.07 million. The total estimated MDE value will remain $60 million. The total estimated case value will increase to $115.07 million.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale of defense articles and services supports Croatia's ongoing modernization of its ageing fleet of Mi-8 helicopters and transition to NATO specification transport helicopters. This will contribute to Croatia's effort to update their capabilities and enhance interoperability with NATO allies.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 16, 2022.

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, February 17, 2022.

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. 22–20, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost $6 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,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22–20

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 Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $4.4 billion.

Other $1.6 billion.

Total $6.0 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two hundred fifty (250) M1A2SEPv3 Abrams Main Battle Tanks.

Two hundred fifty (250) AN/VLQ–12 CREW Duke Counter-IED Systems.

Twenty-six (26) M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicles.

Seventeen (17) M1110 Joint Assault Bridges.

Two hundred seventy-six (276) M2 .50 Caliber Machine Guns.

Five hundred (500) M240C 7.62mm Machine Guns.

Fifteen (15) AGT1500 Gas Turbine Engines.

Nine thousand one hundred sixty-eight (9,168) 120mm M865 Target Practice, Cone Stabilized, Discarding Sabot-Tracer (TPCSDS–T) Cartridges.

Four thousand five hundred ninety-two (4,592) 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose Tracer (TPMP–T) Projectiles.

Thirteen thousand nine hundred twenty (13,920) 120mm M830A1 High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) TP–T Cartridges.

Six thousand nine hundred sixty (6,960) 120mm XM1147 High Explosive Multipurpose Tracers.

Non-MDE: Also included are forward repair systems; trailer mounted generators; Common Remote Operated Weapons Station Low Profile (CROWS-LP); communications equipment; GPS receivers; ammunition; spare and repair parts; Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE); technical manuals and publications; maintenance trainers; gunnery training systems; tank driver's trainers; new equipment training; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (PL–B–UDT).

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

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

(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: February 17, 2022.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—M1A2 SEPv3 Main Battle Tank

The Government of Poland has requested to buy two hundred fifty (250) M1A2SEPv3 Abrams Main Battle tanks; two hundred fifty (250) AN/VLQ–12 CREW Duke counter-IED systems; twenty-six (26) M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery vehicles; seventeen (17) M1110 joint assault bridges; two hundred seventy-six (276) M2 .50 caliber machine guns; five hundred (500) M240C 7.62mm machine guns; fifteen (15) AGT1500 gas turbine engines; nine thousand one hundred sixty-eight (9,168) 120mm M865 Target Practice, Cone Stabilized, Discarding Sabot—Tracer (TPCSDS–T) cartridges; four thousand five hundred ninety-two (4,592) 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose Tracer (TPMP–T) projectiles; thirteen thousand nine hundred twenty (13,920) 120mm M830A1 High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) TP–T cartridges; and six thousand nine hundred sixty (6,960) 120mm XM1147 High Explosive multipurpose tracers. Also included are forward repair systems; trailer mounted generators; Common Remote Operated Weapons Station Low Profile (CROWS–LP); communications equipment; GPS receivers; ammunition; spare and repair parts; Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE); technical manuals and publications; maintenance trainers; gunnery training systems; tank driver's trainers; new equipment training; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics personnel services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is $6.0 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force that is capable of deterring adversaries and participating in NATO operations. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment 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 General Dynamics Land Systems, Sterling Heights, MI; BAE Systems, York, PA; Leonardo DRS, Arlington, VA; Honeywell Aerospace, Phoenix, AZ; Raytheon Company, McKinney, TX; and Lockheed Martin, Orlando, FL. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this proposed sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately (22) U.S. Government and (52) U.S. contractor representatives to travel to Poland for a duration of up to five years to support equipment fielding and training.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22–20

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. M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Tank: The M1A2 Abrams is a third-generation American main battle tank, produced by General Dynamics Land Systems and named for General Creighton Abrams. The M1A2 SEPv3 (System Enhancement Package version 3) features include a multi-fuel turbine engine, composite armor, an advanced computer fire control system, separate ammunition storage in a blow-out compartment, and 120mm main gun. Extensive improvements have been integrated into the latest M1A2 SEPv3 configuration. These improvements include improved digital systems, increased electrical power margin to support demands of future technologies, line replaceable modules (LRM) to reduce operational support costs, ammunition data link to support new tank main gun rounds, and an auxiliary power unit (APU). M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams tank components considered to contain sensitive technology in the proposed sale are as follows:

a. Thermal Imaging System (TIS) and Commander's Independent Thermal Viewer (CITV):

(1) The TIS and CITV constitutes a target acquisition system which, when operated with other tank systems gives the tank crew a substantial advantage over the potential threat.

(2) The TIS provides the Abrams M1A2 crew with the ability to effectively aim and fire the tank main armament system under a broad range of adverse battlefield conditions. The TIS can be operated and viewed by the tank gunner or tank commander, and is the main sighting system for the tanks' main gun (cannon). The CITV provides the same target acquisition system as the TIS, but provides the tank commander a separate system that can be controlled and operated independent of the TIS.

b. Armor: Major components of the armor are fabricated and assembled into serialized removable subassemblies, and installed in sealed modules.

c. 120mm Main Gun (Cannon) & M256 Gun Barrel: The Abrams 120mm main gun system is composed of a 120 millimeter (mm) smoothbore gun (cannon) also referred to as the M256 gun barrel, manufactured at Watervliet Arsenal; armor-piercing, fin stabilized, discarded sabot (APFSDS) and other warheads; and combustible cartridge case ammunition.

d. AGT–1500 Gas Turbine Propulsion System: The use of AGT–1500 gas turbine propulsion system in the M1A2 is a unique application of armored vehicle power pack technology. The hardware is composed of the AGT–1500 engine and transmission and is not classified. Manufacturing processes associated with the production of turbine blades, recuperator, bearings and shafts, and hydrostatic pump and motor are proprietary and therefore commercially competition sensitive.

e. Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station—Low Profile (CROWS–LP): The CROWS–LP (M153A2E1) is a commander's weapon station. It allows for operation of weapons—M2HB, M2A1, M240B and M240 machine guns. The CROWS–LP is an updated version of the M153A2 CROWS. The CROWS–LP M153A2E1 has improved performance over the M153A2.

f. Ammunition Data Link (ADL): The Ammunition Data Link (ADL) is a system consisting of hardware, electronics, software and an upgraded fire control system. The ADL is required to effectively fire the latest generation of ''smart'' 120mm main gun ammunition. The ADL offers the capability to supply data to the main gun ammunition to increase the capability and effectiveness of the smart round. The Advanced Multipurpose (AMP) smart round requires the ADL to function, and is a future enhancement for use with the M1A2 Abrams.

g. Driver Vision Enhancer—Abrams (DVE–A) AN/VAS–5 and Rear View Sensor System (RVSS):

(1) The AN/VAS–5 Driver Vision Enhancer—Abrams (DVE–A) and Rear View Sensor System (RVSS) are thermal imaging systems developed for use while driving combat vehicles and tactical wheeled vehicles. The DVE-A provides night vision capability for the Abrams tank driver. RVSS provides a rear view camera for the Abrams tank.

(2) DVE–A and RVSS allow for tactical vehicle movement in support of operational missions in all environmental conditions (day/night and all weather) and provides enhanced driving capability during limited visibility conditions (darkness, smoke, dust, fog, etc.).

h. Global Positioning System (GPS) AN/PSN–13 Defense Advanced GPS Receiver (DAGR): Global Positioning System (GPS) capability is currently provided to Abrams tanks using the DAGR. The DAGR is a handheld GPS receiver which utilizes Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) security. It is used for the Abrams tank, the M88A2 HERCULES Recovery Vehicle and the Joint Assault Bridge.

i. Handheld Communication Radio AN/PRC–158: The AN/PRC–158 is a multiband handheld radio. It is a portable, compact, tactical software-defined combat-net radio manufactured by L3/Harris Corporation. It is also referred to as the AN/PRC–158 Multi-Channel Manpack Radio System. The AN/PRC–158 has been fielded since 2005 by the U.S. Army, the USMC, and various select countries. It is used for the Abrams tank, the M88A2 HERCULES Recovery Vehicle and the Joint Assault Bridge.

j. Battle Management System (BMS): The BMS for the Poland SEPv3 tank will consist of a Data Distribution Unit—Expandable (DDUx), a transceiver, and commercial software called Sitaware. It equips soldiers with secure data encryption and advanced logistics. It includes an intuitive interface with features like touch-to-zoom maps and drag-and-drop icons. It is used for the Abrams tank, the M88A2 HERCULES Recovery Vehicle and the Joint Assault Bridge.

k. Counter Remote Controlled Improvised Explosive Device (RCIED) Electronic Warfare (CREW) Duke AN/VLQ–12: The AN/VLQ–12 CREW Duke system is a vehicle-mounted, lightweight system that neutralizes RCIED threats and gives troops a tactical advantage across the full spectrum of operations. It is the U.S. Army's state-of-the-art security enhancement to the U.S. Army Abrams tank. The AN/VLQ–12 CREW Duke system uses an advanced software-defined architecture that supports rapid reconfiguration to adapt to the constantly evolving threat environment.

2. M88A2 HERCULES Recovery Vehicle: The primary role of the M88A2 Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lifting Extraction System (HERCULES) Combat Recovery Vehicle is recovery of the Abrams M1 Main Battle Tank. The 70–ton M88A2 Recovery Combat Vehicle is standard equipment to de-process, recover, and sustain the Abrams M1 Tank. The vehicle's role is to extricate combat vehicles that have become bogged down or entangled; and to repair or replace damaged parts in fighting vehicles while under fire. The M88A2 main winch is capable of 70–ton single line recovery; and a 140–ton 2:1 recovery when used with a 140–ton pulley. The A-frame boom of the M88A2 can lift 35 tons when used in conjunction with the spade down. The spade can be used for light earth moving and to anchor the vehicle when using the main winch. The M88A2 employs an Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) to provide auxiliary electrical and hydraulic power when the main engine is not in operation; the APU can also be used to slave start other vehicles. The M88A2 recovery vehicle components considered to contain sensitive technology in the proposed case are as follows:

a. AVDS–1790–8CR Engine Propulsion System: The AVDS–1790–8CR is a unique modification to the standard piston engine family in the M60 series and the base M88Al.

b. Driver's Vision Enhancer (DVE–CV M88): Driver's Vision Enhancer (DVE–CV M88) is a thermal imaging system developed for use while driving Combat Vehicles (CVs) and Tactical Wheeled Vehicles (TWVs). It allows for tactical vehicle movement in support of operational missions in all environmental conditions (day/night and all weather) and provides enhanced driving capability during limited visibility conditions (darkness, smoke, dust, fog, etc). The DVE provides night vision targeting capabilities for armored vehicles and long-range night vision reconnaissance capability to the warfighter. The DVE–CV for M88 vehicle is a platform-mounted night vision device (not man-portable), requires external power supply and is integrated into the vehicle.

3. M1110 Joint Assault Bridge: The M1110 Joint Assault Bridge (JAB) is a fully tracked armor engineer vehicle specifically designed to replace the M48/M60 AVLB, M104 Wolverine HAB and provide assault bridging capabilities to armored forces. The JAB System consists of an M1A1 Abrams chassis (with A2 heavy suspension) and a hydraulic bridge launch mechanism that will launch and retrieve the Heavy Assault Scissor Bridge MLC–115 Normal and MLC–124 Caution. The JAB contains:

a. Armor: Major components of the armor are fabricated and assembled into serialized removable subassemblies, and installed in sealed modules.

b. AGT–1500 Gas Turbine Propulsion System: The use of AGT–1500 gas turbine propulsion system in the JAB is a unique application of armored vehicle power pack technology. The hardware is composed of the AGT–1500 engine and transmission.

c. Driver Vision Enhancer—JAB (DVE) and Rear View Sensor System (RVSS): The Driver Vision Enhancer (DVE) used on the JAB is the DVE–10 and Rear View Sensor System (RVSS) both are thermal imaging systems developed for use while driving combat vehicles and tactical wheeled vehicles. The DVE provides night vision capability for the JAB driver. The RVSS provides a rear view camera for the JAB. DVE and RVSS allow for tactical vehicle movement in support of operational missions in all environmental conditions (day/night and all weather) and provides enhanced driving capability during limited visibility conditions (darkness, smoke, dust, fog, etc.).

4. M830A1 120mm High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) TP-T Cartridges is a chemical energy, multi-purpose projectile with an anti-personnel capability. The round consists of a fin stabilized steel body which is loaded with Composition A3 Type II explosive. The fins are canted and impart spin to the projectile. A copper shaped charge liner and wave shaper are contained within the warhead.

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

6. 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.

7. A determination has been made that Poland will 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.

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

RECOGNIZING THE PENSION RIGHTS CENTER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today is a doubly special day. February 17 is the 46th anniversary of the founding of the Pension Rights Center. February 17 is also the birthday of Karen Ferguson, the long-time director of the Pension Rights Center, who passed away recently.

The Pension Rights Center as helmed by Ms. Ferguson was known as a tireless advocate for the right of workers and senior citizens to enjoy a dignified and secure retirement. Their passion for retirement security is something that I have also shared since the 1970s, when I helped to found the Oregon Gray Panthers, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of senior citizens. The support of the Pension Rights Center and Ms. Ferguson was instrumental in the passage of recent legislation such as the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019 and the financial assistance program for distressed multiemployer pension plans in the American Rescue Plan Act.

On this double anniversary, I urge my colleagues to reflect on the progress that has been made so far in improving retirement security in the United States and to double down in our efforts to fight for further improvement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING KAREN FERGUSON

• Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of Karen Ferguson, the founder and president of the Pension Rights Center. Karen passed away in December. Today would have been her 81st birthday, and today also marks the 46th anniversary of Karen founding the Pension Rights Center.

Under Karen's steadfast leadership, the Pension Rights Center has been at the forefront of ensuring retirement security for all, from retirees in struggling multiemployer pension plans to women obtaining spousal shares of retirement plans to countless individuals seeking assistance through one of the center's pension counseling projects. The Pension Rights Center was Karen's gift to all of us.

Karen will be remembered for her fierce determination and tireless advocacy on behalf of workers, women, and retirees. She also possessed an unparalleled depth of knowledge on retirement law, a subject many find intimidating. The world has lost a pension superhero. I salute Karen for her decades of service. She will be greatly missed.•

RECOGNIZING FARM GIRL GIFTS AND BAKE SHOP

• Mr. PAUL. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Farm Girl Gifts and Bake Shop of Corydon, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Entrepreneurship is undoubtedly a unique career path. I guarantee if you ask any small business owner about the genesis of their business, you will find that each start-up story is distinct in its own way. For Farm Girl Gifts and Bake Shop, baking had long been a hobby of founder and owner, Marganna Stanley, who spent the past 30 years working as an educator in the schools of Henderson County, the last 6 of which as Henderson County school superintendent. Though she has always been passionate about teaching, Marganna did not let her 2020 retirement stop her from chasing her other dream, that of owning her own business.

In late 2020, undeterred by the COVID–19 pandemic, Marganna opened Farm Girl Gifts and Bake Shop, a place where one could shop for gifts of all kinds, including glassware, skincare and bath products, children's books and toys, along with a host of local artisan products. Even with the wide array of gifts for sale, there are plenty of other attractions at Farm Girl, namely, the excellent home-cooking of Marganna and her staff. As the business name would indicate, baked goods are her specialty. The team at Farm Girl Gifts and Bake Shop work tirelessly to ensure that every customer has more than enough options to choose from. From cookies to layer cakes, muffins to pies, sourdough loafs to her signature tall cupcakes, Marganna and her team stay busy in the kitchen.

As the only restaurant in the town of Corydon, Marganna makes sure Farm Girl always has some hearty Kentucky cooking on hand to satisfy any appetite. Though sweets are Marganna's specialty, sub sandwiches, soups, and sliders are common attractions at Farm Girl Gifts and Bake Shop. Moreover, Marganna brings her experience as an educator and her love for teaching to her new business venture. When stocking her shelves with Christmas gifts for the holidays, she made sure to include educational books and toys for young children. She keeps the Farm Girl atmosphere fun by creating competitions for her devoted customers. In the summer of 2021, she announced that the customer who bought Farm Girl's 10,000th tall cupcake would receive a $100 prize. She ended 2021, her first full year in business, having sold 9,678 of these tall cupcakes. Shortly thereafter Farm Girl hit that 10,000 milestone and that $100 bill found itself in one lucky customer's pocket. Her effort to bring a fun and engaging feeling to her business harkens back to Marganna's tenured career as an educator. Needless to say, his beloved presence in Henderson County is still brightening the faces of Corydon residents, young and old.

Farm Girl Gifts and Bake Shop is a wonderful example of how old passions can lead to new adventures. Always a great steward of her community, Marganna did not let a pandemic delay or deter her from pursuing her dream of serving Henderson County outside of the classroom. Always with a friendly smile, she continues on as a steadfast member of her community, and Henderson County parents and alumni alike make sure to stop by Farm Girl Gifts and Bake Shop to see her familiar face.

Congratulations to Marganna Stanley and the entire Farm Girl Gifts and Bake Shop team. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.•

TRIBUTE TO ED LEARY

• Mr. ROMNEY. Madam President, I rise today to recognize a remarkable Utahn who has recently announced his retirement after a long career of public service to our great State. Ed Leary has served honorably as commissioner of the Utah Department of Financial Institutions—DFI—for the past three decades, and his retirement marks the conclusion of 45 years at the agency.

His ascendency through the ranks of the agency is a testament to his strong character, wealth of knowledge and expertise, and impressive leadership abilities. From first serving as examiner, to industry supervisor and chief examiner before his appointment as Utah banking commissioner in 1992, Ed Leary garnered the necessary experience to become an indispensable advocate of smart banking policy.

Ed's list of accomplishments during his tenure is a long one. To name just a few, he led his agency's successful effort to achieve accreditation of the Utah DFI, shepherded the development of Utah's industrial banks community, and was instrumental in reforming the regulatory environment to improve conditions for commerce, bolstering Utah's economic might. By virtue of his thoughtful policy advocacy, Ed has earned the trust and admiration of friends, colleagues, and associates in both the public and private sectors.

Thank you, Ed, for your decades of impressive service to the great State of Utah. You have set a robust example for public servants to follow in our financial, housing, and banking communities. We wish you and your family all the best in your next chapter.●

TRIBUTE TO RYAN COCHRAN-SIEGLE

● Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, the State of Vermont is remarkably proud of Ryan Cochran-Siegle, who won a silver medal at the Winter Olympics in Beijing in the men's super-G. This achievement is specially impressive considering it occurred just 13 months after Ryan underwent surgery to repair a broken neck. His comeback is truly remarkable.

It is not merely his success that Vermont honors, but the history of his family. Family is important in our State, which values community and continuity—both of which are embodied in family. Families—people who are linked by a shared home life, by a closeness to one another, by a mutual supportiveness—are at the heart of what our small State is about.

Ryan's mother, Barbara Ann, won the gold medal in Slalom at the Olympics in Sapporo, Japan, in 1972, nearly 50 years to the day before her son's medal. Barbara Ann was Ryan's first ski teacher, and he learned where she did: at the small, family operated, nonprofit Cochran's Ski Area in Richmond, VT,

Cochran's was founded by Barbara Ann's parents, Mickey and Ginny Cochran, who were a remarkable pair of people. Mickey, who would become the alpine director of the U.S. National Ski Team, was not himself a champion skier, but an engineer and former University of Vermont football player, who valued family—and eventually skiing—above all else. Likewise, Ginny was dedicated to family and skiing. When they first established Cochran's Ski Area, it was a small, backyard operation. Today, it has grown into a center where generations of Vermont school children could learn to ski, still located on the small family hill.

Ginny and Mickey had four children, Barbara Ann, Marilyn, Bob, and Lindy. All were champion skiers and made the U.S. Olympic Team

Among their many other sking accomplishments, Marilyn Cochran Brown was a national champion three times, Bob Cochran was the first American man to win a World Cup in giant slalom, and Lindy Cochran Kelley won national slalom titles and was All American at University of Vermont—and, of course, Barbara Ann, Olympic slalom gold medalist and two-time national champion.

That tradition of family skiing excellence continued into the next generation, Mickey and Ginny's grandchildren. Lindy's children, Jessica Kelley, Tim Kelley, and Robby Kelley, all raced on the U.S. National Ski Team and all competed in World Cup races. Robby was the U.S. National Giant Slalom champion.

Two of Bob's children were skiers: Jimmy Cochran, who won the U.S. Slalom competition three times and competed in the Olympic games; and Amy Cochran, a successful collegiate racer. Marilyn's son Roger Brown was on the U.S. Ski Team, winning the 2002 Slalom championship and her son Doug Brown was on the varsity ski team at St. Lawrence University. Together with two of their cousins, Doug and Roger have gone on to found another Cochran family business, Slopeside Syrup and Untapped. And of course, Barbara Ann's son, two-time Olympian and one-time silver medalist Ryan Cochran-Siegle, who has also also competed in the World Cup.

Clearly, the impact of the Cochran family is not only their world-class skiing. Cochran's Ski Area is a bright spot in making skiing accessable and fun for all Vermonters. As a nonprofit, they welcome children from across the region to learn in a safe, judgement-free environment where the love of the sport is what matters, not the brand of your gear. The ''Skiing Cochrans'' are truly a Vermont legacy.

''Bravo!''●

RECOGNIZING MILLER, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I wish to honor the Miller School District staff and students, first responders, and all community members who contributed to the successful emergency evacuation of Miller School and Hand-in-Hand Daycare.

On what seemed to be a typical morning in Miller, SD, on February 2, 2022, an explosion and fire suddenly took place in the Miller High School.

A potentially devastating situation was thankfully prevented by the swift actions of the Miller School District teachers and staff. Miller superintendent Dr. Charlene Crosswait, junior/senior high school principal Steve Schumacher, elementary school principal Drake Bachmeier, Mr. Mark Ketelhut, and the teachers and staff efficiently executed the evacuation plan, ultimately saving the lives of all 447 students from kindergarteners through the senior graduating class of 2022.

I would like to commend the teachers and staff members for their diligent training, emergency preparation planning, and quick action to lead students to safety. I would also like to recognize each and every student for their attentiveness and exceptional conduct in an emergency situation. Because of the rapid response, every child and staff member made it out safe and unharmed. I would also like to commend Hand-in-Hand Daycare Center located adjacent to the school for safely evacuating all staff and children.

In emergency situations like this, while people are moving swiftly to get to safety, heroic emergency responders are always there running toward the blaze. The well-coordinated response from Hand County emergency manager Arlen Gortmaker, volunteer firefighters from Miller, Ree Heights, and Wessington Fire Departments, and first responders from Hand County and the city of Miller who secured the area and extinguished the fire deserve recognition. The first responders endured hours of freezing temperatures, frozen pump lines, and weather challenges with equipment. These hard-working, generous volunteers, and workers have big hearts and show up relentlessly under all circumstances to ensure the safety and well-being of others. Thank you to all of our firefighters and first responders for all you do.

In true South Dakota fashion, the entire community pulled together. Despite fire and smoke damage, which made the school inaccessible, thanks to the compassionate generosity of St. Ann's Catholic Church, First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and the Community Church of St. Lawrence, students will be able to utilize facilities to complete the rest of their school year. Sunshine Bible Academy has offered their gym for Miller Rustler basketball team practices and games. Communities across South Dakota have been reaching out to offer support and assistance. I am proud to be part of a State that strongly believes in joining together to help friends and neighbors through tough times. The buildings need work, but they can be repaired. Most importantly, everyone made it home safely to their families and the community remains strong and resilient.

I commend the entire Miller community for their excellent response to the emergency at the Miller School. The true spirit of our State shines brightly in Miller, SD.●

REMEMBERING KAREN FERGUSON

● Ms. WARREN. Madam President, today is the birthday of Karen Ferguson, a tireless advocate for retirement security, who sadly passed away in December. She started a movement for improved worker's rights and better pensions. Forty-six years ago today, she founded the Pension Rights Center in aid of that effort. As recently as this past March, Karen's impact can be seen in the passage of the Butch Lewis Act, which helps protect the benefits of workers and retirees in multiemployers plans. We are deeply grateful for Karen's work and can honor her legacy by continuing to fight so that everyone can retire with dignity and security.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:43 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4521. An act to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure

continued United States leadership in engineering biology.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4521. An act to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2123. A bill to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117–81).

By Mr. CARDIN, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1617. A bill to modify the requirements for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration relating to declaring a disaster in a rural area, and for other purposes.

S. 2042. A bill to reauthorize the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARDIN, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 2521. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish an SBIC Working Group, and for other purposes.

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

S. 2710. A bill to promote competition and reduce gatekeeper power in the app economy, increase choice, improve quality, and reduce costs for consumers.

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 3103. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate the statute of limitations for the filing of a civil claim for any person who, while a minor, was a victim of a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241(c), 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of such title.

By Mr. CARDIN, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:

H.R. 3462. An act to require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

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. WARNER (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3673. A bill to streamline the employer reporting process and strengthen the eligibility verification process for the premium assistance tax credit and cost-sharing subsidy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KING, Mr. SASSE, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3674. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to establish a pilot program for providing portable benefits to eligible workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3675. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3676. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the South Florida Geographic Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3677. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide professional counseling services to victims of emergencies declared under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 3678. A bill to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 3679. A bill to develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3680. A bill to amend subchapter III of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to repeal increases in duties and a tariff-rate quota on certain crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells and to require the Secretary of Energy to establish and carry out a program to support and incentivize manufacturing of solar energy components in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3681. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress classified dissent cables relating to the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3682. A bill to increase the loan limits under the business loan program and the 504 loan program of the Small Business Administration for businesses principally engaged in agriculture, manufacturing, or production of critical and emerging technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3683. A bill to amend the Alaska Tourism Restoration Act to revise the authority for voyages deemed to have made a stop in a port or place of Canada and deemed a foreign voyage for the purposes of the law of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 3684. A bill to amend title VII of Social Security Act to provide for a single point of contact at the Social Security Administration for individuals who are victims of identity theft; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3685. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P. Parker House in Ripley, Ohio, as a unit of the Natinal Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3686. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide education and training on eating disorders for health care providers and communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 3687. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Manufacturing Communities Support Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3688. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to facilitate the funding of community-based mental health and substance use disorder services and peer support programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3689. A bill to ensure that, after the declaration of a major disaster, States, local governments, and Indian tribal governments affected by the major disaster receive immediate approval for services and assistance under section 416 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3690. A bill to repeal the Alien Enemies Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3691. A bill to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of Presidential election campaigns; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TESTER, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 3692. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to evaluate and consider the impact of the telecommunications network equipment supply chain on the deployment of universal service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 3693. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to continue to implement endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 3694. A bill to prohibit the Department of Homeland Security from requiring vaccination against COVID–19 for essential critical infrastructure workers crossing the border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 3695. A bill to prohibit representatives of the United States from voting at the International Monetary Fund for any Special Drawing Rights allocations, quota increases, or policy modifications that would benefit certain countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 3696. A bill to establish the position of Interagency Coordinator for Behavioral Health to coordinate the programs and activities of the Federal Government relating to mental health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 3697. A bill to improve the prohibitions on money laundering, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3698. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to modify certain requirements for Regional Commissions, to reauthorize the Northern Border Regional Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 3699. A bill to provide guidance for and investment in the research and development activities of the Department of Energy Office of Science, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KELLY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. REED, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3700. A bill to provide for appropriate cost-sharing for insulin products covered under Medicare part D and private health plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LEE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 3701. A bill to exempt commercial truck drivers from Canada or Mexico who are seeking to temporarily enter the United States for business through a land port of entry from any COVID–19 vaccination requirement; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 3702. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 3703. A bill to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the ''Former Presidents Act of 1958'', with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3704. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to schools and school-based health centers to increase the number of behavioral health care providers in such schools and health centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 3705. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for an exemption to the manning and crewing requirements for certain outer Continental Shelf vessels, vehicles, and structures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3706. A bill to provide for the application of certain provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for fiscal year 2021; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 518. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that in order to effectively address the high prevalence of individuals suffering from mental health conditions and substance use disorders, the United States needs to make historic financial investments into mental health and substance use disorder care and finally acknowledge such care as a priority in health care equal to physical health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BURR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KING, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PETERS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 519. A resolution supporting an independent and democratic Ukraine against any further Russian military invasion, and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 520. A resolution designating the week of February 21 through February 25, 2022, as ''Public Schools Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KING, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BURR, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. REED, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 521. A resolution celebrating Black History Month; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 522. A resolution congratulating the Los Angeles Rams on their victory in Super Bowl LVI; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 523. A resolution designating February 28, 2022, as ''Rare Disease Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. Res. 524. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 19 through February 26, 2022, as ''National FFA Week'', recognizing the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing the next generation of leaders who will change the world, and celebrating 70 years of the National FFA Organization's membership magazine, originally called The National Future Farmer, now called New Horizons; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KING, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 525. A resolution recognizing March 1, 2022, as the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, which spans the States of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. KING, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BURR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KELLY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. Res. 526. A resolution condemning the antisemitic terrorist attack that occurred at Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue on January 15, 2022, in Colleyville, Texas, expressing gratitude that no innocent lives were lost, and applauding the dedication and bravery of law enforcement and emergency response officials in responding to the attack; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. Res. 527. A resolution designating the week of February 12 through February 19, 2022, as ''National Entrepreneurship Week'' to recognize the importance and contributions of entrepreneurs and startups to the economic prosperity of the United States and the well-being of every community across the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Con. Res. 29. A concurrent resolution recognizing the need to improve physical access to many federally funded facilities for all people of the United States, particularly people with disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 181

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 181, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Fred Korematsu, in recognition of his dedication to justice and equality.

S. 331

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world, and other purposes.

S. 680

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 680, a bill to award grants to States to establish or improve, and carry out, Seal of Biliteracy programs to recognize high-level student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language.

S. 1024

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1024, a bill to enhance our Nation's nurse and physician workforce during the COVID–19 crisis by recapturing unused immigrant visas.

S. 1358

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1358, a bill to establish regional processing centers, to improve the asylum and credible fear processes to promote fairness and efficiency, to require immigration court docketing priorities during irregular migration influx events, and to improve the capability of the Department of Homeland Security to manage migration flows, and for other purposes.

S. 1770

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1770, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform retirement provisions, and for other purposes.

S. 1943

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1943, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to, and utilization of, bone mass measurement benefits under part B of the Medicare program by establishing a minimum payment amount under such part for bone mass measurement.

S. 2343

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2343, a bill to require the head of each agency to establish a safety plan relating to COVID–19 for any worksite at which employees or contractors are required to be physically present during the COVID–19 pandemic, and for other purposes.

S. 2521

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2521, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish an SBIC Working Group, and for other purposes.

S. 2541

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2541, a bill to authorize the reclassification of the tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as the ''Shadow Wolves'') in the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation as special agents.

S. 2854

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2854, a bill to allow for the transfer and redemption of abandoned savings bonds.

S. 2937

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2937, a bill to authorize humanitarian assistance and civil society support, promote democracy and human rights, and impose targeted sanctions with respect to human rights abuses in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 2991

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2991, a bill to establish a Department of Homeland Security Center for Countering Human Trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 3004

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3004, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish new requirements for State homes for veterans that receive per diem from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3176

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 3176, a bill to establish a cause of action for those harmed by exposure to water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and for other purposes.

S. 3293

At the request of Mr. PETERS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3293, a bill to expand access of veterans to mental health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3347

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3347, a bill to identify and impose sanctions with respect to persons who are responsible for or complicit in abuses toward

dissidents on behalf of the Government of Iran.

S. 3541

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3541, a bill to improve health care and services for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

S. 3542

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3542, a bill to prevent the misuse of drones, and for other purposes.

S. 3575

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3575, a bill to amend titles II and XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the disability insurance benefits waiting period for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 3593

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 3593, a bill to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend certain telehealth services covered by Medicare and to evaluate the impact of telehealth services on Medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes.

S. 3600

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3600, a bill to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 3609

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3609, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a gasoline tax holiday.

S. 3621

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3621, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish to establish a National Climate Adaptation Science Center and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers to respond to the effects of extreme weather events and climate trends, and for other purposes.

S. 3625

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 3625, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily reinstate the employee retention credit for employers subject to closure due to COVID–19.

S. 3632

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 3632, a bill to amend the program for local substance use disorder services.

S. 3657

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3657, a bill to require the Director of National Intelligence to provide notification to Congress of abandoned United States military equipment used in terrorist attacks.

S. 3660

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3660, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make diapers an allowable expense for purposes of health flexible spending arrangements and health savings accounts.

S.J. RES. 34

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 34, a joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the Coronavirus Immunization of School Students and Early Childhood Workers Amendment Act of 2021.

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to ''Vaccine and Mask Requirements To Mitigate the Spread of COVID–19 in Head Start Programs.

S. CON. RES. 10

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 10, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that tax-exempt fraternal benefit societies have historically provided and continue to provide critical benefits to the people and communities of the United States.

AMENDMENT NO. 4929

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4929 proposed to H.R. 6617, a bill making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3677. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to provide professional counseling services to victims of emergencies declared under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3677

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 ''Post-Disaster Mental Health Response Act''.

SEC. 2. CRISIS COUNSELING ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.

Section 502(a)(6) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5192(a)(6)) is amended by inserting ''and section 416'' after ''section 408''.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 3681. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit to Congress classified dissent cables relating to the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3681

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

SECTION 1. SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF DISSENT CABLES RELATING TO WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM AFGHANISTAN.

(a) SUBMISSION OF CLASSIFIED DISSENT CABLES TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress any classified Department of State cable or memo that expresses a dissenting recommendation or opinion with respect to the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan.

(b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF UNCLASSIFIED DISSENT CABLES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall make available to the public an unclassified version of any such cable or memo.

(c) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION.—The name and any other personally identifiable information of an author of a cable or memo referred to in subsection (a) shall be redacted before submission under that subsection or publication under subsection (b).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 518—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE HIGH PREVALENCE OF INDIVIDUALS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS, THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO MAKE HISTORIC FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS INTO MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CARE AND FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGE SUCH CARE AS A PRIORITY IN HEALTH CARE EQUAL TO PHYSICAL HEALTH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 518

Whereas there is an urgent need to improve our health care system to better integrate treatment of mental health and substance use disorders so they are no longer seen separately;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, mental illness is severely underdiagnosed, and less than half of individuals who meet diagnostic criteria are identified;

Whereas there is a pressing need to provide a comprehensive solution to fix our health care system that incorporates the needs and expertise of all its stakeholders, especially individuals who have expertise in mental health and substance use disorders;

Whereas it is essential to remove the misguided association between mental illness and violence, driven by fear and misunderstanding;

Whereas mental illness and substance use disorders have been underresearched, undertreated, and overstigmatized;

Whereas stigma, vilification, and dismissal of mental illness and substance use—

(1) create a culture that—

(A) discourages utilization of mental health and substance use disorder services; and

(B) lacks acknowledgment that struggling with a mental health condition or substance use disorder is not something to be ashamed of; and

(2) can vary in prominence in different cultures and communities, and are particularly high among communities of color and minority communities;

Whereas men, in particular, face cultural and societal barriers to seeking treatment for mental health concerns and substance use disorders, which can contribute to concerning outcomes including suicide and aggressive behavior;

Whereas the bulk of mental health and substance use disorder services are reactive instead of proactive, treating patients when they are in crisis instead of incorporating services and screening earlier in an attempt to prevent such crises;

Whereas there is a need to increase access to treatment, services, and social supports for everyone to proactively address the root causes of mental illness and substance use disorders;

Whereas it is necessary to address the root causes of mental health concerns and substance use disorders;

Whereas it is necessary to address suicide in a holistic manner and recognize and address suicidal ideation and not just the act of suicide in isolation;

Whereas there is a need to address social determinants of health, which are conditions that directly and indirectly affect the health, health care, and wellness of individuals and communities, in order to effectively provide care for all individuals living with mental illness and substance use disorders;

Whereas mental health impacts physical health, and physical health impacts mental health;

Whereas the current health care system in the United States does not adequately incorporate mental health and substance use disorders into the assessment or delivery of care, as evidenced by the fact that all ''vital signs'' are currently for physical health alone and do not touch on mental health or substance use disorders;

Whereas the lack of a united approach across the Federal Government to improve the care and related services for mental health and substance use disorders has left States and localities—

(1) without adequate guidance or resources;

(2) unable to provide the mental health and substance use disorder services needed to adequately meet the needs of their populations; and

(3) unable to effectively distribute services to adequately meet the needs of their populations;

Whereas there is a need for greater collaboration across all Federal agencies that touch various aspects of the health care system in order to fully incorporate the needs and concerns of everyone involved in the treatment and prevention of mental health and substance use disorders;

Whereas there is a need for greater collaboration between Federal, State, and local agencies that touch on various aspects of the health care system;

Whereas there is a need for a centralized location within the Federal Government for good, reliable information on mental health and substance use disorders for providers, patients, and caregivers;

Whereas there is a need for standardized definitions, standards of care, and metrics for mental health and substance use disorders across disciplines;

Whereas there is a need to change incentives for providers to better ensure everyone with mental health and substance use disorders gets access to the necessary care and treatment;

Whereas 13 years after the date of enactment of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equality Act of 2008 (subtitle B of title V of division C of Public Law 110–343), there is still a lack of compliance among insurers and failure to adequately cover mental health and substance use disorder services;

Whereas Medicaid is the single largest payer of mental health and substance use disorder services, and reimbursement is far from adequate;

Whereas there is a need to incentivize payers to adequately cover mental health and substance use disorder services in the same manner in which all specialty services are covered;

Whereas there is a need to increase the number of mental health and substance use disorder providers;

Whereas 55 percent of counties in the United States do not have a single psychiatrist, psychologist, or social worker;

Whereas only 10 percent of individuals in the United States suffering from a substance use disorder receive specialty treatment;

Whereas there is a need to increase access to and utilization of telemedicine for mental health and substance use disorder services, both within States and across State lines;

Whereas there is a need for a better way to share information among providers to better serve patient needs while still protecting patient privacy;

Whereas there is a need for consistent care coordination and more effective transition services for patients moving between hospitals and the community;

Whereas safe housing needs to be recognized as a basic requirement for successful treatment and needs to be better addressed in the transition of care;

Whereas there is a need to improve social determinants of health, such as increased access to stable housing and jobs, for individuals suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders to have a sustained recovery;

Whereas there is a need to provide care in more appropriate and integrated settings for all patients, such as treating geriatric patients in their homes as opposed to nursing homes, when appropriate, and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581 (1999);

Whereas there is a need for greater focus on intensive outpatient, partial hospitalizations, residential programs, day programs, supported housing, assertive community treatment, mobile crisis services, peer support services, supported employment, and community-based services for adults with mental illness and substance use disorders;

Whereas there is a need to ensure that services support individuals with mental health conditions and substance use disorders to participate fully in their communities and live and thrive independently;

Whereas there is a need to address isolation issues geriatric patients face, which can negatively impact their mental health;

Whereas 30 percent of first responders experience mental health conditions, such as depression and post-traumatic stress, and have higher rates of suicidal ideation and suicide attempt than the rest of the population;

Whereas depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress, and psychosis are some of the most common conditions women experience pre- and postpartum;

Whereas unmet parental mental health and substance use disorder treatment and service needs contribute to increased involvement with the child welfare system, which leads to preventable foster care placements, given that—

(1) in 2018, 262,956 children entered foster care, with the leading reasons related to mental health and substance use disorder needs of the parents, with—

(A) 36 percent of children entering care as a result of parental drug abuse;

(B) 14 percent of children entering care as a result of the inability to cope of the caretaker; and

(C) 5 percent of children entering care as a result of parental alcohol abuse;

(2) even when necessary to ensure the safety of a child, foster care itself creates additional trauma for both the child and family; and

(3) longstanding racial inequities in child welfare services create disproportionate child welfare involvement for Black, Native, and Latinx children and families, which exacerbates the experiences of trauma for those families and contributes to health disparities while not resulting in needed access to quality mental health and substance use disorder services;

Whereas children and adolescents have unique needs when it comes to mental health

and substance use disorders and the services provided, given that—

(1) 45 percent of children have experienced adverse childhood experiences that have the potential to significantly impact the mental health of the children;

(2) in the last 5 years, 49.4 percent of children who needed mental health services did not receive the necessary services, and there is a need for improved access to appropriate treatment services, which must focus on community-based supports and services available near their home, in order to effectively prevent children from experiencing a mental health crisis;

(3) many children suffering and struggling go undiagnosed and are not adequately supported, and there is a need to improve training and understanding of mental health and substance use disorders for educators since often there are barriers to mental health and substance use disorder treatment in a school setting;

(4) 42 percent of school districts have reported using threat assessment and risk assessment teams, an approach created by the United States Secret Service that involves identifying, evaluating, and taking action on assumed current or potential threats, which—

(A) can cause significant harm to the mental health and emotional well-being of children;

(B) has compounded existent stigma for groups of students;

(C) has had a disproportionate impact on students of color by initiating criminal justice involvement in lieu of more appropriate services; and

(D) has had a disproportionate impact on students with disabilities;

(5) families and caregivers need to be included when treating children suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders; and

(6) when children turn 18 years old they are cut off from mental health and substance use disorder services, which impacts continuity of care;

Whereas there is a growing need for mental health and substance use disorder services among young adults and college-aged adults, and between 2007 and 2017, for individuals aged 18 to 34, there was a—

(1) 108 percent increase in drug-related deaths;

(2) 69 percent increase in alcohol-induced deaths; and

(3) 35 percent increase in suicide deaths;

Whereas, despite the rising need for mental health and substance use disorder treatment by young adults, there continues to be disparities in accessing care experienced by young adults of color;

Whereas 5,500,000 veterans and servicemembers rely on the Department of Veterans Affairs for health services, and 1,500,000 veterans have received a mental health diagnosis, and—

(1) 1 in 4 active duty members shows signs of a mental health condition;

(2) the rate of post-traumatic stress disorder (referred to in this preamble as PTSD) is 15 times higher in servicemembers than compared to civilians due to military combat and military sexual assault and trauma;

(3) the rate of depression is 5 times higher in servicemembers as compared to civilians;

(4) every day, 17 veterans die by suicide;

(5) there is a fear of disclosing mental health conditions and substance use disorders and seeking treatment due to negative career implications; and

(6) less than 50 percent of veterans receive the mental health treatment and services they need;

Whereas 11 percent of individuals entering the Department of Veterans Affairs health system meet the criteria for a substance use disorder;

Whereas veterans are more likely to have an alcohol use disorder than civilians;

Whereas 2 in 10 veterans with PTSD have a comorbid substance use disorder, and 1 in 3 veterans seeking services for a substance use disorder also has PTSD, showing the interconnectedness between these conditions;

Whereas there is a need to better educate all individuals in the criminal justice system on the impact and needs of individuals with mental health conditions and substance use disorders;

Whereas the United States criminal justice system is the largest provider of mental health services, and it was not built, nor intended to be used, for that purpose, and—

(1) there are around 550,000 individuals incarcerated in the United States with serious mental illness;

(2) 1 in 5 individuals incarcerated in the United States has a serious mental illness; and

(3) of those incarcerated, 75 percent with a serious mental illness suffer from a co-occurring substance use disorder;

Whereas there is a need for incentives to reduce inappropriate incarceration and detention for individuals with mental health and substance use disorder needs;

Whereas one-third of individuals incarcerated in the United States receive treatment for mental illness, and many times treatment is inconsistent and inadequate, and there is a need for improved access to services and treatments that are also trauma-informed;

Whereas there is a need to have mental health, substance use disorder, and diversion services available at all intercepts of the Sequential Intercept Model, a model developed to inform more appropriate community-based responses and divert individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders;

Whereas there is a need to improve levels of coordination, care management, and insurance coverage before, during, and after incarceration;

Whereas post-release navigation is key to keeping individuals from reentering the criminal justice system;

Whereas there is insufficient understanding of the mental health effects of incarceration;

Whereas there is a need to redefine the juvenile justice system to account for age and development reflecting the most up-to-date scientific consensus on brain development and behavior and ensuring that there are developmental and age appropriate services;

Whereas the juvenile justice system must fulfill its purpose of supporting, rehabilitating, and treating children in need rather than punishing them, given that—

(1) studies have shown that 70 percent of youth in detention have a diagnosed mental illness, and 60 percent of those youths may also meet the criteria for a substance use disorder;

(2) 90 percent of individuals in the juvenile justice system have been exposed to trauma or violence, which may increase the likelihood of juvenile justice involvement;

(3) entry into the juvenile justice system may exacerbate the existing mental health and substance use disorder concerns of youths, particularly in the absence of consistent screening and treatment for these conditions; and

(4) an estimated 33 percent of children in long-term juvenile justice facilities have intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities and were receiving special education services, and therefore there is a need to have specific services and programs within the juvenile justice system with a focus on their needs;

Whereas there is a need for services in the juvenile justice system to be trauma-informed and developed for high-need individuals;

Whereas studies show that 41.2 percent of individuals who are diagnosed with a substance use disorder are also diagnosed with a mental illness, which is likely an underestimate in light of the current barriers to identifying and reporting mental health concerns;

Whereas, given the high co-occurrence with mental illness, comprehensive care for substance use disorders should include access to psychopharmacology, psychotherapy, contingency management, recovery support, all evidence-based medication-assisted treatment, a multidisciplinary staff, and group therapy for adults, and—

(1) addiction treatment centers should either offer or have available comprehensive care and support and have the ability to treat mental illness as well as substance use disorders; and

(2) to allow for treatment flexibility to fit the needs of the patient, there is a need to increase access to all evidence-based medication-assisted treatment in prisons, jails, and all addiction treatment centers;

Whereas there are inequities in access, availability, and quality for mental health and substance use disorder services for minority communities, and—

(1) there is greater stigma among racial and ethnic minority populations;

(2) racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected by disabilities that result from mental health conditions; and

(3) only 31 percent of African Americans and Hispanics and 22 percent of Asians receive mental health care compared to 48 percent of Caucasians;

Whereas lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (referred to in this preamble as LGBTQ) individuals are more than twice as likely to suffer from mental health conditions and substance use disorders than heterosexual individuals, and—

(1) 29 percent of LGBTQ youths attempt suicide, which is almost 5 times more than heterosexual youths;

(2) approximately 31 percent of LGBTQ older adults report symptoms of depression, and 39 percent report seriously thinking about suicide;

(3) 30.8 percent of transgender individuals report considering suicide compared to 2.3 percent of heterosexual individuals; and

(4) of the 4,890 transgender individuals incarcerated in State prisons, only 15 were confirmed as being housed according to their lived gender, while not being housed according to lived gender poses a significant threat to mental health;

Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic has highlighted the gaps in our health system when it comes to mental health and substance use disorder services and shown how sheltering in place and isolating can impact mental health and substance use, specifically showing—

(1) that 47 percent of individuals in the United States report that the pandemic has negatively impacted their mental health, with 21 percent saying that it has had a major negative impact;

(2) a significant increase in the number of calls to suicide prevention hotlines;

(3) a 1,000 percent increase in texts to the mental health hotline of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to about 20,000 texts in April 2020;

(4) a 55 percent increase in alcohol sales; and

(5) a record high of more than 100,000 overdose fatalities between May 2020 and April 2021, driven by increased feelings of anxiety, depression, and use of substances; and

(6) an increase in burnout and mental health conditions among healthcare providers, with 49 percent experiencing burnout and 38 percent experiencing anxiety or depression; and

Whereas there is a need for a population health approach that examines the distribution of health across populations and focuses attention on the need to provide access to the best evidence-based treatment for individuals with mental health conditions and substance use disorders who need clinical intervention in order to effectively reduce or mitigate the impact of risk factors that lead to psychological distress among individuals in high-risk populations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that in order to effectively address the high prevalence of individuals suffering from mental health conditions and substance use disorders, the United States needs to make historic financial investments into mental health and substance use disorder care and finally acknowledge such care as a priority in health care, equal to physical health, and recognize that—

(1) mental health and physical health need to be treated together to treat the whole patient;

(2) patient care needs to be patient-focused;

(3) mental health and substance use disorder care needs to be proactive and treat individuals before they are in crisis;

(4) any stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders is completely unwarranted and serves as a barrier to care;

(5) the Federal Government needs to create a comprehensive approach to improving the health care system that incorporates mental health and substance use disorders and includes system reform that—

(A) aims to break down silos across the Federal, State, local, and Tribal levels for improved communication and care coordination;

(B) provides a Federal framework to States, localities, and Indian Tribes that connects agencies and services so they can have guidance when working to address the mental health and substance use disorder needs of their communities;

(C) incentivizes providers to see both more complex and less complex patients and to see patients in rural and underserved areas;

(D) expects insurers to comply with parity laws and holds them accountable for not providing parity of mental health and substance use disorder services and treatments; and

(E) requires both public and private payers to have higher reimbursement rates for mental health and substance use disorder services that are on par with medical and surgical services;

(6) the Federal Government needs to create a comprehensive approach to improving the health care system that incorporates mental health and substance use disorders and that includes system improvements that—

(A) focus on early screening, diagnosis, and intervention across the care continuum to prevent mental health crises;

(B) improve the ability of families to access timely, affordable, and high-quality treatment and services;

(C) strengthen mental health and substance use disorder services in schools and ensure there is engagement from all stakeholders;

(D) improve and expand community-based services so individuals have access to services locally;

(E) improve care coordination across treatment settings so patients have services when needed and do not have to navigate the system themselves;

(F) promote a sustained recovery that includes social determinants of health, such as housing, jobs, and childcare;

(G) can adjust to meet the needs of each individual to provide the best care for each individual;

(H) ensure seamless transitions in care when moving through steps or processes;

(I) end the criminalization of mental illness and substance use disorders and increase programs for diversion that connect individuals to treatment, social supports, and social services;

(J) provide access to high-quality and evidence-based mental health and substance use disorder care for individuals who are incarcerated;

(K) create young adult services and programs within the criminal justice system for individuals who are aged 18 to 25 to successfully reduce recidivism and that are informed by neuropsychological brain science;

(L) incorporate apprenticeship or job training programs into the criminal justice system, particularly for youth, to empower them and reduce recidivism;

(M) ensure cultural congruence so everyone in need of mental health and substance use disorder care has services that meet their needs;

(N) adopt a population health approach as a tool to help address ongoing disparities in access to mental health and substance use disorder care by youth and adults of color;

(O) ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals, communities of color, and immigrants have access to mental health and substance use disorder services that are culturally appropriate, are in the necessary language, and address any unique stigma from their communities;

(P) enable veterans to access timely mental health and substance use disorder care that ensures continuity and is free of any administrative burdens;

(Q) include training for educators, first responders, and clinicians to identify indicators of mental health conditions and substance use disorders and to reduce stigma and bias related to these conditions so they can respond in a more productive way and connect individuals with more appropriate services;

(R) support health care providers by addressing their mental health and substance use disorder needs to reduce burnout;

(S) provide a process by which States can work with other States to reconcile licensure and certification for and reimbursement to mental health and substance use disorder providers across State lines for the purpose of telemedicine;

(T) leverage the current mental health and substance use disorder workforce by reducing administrative burdens to allow mental health and substance use disorder providers to perform to their highest level of licensure and certification; and

(U) expand training opportunities and grow the workforce by partnering with schools and programs to provide free education to individuals who work in rural or underserved areas;

(7) expanded access to mental health and substance use disorder care is essential to improving health and well-being;

(8) all individuals in the United States deserve access to mental health and substance use disorder care without any barriers, such as cost or location of services; and

(9) the United States needs to comprehensively break down all barriers to receiving access to mental health and substance use disorder care, including financial burdens and location hurdles.

SENATE RESOLUTION 519—SUPPORTING AN INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC UKRAINE AGAINST ANY FURTHER RUSSIAN MILITARY INVASION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BURR, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KING, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. PETERS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 519

Whereas, on January 21, 1990, more than 300,000 Ukrainians called for unity and independence from the Soviet Union by forming a human chain between the cities of Kyiv and Ivano-Frankivsk;

Whereas, on August 24, 1991, the elected Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine declared the independence of Ukraine from the Soviet Union with an overwhelming majority vote;

Whereas, on December 1, 1991, more than 90 percent of Ukrainian citizens voted in a national referendum in support of independence, with majorities in every region;

Whereas, on February 8, 1994, Ukraine was the first member state of the Commonwealth of Independent States to join the Partnership for Peace program of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and has since deepened its relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, recognized as an Enhanced Opportunities Partner;

Whereas, on December 5, 1994, in an effort to solidify security commitments to Ukraine in return for its nuclear disarmament, the United States, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom signed the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, whereby each country pledged to respect the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine's borders while refraining from the threat or use of force against Ukraine;

Whereas, on November 22, 2004, Ukrainians peacefully took to the streets in protest of a fraudulent presidential election, beginning the Orange Revolution and resulting in new elections under free and fair conditions;

Whereas, on November 21, 2013, the Euromaidan protests began in favor of signing the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement, resulting in the Revolution of Dignity and the removal of President Viktor Yanukovych by the Verkhovna Rada;

Whereas, on February 20, 2014, the Russian Federation invaded the independent state of Ukraine, which continues to confront malign Russian activity, including the ongoing attempted annexation of Crimea, conflict in the Donbas region, and threats to freedom of navigation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov;

Whereas, on February 12, 2015, a new package of measures to end the conflict in Ukraine, known as ''Minsk II'', was signed, provisions of which have still not yet been fully implemented;

Whereas at least 14,000 Ukrainians have been killed defending their homeland and

millions more displaced since the conflict with Russia began;

Whereas, on September 1, 2017, the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement came into effect;

Whereas, in March and November 2021, the Russian Federation deployed a massive troop and weapons buildup on the border with Ukraine;

Whereas, on January 28, 2022, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stated, ''Our aim is . . .to convey a clear message to Russia . . . if they use military force against Ukraine it will have severe consequences. NATO allies are ready to impose heavy economic sanctions—political, financial sanctions.'';

Whereas, on February 12, 2022, President Joseph R. Biden warned Russian President Vladimir Putin that the West ''will respond decisively and impose swift and severe costs'' if Russia further invades Ukraine; and

Whereas, on December 12, 2021, at a meeting in Liverpool, delegates of the Group of Seven (G7) released a joint statement saying, ''Russia should be in no doubt that further military aggression against Ukraine would have massive consequences and severe cost in response. . .We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as the right of any sovereign state to determine its own future.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

The Senate—

(1) commends the courage, resolve, and restraint shown by the Ukrainian people in their pursuit of sovereignty and democracy, and pays tribute to the many men and women who gave their lives in pursuit of a free and democratic Ukraine;

(2) reaffirms unwavering United States support for a secure, democratic, and independent Ukraine, free to choose its own leaders and future;

(3) condemns the illegal military invasion of Ukraine, the attempted annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in 2014, and the violence fomented by Russian proxies in eastern Ukraine, an active conflict that continues in 2022;

(4) reaffirms unwavering United States commitment to support the continuing efforts of the Government of Ukraine to restore its territorial integrity by providing political, diplomatic, and military support, including additional lethal and non-lethal security assistance to strengthen the defense capabilities of Ukraine;

(5) denounces the Russian military buildup of over 150,000 troops on Ukraine's border, including in Belarus, threatening the security of bordering NATO allies as provocative and reckless, contrary to established international norms;

(6) condemns the Russian Federation's continued disregard of international maritime law by partially blocking parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, which hamper freedom of navigation exercises and significantly impact Ukraine's economy;

(7) encourages the President that, should any further invasion or other malign activity to undermine the sovereignty of Ukraine occur by Russia, the United States Government should use the tools at its disposal to impose significant costs on the Russian Federation to restore peace in Europe; and

(8) encourages unity among NATO allies and the broader transatlantic community to convey solidarity in response to Russia's unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine.

SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this resolution may be construed as—

(1) a declaration of war or an authorization for the use of military force against the Russian Federation; or

(2) authorization for the introduction of the United States Armed Forces into Ukraine.

SENATE RESOLUTION 520—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21 THROUGH FEBRUARY 25, 2022, AS ''PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK''

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 520

Whereas public education is a significant institution in a 21st-century democracy;

Whereas public schools in the United States are where students come to be educated about the values and beliefs that hold the individuals of the United States together as a nation;

Whereas public schools prepare young individuals of the United States to contribute to the society, economy, and citizenry of the country;

Whereas 90 percent of children in the United States attend public schools;

Whereas Federal, State, and local lawmakers should—

(1) prioritize support for strengthening the public schools of the United States;

(2) empower superintendents, principals, and other school leaders to implement, manage, and lead school districts and schools in partnership with educators, parents, and other local education stakeholders; and

(3) support services and programs that are critical to helping students engage in learning, including counseling, extracurricular activities, and mental health support;

Whereas public schools should foster inclusive, safe, and high-quality environments in which children can learn to think critically, problem solve, and build relationships;

Whereas public schools should provide environments in which all students have the opportunity to succeed beginning in their earliest years, regardless of who a student is or where a student lives;

Whereas Congress should support—

(1) efforts to advance equal opportunity and excellence in public education;

(2) efforts to implement evidence-based practices in public education; and

(3) continuous improvements to public education;

Whereas every child should—

(1) receive an education that helps the child reach the full potential of the child; and

(2) attend a school that offers a high-quality educational experience;

Whereas Federal funding, in addition to State and local funds, supports the access of students to inviting classrooms, well-prepared educators, and services to support healthy students, including nutrition and afterschool programs;

Whereas teachers, paraprofessionals, and principals should provide students with a well-rounded education and strive to create joy in learning;

Whereas superintendents, principals, other school leaders, teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents make public schools vital components of communities and are working hard to improve educational outcomes for children across the country; and

Whereas the week of February 21 through February 25, 2022, is an appropriate period to designate as ''Public Schools Week'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week of February 21 through February 25, 2022, as ''Public Schools Week''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 521—CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KING, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BURR, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. REED, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KAINE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 521

Whereas, in 1776, people envisioned the United States as a new nation dedicated to the proposition stated in the Declaration of Independence that ''all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness'';

Whereas Africans were first brought involuntarily to the shores of the United States as early as the 17th century;

Whereas African Americans suffered enslavement and subsequently faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation, and denial of the basic and fundamental rights of citizenship;

Whereas, in 2022, the vestiges of those injustices and inequalities remain evident in the society of the United States;

Whereas, in the face of injustices, people of good will and of all races in the United States have distinguished themselves with a commitment to the noble ideals on which the United States was founded and have fought courageously for the rights and freedom of African Americans and others;

Whereas African Americans, such as Lieutenant Colonel Allen Allensworth, Maya Angelou, Arthur Ashe, Jr., James Baldwin, James Beckwourth, Clara Brown, Blanche Bruce, Ralph Bunche, Shirley Chisholm, Holt Collier, Miles Davis, Louis Armstrong, Larry Doby, Frederick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Medgar Evers, Aretha Franklin, Alex Haley, Dorothy Height, Jon Hendricks, Olivia Hooker, Lena Horne, Charles

Hamilton Houston, Mahalia Jackson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, B.B. King, Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Rosa Parks, Walter Payton, Bill Pickett, Homer Plessy, Bass Reeves, Hiram Revels, Amelia Platts Boynton Robinson, Jackie Robinson, Aaron Shirley, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, the Greensboro Four, the Tuskegee Airmen, Prince Rogers Nelson, Recy Taylor, Fred Shuttlesworth, Duke Ellington, Langston Hughes, Muhammad Ali, Elijah Cummings, Ella Fitzgerald, Mamie Till, Toni Morrison, Gwen Ifill, Diahann Carroll, Chadwick Boseman, John Lewis, Katherine Johnson, Rev. C.T. Vivian, Hank Aaron, Edith Savage-Jennings, Septima Clark, Mary Mcleod Bethune, Cicely Tyson, John Hope Franklin, Colin Powell, bell hooks, Bob Moses, Sidney Poitier, and Chief Justice of South Carolina Ernest Finney, along with many others, worked against racism to achieve success and to make significant contributions to the economic, educational, political, artistic, athletic, literary, scientific, and technological advancement of the United States;

Whereas the contributions of African Americans from all walks of life throughout the history of the United States reflect the greatness of the United States;

Whereas many African Americans lived, toiled, and died in obscurity, never achieving the recognition those individuals deserved, and yet paved the way for future generations to succeed;

Whereas African Americans continue to serve the United States at the highest levels of business, government, and the military;

Whereas the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass inspired the creation of Negro History Week, the precursor to Black History Month;

Whereas Negro History Week represented the culmination of the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the ''Father of Black History'', to enhance knowledge of Black history through The Journal of Negro History, published by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Jesse E. Moorland;

Whereas Black History Month, celebrated during the month of February, originated in 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of Black people in the United States;

Whereas Dr. Carter G. Woodson stated, ''We have a wonderful history behind us. . . . If you are unable to demonstrate to the world that you have this record, the world will say to you, 'You are not worthy to enjoy the blessings of democracy or anything else.' '';

Whereas, since its founding, the United States has imperfectly progressed toward noble goals;

Whereas the history of the United States is the story of people regularly affirming high ideals, striving to reach those ideals but often failing, and then struggling to come to terms with the disappointment of that failure, before committing to try again;

Whereas, on November 4, 2008, the people of the United States elected Barack Obama, an African-American man, as President of the United States; and

Whereas, on February 22, 2012, people across the United States celebrated the groundbreaking of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which opened to the public on September 24, 2016, on the National Mall in Washington, District of Columbia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that all people of the United States are the recipients of the wealth of history provided by Black culture;

(2) recognizes the importance of Black History Month as an opportunity to reflect on the complex history of the United States, while remaining hopeful and confident about the path ahead;

(3) acknowledges the significance of Black History Month as an important opportunity to commemorate the tremendous contributions of African Americans to the history of the United States;

(4) encourages the celebration of Black History Month to provide a continuing opportunity for all people in the United States to learn from the past and understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(5) agrees that, while the United States began as a divided country, the United States must—

(A) honor the contribution of all pioneers in the United States who have helped to ensure the legacy of the great United States; and

(B) move forward with purpose, united tirelessly as a nation ''indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 522—CONGRATULATING THE LOS ANGELES RAMS ON THEIR VICTORY IN SUPER BOWL LVI

Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 522

Whereas, on Sunday, February 13, 2022, the Los Angeles Rams (referred to in this preamble as the ''Rams'') won Super Bowl LVI by defeating the Cincinnati Bengals by a score of 23 to 20;

Whereas the Rams became the second team in the history of the National Football League (referred to in this preamble as the ''NFL'') to win a Super Bowl championship game on their home field, SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California;

Whereas the Rams won—

(1) the second Super Bowl championship in the history of the franchise and the first NFL championship game played in Los Angeles since 1951;

(2) in the National Football Conference (referred to in this preamble as the ''NFC'') Wild Card round by defeating the Arizona Cardinals by a score of 34 to 11 on January 17, 2022;

(3) in the NFC Divisional round by defeating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers by a score of 30 to 27 on January 23, 2022; and

(4) the NFC championship by defeating the San Francisco 49ers by a score of 20 to 17 on January 30, 2022;

Whereas wide receiver Cooper Kupp, who went from an underrated recruit at A.C. Davis High School in Yakima, Washington, to a standout player at Eastern Washington University, had 8 receptions for 92 yards and 2 touchdowns, rushed 1 time for 7 yards, and was named the Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl LVI;

Whereas Cooper Kupp became the first player in NFL history to win the receiving triple crown, NFL Offensive Player of the Year, and Super Bowl Most Valuable Player in the same season;

Whereas quarterback Matthew Stafford orchestrated game-winning drives in 3 consecutive playoff games;

Whereas 3-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year and 7-time first-team All-Pro defensive tackle Aaron Donald sealed the game with his second sack;

Whereas Sean McVay became the youngest Super Bowl-winning head coach in NFL history;

Whereas the Rams were led by their team captains Aaron Donald, Jordan Fuller, Johnny Hekker, Cooper Kupp, Jalen Ramsey, Matthew Stafford, 2021 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Andrew Whitworth, and Robert Woods;

Whereas the entire Rams roster contributed to the Super Bowl LVI victory, including Cam Akers, Brian Allen, Tremayne Anchrum, Jr., Tutu Atwell, Odell Beckham, Jr., Kendall Blanton, Bobby Brown III, Terrell Burgess, Raymond Calais, Marquise Copeland, Austin Corbett, Blake Countess, Dont'e Deayon, Jamil Demby, Aaron Donald, David Edwards, Bobby Evans, Leonard Floyd, Jordan Fuller, Jake Funk, Greg Gaines, Chris Garrett, Matt Gay, Jake Gervase, Grant Haley, Jacob Harris, Rob Havenstein, Johnny Hekker, Darrell Henderson, Jr., Tyler Higbee, Michael Hoecht, Justin Hollins, Brycen Hopkins, Travin Howard, Buddy Howell, AJ Jackson, Van Jefferson, Ernest Jones, Sebastian Joseph-Day, Cooper Kupp, Terrell Lewis, David Long, Jr., Sony Michel, Von Miller, Johnny Mundt, Joe Noteboom, Ogbonnia Okoronkwo, Matthew Orzech, Bryce Perkins, Brandon Powell, Jalen Ramsey, Taylor Rapp, Troy Reeder, A'Shawn Robinson, Robert Rochell, Christian Rozeboom, Nick Scott, Coleman Shelton, Ben Skowronek, Matthew Stafford, Eric Weddle, Andrew Whitworth, Darious Williams, John Wolford, and Robert Woods;

Whereas, before kickoff at SoFi Stadium, commonly known as the ''Rams House'', the NFL honored the legacies of 4 Black football players who broke the color barrier in professional football in 1946: Kenny Washington and Woody Strode, who played for the Los Angeles Rams, and William ''Bill'' K. Willis and Marion Motley, who played for the Cleveland Browns;

Whereas West Coast hip-hop and rap took center stage with a halftime performance headlined by Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, and Kendrick Lamar; and

Whereas, since 2014, Los Angeles professional sports teams have won titles in the NFL, Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, the National Basketball Association, the National Hockey League, and the Women's National Basketball Association: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Los Angeles Rams and their fans on their victory in Super Bowl LVI;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the victory; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the owner and chairman of the Los Angeles Rams, E. Stanley Kroenke;

(B) the chief operating officer of the Los Angeles Rams, Kevin Demoff; and

(C) the general manager of the Los Angeles Rams, Les Snead.

SENATE RESOLUTION 523—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 28, 2022, AS ''RARE DISEASE DAY''

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 523

Whereas a rare disease or disorder is a disease or disorder that affects a small number of patients;

Whereas, in the United States, a rare disease or disorder affects fewer than 200,000 individuals;

Whereas, as of the date of the adoption of this resolution, more than 7,000 rare diseases or disorders affect approximately 1 in 10 individuals in the United States;

Whereas children with rare diseases or disorders account for a significant portion of the population affected by rare diseases or disorders in the United States;

Whereas many rare diseases and disorders are serious and life-threatening and lack effective treatments;

Whereas, as a result of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97–414; 96 Stat. 2049), important advances have been made in the research and treatment of rare diseases and disorders;

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has made strides in gathering patient perspectives to inform the drug review process as part of the Patient-Focused Drug Development program, an initiative that was reaffirmed under the FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–52; 131 Stat. 1005);

Whereas, although the Food and Drug Administration has approved more than 1,000 orphan indications for drugs and biological products for the treatment of rare diseases and disorders, 95 percent of rare diseases do not have an FDA-approved treatment for their condition;

Whereas limited treatment options and difficulty obtaining reimbursement for life-altering and lifesaving treatments can be challenging for individuals with rare diseases or disorders and their families;

Whereas rare diseases and disorders include sickle cell anemia, spinal muscular atrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, thyroid eye disease, myotonic dystrophy, t-cell prolymphocytic leukemia, microtia, meatal atresia, and conductive deafness;

Whereas individuals with rare diseases or disorders can experience difficulty in obtaining accurate diagnoses and finding physicians or treatment centers with expertise in their rare disease or disorder;

Whereas the 116th Congress passed a 4-year extension of the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher program under section 529(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff(b)) as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 1182), providing an incentive for the development of therapies for children with rare diseases;

Whereas the 116th Congress passed the Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act (Public Law 116–16; 133 Stat. 852), improving access to coordinated, patient-centered health care for children with complex and rare medical conditions in Medicaid;

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health support research on the treatment of rare diseases and disorders;

Whereas 2022 marks the 39th anniversary of the enactment of the Orphan Drug Act (Public Law 97–414; 96 Stat. 2049);

Whereas Rare Disease Day is observed each year on the last day of February;

Whereas Rare Disease Day is a global event that was first observed in the United States on February 28, 2009, and was observed in more than 100 countries in 2021; and

Whereas Rare Disease Day is expected to be observed globally for years to come, providing hope and information for rare disease and disorder patients around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 28, 2022, as ''Rare Disease Day''; and

(2) recognizes the importance of, with respect to rare diseases and disorders—

(A) improving awareness;

(B) encouraging accurate and early diagnosis; and

(C) supporting national and global efforts to develop effective treatments, diagnostics, and cures.

SENATE RESOLUTION 524—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 19 THROUGH FEBRUARY 26, 2022, AS ''NATIONAL FFA WEEK'', RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION IN DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS WHO WILL CHANGE THE WORLD, AND CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE, ORIGINALLY CALLED THE NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER, NOW CALLED NEW HORIZONS

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 524

Whereas the National FFA Organization (referred to in this preamble as ''FFA'') was established in 1928;

Whereas the mission of FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education;

Whereas FFA has 735,038 members in 8,817 chapters in all 50 States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and Washington, DC;

Whereas FFA welcomes all students;

Whereas more than 13,000 FFA advisors and agricultural education teachers deliver an integrated model of agricultural education, providing students with an innovative and cutting-edge education;

Whereas 2022 marks 70 years of FFA's membership magazine, originally called The National Future Farmer, now called New Horizons;

Whereas there are more than 8,000,000 FFA alumni worldwide;

Whereas members of FFA collectively earn more than $4,000,000,000 annually through work-based learning experiences or supervised agricultural experiences; and

Whereas members of FFA will celebrate ''National FFA Week'' during the week of February 19 through February 26, 2022: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of February 19 through February 26, 2022, as ''National FFA Week'';

(2) recognizes the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing the next generation of leaders who will change the world; and

(3) celebrates 70 years of the National FFA Organization's membership magazine, originally called The National Future Farmer, now called New Horizons.

SENATE RESOLUTION 525—RECOGNIZING MARCH 1, 2022, AS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WHICH SPANS THE STATES OF WYOMING, MONTANA, AND IDAHO

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. TESTER, Mr. KING, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 525

Whereas Yellowstone National Park, the first national park in the world, was established to share the wonders and preserve and protect the scenery, cultural heritage, wildlife, and geologic and ecological systems and processes in their natural condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations;

Whereas human history in the Yellowstone area dates back more than 11,000 years;

Whereas the location of Greater Yellowstone at the convergence of the Great Plains, Great Basin, and Columbia Plateau Indian cultures means that many Native American Tribes have traditional connections to the land and its resources;

Whereas, for thousands of years before the designation of the national park, the Greater Yellowstone area was a place where Native Americans hunted, fished, gathered plants, quarried obsidian, and used the thermal waters for religious and medicinal purposes;

Whereas many Native American Tribes are associated with Yellowstone National Park, including—

(1) Assiniboine and Sioux;

(2) Blackfeet;

(3) Cheyenne River Sioux;

(4) Coeur d'Alene;

(5) Comanche;

(6) Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation;

(7) Crow;

(8) Crow Creek Sioux;

(9) Eastern Shoshone;

(10) Flandreau Santee Sioux;

(11) Gros Ventre and Assiniboine;

(12) Kiowa;

(13) Little Shell Chippewa;

(14) Lower Brule Sioux;

(15) Nez Perce;

(16) Northern Arapaho;

(17) Northern Cheyenne;

(18) Oglala Sioux;

(19) Rosebud Sioux;

(20) Salish and Kootenai;

(21) Shoshone–Bannock;

(22) Sisseton Wahpeton;

(23) Spirit Lake;

(24) Standing Rock Sioux;

(25) Turtle Mountain Band of the Chippewa;

(26) Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation; and

(27) Yankton Sioux;

Whereas the Yellowstone area was visited by fur traders and explorers during the early

1800s and by organized expeditions in the 1860s and 1870s that reported the abundant resources and immense value of the region to Congress;

Whereas painter Thomas Moran and photographer William Henry Jackson accompanied the first geographical survey of the Yellowstone area in 1871 and returned from the expedition with visual evidence of the grandeur that earlier explorers could only describe with words;

Whereas, on March 1, 1872, President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act, which states, ''The tract of land . . . lying near the headwaters of the Yellowstone River . . . is reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or sale under the laws of the United States, and dedicated and set apart as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.'';

Whereas Yellowstone National Park is the first national park in the world, an idea that has spread throughout the world;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park is the core of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, one of the last, largest, nearly intact natural ecosystems on the planet, where natural processes operate in an ecological context that has been subject to little human alteration;

Whereas the Federal Government has made substantial efforts to maintain ecological balance within Yellowstone National Park through wildlife conservation and partnership efforts;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park is 3,472 square miles and more than 2,000,000 acres in size;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park contains half of the world's hydrothermal features, with more than 10,000 in total and more than 500 active geysers, including the Old Faithful Geyser;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park has the most active, diverse, and intact collections of combined geothermal, geologic, and hydrologic features and systems on Earth, including the Grand Prismatic Spring;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park has 67 species of mammals, 285 species of birds, 6 species of reptiles, and 5 species of amphibians within its boundaries;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park has the largest free-ranging bison herd in North America;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park has over 1,000 native flowering species and 9 species of conifers;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park has more than 900 historic buildings and 25 sites, landmarks, and districts on the National Register of Historic Places;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park has more than 720,000 museum items that document the park and the western United States from pre-history through the present;

Whereas the United States Army managed Yellowstone National Park between 1886 and 1918;

Whereas more than 1,850 archeological sites have been documented in Yellowstone National Park;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park hosts over 4,000,000 visits annually, with people from across the world traveling to the park to enjoy the many recreational opportunities, including hiking, horseback riding, biking, camping, rafting, boating, swimming, fishing, viewing wildlife and geothermal features, photography, and exploring, contributing hundreds of millions of dollars into local and State economies in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho;

Whereas, in 2020, visitors to Yellowstone National Park spent over $444,000,000 in gateway communities and supported 6,110 jobs in Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, with a cumulative benefit to the local economy of $560,000,000;

Whereas Yellowstone National Park partners with concessioners that provide services for the general public, including lodging, dining, shopping, and medical services; and

Whereas the National Park Service employs hundreds of permanent and seasonal staff dedicated to preserving the natural and cultural resources of Yellowstone National Park for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Yellowstone National Park on its sesquicentennial anniversary;

(2) celebrates 150 years of the unique cultural heritage and natural beauty of Yellowstone National Park; and

(3) encourages people across the United States and around the world to visit Yellowstone National Park to experience this extraordinary treasure.

SENATE RESOLUTION 526—CONDEMNING THE ANTISEMITIC TERRORIST ATTACK THAT OCCURRED AT CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE ON JANUARY 15, 2022, IN COLLEYVILLE, TEXAS, EXPRESSING GRATITUDE THAT NO INNOCENT LIVES WERE LOST, AND APPLAUDING THE DEDICATION AND BRAVERY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE OFFICIALS IN RESPONDING TO THE ATTACK

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. KING, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COONS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BURR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KELLY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 526

Whereas on the afternoon of January 15, 2022, 4 individuals at Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue in Colleyville, Texas were taken hostage and held at gunpoint by an armed antisemitic terrorist;

Whereas during the hostage standoff, the terrorist echoed the demands of other militant Islamists, including the Islamic State (ISIS), Ayman al-Zawahri, lieutenant to Osama bin Laden and mastermind of many of deadliest al Qaeda terror attacks, and others within al Qaeda, that the United States release from Federal prison a certain radicalized terrorist known as the ''Lady of al Qaeda'';

Whereas the ''Lady of al Qaeda'' was captured in Afghanistan with handwritten notes about perpetrating a ''mass casualty attack'' and a list of targets located in the United States that included the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, and Wall Street, and was later convicted of the attempted murder and assault of United States nationals in 2010 and sentenced to 86 years in prison;

Whereas the hostages were able to run to safety and escape due to the quick thinking and bravery of one of the hostages, who threw a chair at the terrorist;

Whereas the safe resolution to the January 15th terrorist attack on Congregation Beth Israel demonstrated the critical importance of professional safety and security training, facility walk-throughs, and security assessments for all Jewish community institutions;

Whereas since 2005, through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, Congress has supported professional safety and security training for houses of worship, which was conducted by Jewish community institutions, including Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue, and by the Secure Community Network under the auspices of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and the Jewish Federations of North America;

Whereas the perpetrator targeted the people worshiping at Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue because they were Jewish;

Whereas the people of the United States are grateful for the swift action of local, State, and Federal law enforcement officials and emergency response teams who responded to this vile and antisemitic attack;

Whereas Good Shepherd Catholic Community Church provided support and housed family members of the worshipers held inside Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue during the 11-hour standoff;

Whereas Pleasant Run Baptist Church offered their thoughts and support during the standoff, and allowed for their parking lot to be used by the media;

Whereas worshipers who were watching the service virtually contacted local law enforcement officials once they realized there was an incident underway at Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue;

Whereas antisemitism is a pernicious and offensive form of prejudice that runs contrary to the values of the United States; and

Whereas in 2020 and 2021, there were 8,366 incidents of extremism or antisemitism in the United States;

Whereas while there can be no exhaustive definition of antisemitism in all its many forms, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance has developed the Working Definition of Antisemitism, with examples, that serves as an essential definitional tool used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism;

Whereas more than half of the religiously motivated hate crimes reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2020 were anti-Jewish hate crimes;

Whereas Jewish Americans make up about 2 percent of the population of the United States but crimes against them make up 55 percent of the anti-religious hate crimes in the United States;

Whereas the number of antisemitic incidents, including assaults, vandalism, and harassment, in the United States have increased over the past decade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the antisemitic attack at Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue of Colleyville, Texas on January 15, 2022;

(2) expresses gratitude that there was no loss of innocent life and that the hostages were able to escape unharmed and return safely to their loved ones;

(3) honors the selfless and dedicated service of the law enforcement and emergency response officials who responded to the attack;

(4) condemns antisemitism in the United States, and around the world; and

(5) reaffirms the commitment of the United States—

(A) to condemn antisemitism in all its forms;

(B) to protect the right of the people of the United States to freely exercise their religious beliefs; and

(C) to ensure the safety and security of all people of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 527—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12 THROUGH FEBRUARY 19, 2022, AS ''NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK'' TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF ENTREPRENEURS AND STARTUPS TO THE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE WELL-BEING OF EVERY COMMUNITY ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 527

Whereas National Entrepreneurship Week is a congressionally chartered event taking place annually during the third week of February for the purpose of democratizing and promoting entrepreneurship across the United States through education, connection, and collaboration;

Whereas the United States is the most entrepreneurial country in the world and the entrepreneurial spirit woven into the national consciousness is central to the identity of the United States;

Whereas that entrepreneurial spirit and the countless new businesses it has spawned have built the most innovative and productive economy in the history of the world;

Whereas the United States is a nation of entrepreneurs, with new and small businesses comprising 99 percent of all businesses in the United States and employing nearly half of all workers in the United States;

Whereas, given the importance of entrepreneurship to innovation, productivity gains, economic growth, job creation, and expanding opportunity, a thriving entrepreneurial spirit is critical to post-COVID economic recovery in the United States;

Whereas National Entrepreneurship Week celebrates the initiative, drive, creativity, and commitment embodied in the entrepreneurial spirit of the United States;

Whereas National Entrepreneurship Week inspires students and the next generation of entrepreneurs by encouraging educators in grade schools, colleges, and universities across the United States to integrate entrepreneurship education into the classroom; and

Whereas research has demonstrated that students who participate in entrepreneurship education programs have better attendance records, perform better in core subjects, and have lower drop-out rates than students who do not participate in such programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of February 12 through February 19, 2022, as ''National Entrepreneurship Week'';

(2) celebrates the importance of entrepreneurs and startups to the United States economy;

(3) recognizes the contributions entrepreneurs make to expand opportunity, provide more inclusive prosperity, and increase the well-being of every community across the United States;

(4) affirms the importance and urgency of enacting policies that promote, nurture, and support entrepreneurs and startups; and

(5) encourages Federal, State, and local governments, schools, nonprofit organizations, and other civic organizations to observe National Entrepreneurship Week annually with special events and activities—

(A) to recognize the contributions of entrepreneurs in the United States;

(B) to teach the importance of entrepreneurship to a strong and inclusive economy; and

(C) to take steps to encourage, support, and celebrate future entrepreneurs.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 29—RECOGNIZING THE NEED TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL ACCESS TO MANY FEDERALLY FUNDED FACILITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 29

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution prevents Congress from making any law respecting an establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise of religion, or abridging the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the right to peaceably assemble, or to petition for a governmental redress of grievances, and was adopted on December 15, 1791, as 1 of the 10 amendments that constitute the Bill of Rights;

Whereas the Bill of Rights, specifically the First Amendment to the Constitution, calls for the right of all persons to peaceably assemble, and to this end, all persons, regardless of their physical ability, shall be offered equal opportunity to access all federally funded, in whole or part, amenities;

Whereas, in the 32 years since the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) (in this preamble referred to as the ''ADA''), there have been unprecedented advances in all forms of technology;

Whereas, in 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 1 in 4 adults, or 61,000,000 people, have a disability;

Whereas disability is a universal concern, as an aging population increases the incidence of frailty and disability;

Whereas, as significant advances in medical treatment result in increased survival rates, the incidence of disability increases;

Whereas, in 2020, the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that 4,700,000 veterans received service-related disability benefits;

Whereas, in 2019, the percentage of working-age people in the United States who reported having a work limitation due to a disability was 10.1 percent;

Whereas the Act entitled ''An Act to insure that certain buildings financed with Federal funds are so designed and constructed as to be accessible to the physically handicapped'', approved August 12, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) (commonly known as the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968), was enacted to ensure that certain federally funded facilities are designed and constructed to be accessible to people with disabilities;

Whereas the United States Access Board (in this preamble referred to as the ''Board'') is in the process of developing new guidelines for public rights-of-way that will address various issues, including access for blind pedestrians at street crossings, wheelchair access to on-street parking, and various constraints posed by space limitations, roadway design practices, slope, and terrain;

Whereas the Board's new guidelines, when finalized, will cover pedestrian access to sidewalks and streets, including crosswalks, curb ramps, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other components of public rights-of-way;

Whereas the Board's aim in developing these guidelines is to ensure that access for persons with disabilities is provided wherever a pedestrian way is newly built or altered, and that the same degree of convenience, connection, and safety afforded the public generally is available to pedestrians with disabilities;

Whereas once these guidelines are adopted by the Department of Justice, they will become enforceable standards under title II of the ADA; and

Whereas the United States was founded on principles of equality and freedom, and these principles require that all people, including people with disabilities, are able to engage as equal members of society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes that people with disabilities in the United States experience barriers to access on a daily basis;

(2) reaffirms its support of the Act entitled ''An Act to insure that certain buildings financed with Federal funds are so designed and constructed as to be accessible to the physically handicapped'', approved August 12, 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) (commonly known as the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), and encourages full compliance with such Acts; and

(3) pledges to make universal and inclusive design a guiding principle for all infrastructure bills and projects and will continue working to identify and remove the barriers that prevent all people of the United States from having equal access to the services provided by the Federal Government.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4931. Mr. CORNYN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3059, to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to provide for a periodic transaction reporting requirement for Federal judicial officers and the online publication of financial disclosure reports of Federal judicial officers, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4931. Mr. CORNYN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3059, to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to provide for a periodic transaction reporting requirement for Federal judicial officers and the online publication of financial disclosure reports of Federal judicial officers, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act''.

SEC. 2. PERIODIC TRANSACTION REPORTS AND ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.

(a) PERIODIC TRANSACTION REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL JUDGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 103(l) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(11) Each judicial officer.

''(12) Each bankruptcy judge appointed under section 152 of title 28, United States Code.

''(13) Each United States magistrate judge appointed under section 631 of title 28, United States Code.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to applicable transactions occurring on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.—Section 105 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE.—Subject to paragraph (4), not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall establish a searchable internet database to enable public access to any report required to be filed under this title by a judicial officer, bankruptcy judge, or magistrate judge.

''(2) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a report is required to be filed under this title by a judicial officer, bankruptcy judge, or magistrate judge, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall make the report available on the database established under paragraph (1) in a full-text searchable, sortable, and downloadable format for access by the public.

''(3) REDACTION.—Any report made available on the database established under paragraph (1) shall not contain any information that is redacted in accordance with subsection (b)(3).

''(4) ADDITIONAL TIME.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the requirements of this subsection may be implemented after the date described in paragraph (1) if the Administrative Office of the United States Courts identifies in writing to the relevant committees of Congress the additional time needed for that implementation.

''(B) PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall continue to make the reports described in paragraph (1) available to the public during the period in which the Administrative Office of the United States Courts establishes the database under this subsection.''.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 103(l) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) (as amended by subsection (a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (9), by striking '', as defined under section 109(12)''; and

(B) in paragraph (10), by striking '', as defined under section 109(13)''.

(2) Section 105 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) (as amended by subsection (b)) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''be revealing'' and inserting ''by revealing''; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking ''be,,'' and inserting ''be,''; and

(II) in the third sentence, by striking ''may be may'' and inserting ''may be, may''; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''described in section 109(8) or 109(10) of this Act'' and inserting ''who is a judicial officer or a judicial employee''.

(3) Section 107(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended in the last sentence by striking ''and (d)'' and inserting ''and (e)''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT OF 2021—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 139, H.R. 3755.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 139, H.R. 3755, a bill to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 139, H.R. 3755, a bill to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

Charles E. Schumer, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

The motion is withdrawn.

POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 2022—Motion to Proceed

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 273, H.R. 3076.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 273, H.R. 3076, a bill to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 273, H.R. 3076, a bill to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, February 17, be waived.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 8:04 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Executive Calendar Nos. 590, 605, 710, 711, 712, 713, 723, 724, and PN 790; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Kamilah Forbes, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2026; Christi A. Grimm, of Colorado, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services; Margaret A. Burnham, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board. (New Position); Gabrielle M. Dudley, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board. (New Position); Henry Klibanoff, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board. (New Position); Brenda E. Stevenson, of California, to be a Member of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board. (New Position); Parisa Salehi, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank; Brian Michael Tomney, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency; and Betty Y. Jang, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2023?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 114, 744 to 759, and that all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; 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 any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

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

To be brigadier general

Col. Jonathan C. Rice, IV

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen Gregg P. Olson

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be general

Lt. Gen. Michael E. Kurilla

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. David W. Bennett
Col. Karl S. Bowers, Jr.
Col. Shawn G. Ryan

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. Robert M. Sage

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Benjamin M. Cason
Brig. Gen. Thomas D. Crimmins
Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Donnellan
Brig. Gen. Virginia I. Gaglio
Brig. Gen. Michele K. LaMontagne
Brig. Gen. Paul N. Loiselle
Brig. Gen. Gerald E. McDonald
Brig. Gen. Steven D. Michaud
Brig. Gen. Patrick R. Renwick
Brig. Gen. James G. Silvasy
Brig. Gen. Michael A. Valle
Brig. Gen. Wendy B. Wenke
Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Wilkinson

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Meaghan Q. LeClerc

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Paul D. Johnson
Brig. Gen. Mark A. Maldonado

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 1220 and 12212:

To be major general

Gen. Michael L. Ahmann
Brig. Gen. Keith G. MacDonald
Brig. Gen. Edward L. Vaughan, IV

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. April D. Vogel

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Shawn N. Bratton

The following Air National Guard of the United States officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be brigadier general

Col. William R. Davis
Col. Francisco J. Dominguez
Col. Michael T. Dotson
Col. Gregg J. Hesterman
Col. Kevin E. Jacobs
Col. Clarence K. Maynus, Jr.
Col. Stephanie S. Samenus
Col. Ginger D. Turcotte

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12212:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Edward S. Jones

IN THE ARMY

The following named officers for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grades as indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Dianne M. Del Rosso
Brig. Gen. Walter M. Duzzny
Brig. Gen. Cheryn L. Fasano
Brig. Gen. Ernest Litynski
Brig. Gen. Tony L. Wright

To be brigadier general

Col. Christopher W. Cook
Col. Kirk P. Dailey
Col. Kelly A Hagenbeck
Col. Kimberly K. Hamilton
Col. Steven D. Hayden
Col. Karen S. Monday-Gresham
Col. Royce P. Resoso
Col. Christine V. Rummel
Col. Jon E. Solem
Col. Blaise Zandoli

IN THE NAVY

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Brian H. Bennett
Capt. Maximilian Clark
Capt. Adan G. Cruz
Capt. Kavon Hakimzadeh
Capt. Stephen J. Jackson
Capt. Kevin M. Kennedy
Capt. Brett W. Mietus
Capt. Thomas P. Moninger
Capt. Martin J. Muckian
Capt. Gregory D. Newkirk
Capt. Matthew C. Paradise
Capt. Chase D. Patrick
Capt. Bradley N. Rosen
Capt. Christopher D. Stone
Capt. Nicholas R. Tilbrook
Capt. Alexis T. Walker
Capt. David P. Walt
Capt. Robert E. Wirth
Capt. Michael S. Wosje

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C. section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Christopher T. Donahue

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Douglas A. Sims, II

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1729 AIR FORCE nominations (141) beginning LORENZO E. ARANDA, and ending SAMUEL M. ZOHNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1730 AIR FORCE nominations (309) beginning ROBERT A. ADAMS, and ending RYAN W. ZIPPER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1731 AIR FORCE nominations (44) beginning LUCAS G. BORG, and ending SARAH M. WOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1733 AIR FORCE nominations (121) beginning ASHLEY N. ADAMS, and ending RICHARD CHASE ZANETTI, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1734 AIR FORCE nominations (39) beginning STEPHEN C. ARNASON, and ending DAVID J. WEYH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1735 AIR FORCE nominations (16) beginning JOHNNIE I. BARRETT, and ending SHAUN S. WESTPHAL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1736 AIR FORCE nominations (11) beginning CANG QUOC BUI, and ending STACEY S. VAN ORDEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1738 AIR FORCE nominations (11) beginning BRIAN J. ALENT, and ending BRYAN A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1739 AIR FORCE nomination of Daniel J. Beaudoin, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

IN THE ARMY

PN1689 ARMY nomination of Andrew W. Mack, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 2022.

PN1740 ARMY nomination of Una Han, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1741 ARMY nomination of Samuel A. Arnett, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1742 ARMY nomination of William P. Bass, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1743 ARMY nomination of Michael M. Townsend, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1744 ARMY nomination of Zachariah J. Kamla, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1745 ARMY nomination of Thomas A. Watson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 31, 2022.

PN1752 ARMY nomination of Scott F. M. Duncan, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 2, 2022.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1622 MARINE CORPS nominations (7) beginning MICHAEL A. CAP, and ending CATHERINE M. SUMRULD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 5, 2022.

PN1630 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jesse C. Tallman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 5, 2022.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 650, Martha Williams, of Montana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Martha Williams, of Montana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

SUPPORTING AN INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC UKRAINE AGAINST ANY FURTHER RUSSIAN MILITARY INVASION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 519, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 519) supporting an independent and democratic Ukraine against any further Russian military invasion, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I rise today with Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN to request that the Ukraine resolution introduced by us, along with Senators RISCH, MENENDEZ, CORNYN, and DURBIN be passed by unanimous consent.

This is a dangerous time in the world, especially for our ally, Ukraine. There are over 150,000 Russian troops poised on their border, an overwhelming force that could invade at a moment's notice.

This resolution is very simple and straightforward; it makes it clear that for 30 years Ukraine has been an independent and sovereign country. It commends the bravery of the Ukrainian people and their desire to integrate with the West, to align themselves with democratic values and freedom and continue to move away from the autocratic rule of Russia.

It also acknowledges the over 14,000 Ukrainians who have been killed since 2014 in fighting against Russian backed separatists.

It details the ongoing illegal Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Most importantly, this resolution reaffirms our unwavering support to Ukraine and the importance of our NATO alliance and our transatlantic partnerships.

This is simply a strong, bipartisan show of support to our ally Ukraine as they face a threat and danger not of their making.

I now yield the floor to my friend, Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 519) was agreed to.

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

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

The preamble was agreed to.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, just a word, this was a very significant resolution that we passed. It was led by Senator SHAHEEN and PORTMAN and sends a very strong message to Mr. Putin that the U.S. Senate, Democrats and Republicans of all different ideologies, are united in defending Ukraine in the ways that the administration sees fit.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 520, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 520) designating the week of February 21 through February 25, 2022, as ''Public Schools Week''.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 520) was agreed to.

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

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

The preamble was agreed to.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions introduced earlier today: S. Res. 521, S. Res. 522, S. Res. 523, S. Res. 524, S. Res. 525, S. Res. 526.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

DR. LORNA BREEN HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1667 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1667) to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 1667) was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask that 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.

JOHN LEWIS NIMHD RESEARCH ENDOWMENT REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 44, H.R. 189.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 189) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 189) was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask that 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.

PROTECTING OUR GOLD STAR FAMILIES EDUCATION 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. 3373 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3373) to improve the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant and the Children of Fallen Heroes Grant.

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

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

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

The bill (S. 3373) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3373

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 ''Protecting Our Gold Star Families Education Act''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN SERVICE GRANT AND CHILDREN OF FALLEN HEROES GRANT.

(a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RELATING TO IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN SERVICE GRANT AND CHILDREN OF FALLEN HEROES GRANT.—Part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), as amended by section 703 of the FAFSA Simplification Act (title VII of division FF of Public Law 116–260), is amended—

(1) in section 401—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (2)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(II) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''(2)(B)(i)'' and inserting ''(2)(A)(i)'';

(iii) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (7); and

(iv) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) PREVENTION OF DOUBLE BENEFITS.—No eligible student described in paragraph (2) may concurrently receive a grant under both this subsection and subsection (b).

''(6) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary shall award grants under this subsection in the same manner and with the same terms and conditions, including the length of the period of eligibility, as the Secretary awards Federal Pell Grants under subsection (b), except that—

''(A) the award rules and determination of need applicable to the calculation of Federal Pell Grants under subsection (b)(1) shall not apply to grants made under this subsection; and

''(B) the maximum period determined under subsection (d)(5) shall be determined by including all grants made under this section received by the eligible student and all grants so received under subpart 10 before the effective date of this subsection.''; and

(2) by striking section 420R (20 U.S.C. 1070h).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in section 703 of the FAFSA Simplification Act (title VII of division FF of Public Law 116–260) and subject to the effective date of section 701(b) of such Act.

(c) TRANSITION.—The Secretary shall take such steps as are necessary to transition from the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant program under subpart 10 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070h), as in effect on the day before the effective date of this section, and the provision of Federal Pell Grants under section 401(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a(c)), as amended by the FAFSA Simplification Act and this Act.

COURTHOUSE ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3059 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. 3059) to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to provide for a periodic transaction reporting requirement for Federal judicial officers and the online publication of financial disclosure reports of Federal judicial officers, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 4931) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act''.

SEC. 2. PERIODIC TRANSACTION REPORTS AND ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.

(a) PERIODIC TRANSACTION REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL JUDGES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 103(l) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(11) Each judicial officer.

''(12) Each bankruptcy judge appointed under section 152 of title 28, United States Code.

''(13) Each United States magistrate judge appointed under section 631 of title 28, United States Code.''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to applicable transactions occurring on or after the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.—Section 105 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

''(c) ONLINE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS OF FEDERAL JUDGES.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE.—Subject to paragraph (4), not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall establish a searchable internet database to enable public access to any report required to be filed under this title by a judicial officer, bankruptcy judge, or magistrate judge.

''(2) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a report is required to be filed under this title by a judicial officer, bankruptcy judge, or magistrate judge, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall make the report available on the database established under paragraph (1) in a full-text searchable, sortable, and downloadable format for access by the public.

''(3) REDACTION.—Any report made available on the database established under paragraph (1) shall not contain any information that is redacted in accordance with subsection (b)(3).

''(4) ADDITIONAL TIME.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the requirements of this subsection may be implemented after the date described in paragraph (1) if the Administrative Office of the United States Courts identifies in writing to the relevant committees of Congress the additional time needed for that implementation.

''(B) PUBLICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall continue to make the reports described in paragraph (1) available to the public during the period in which the Administrative Office of the United States Courts establishes the database under this subsection.''.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 103(l) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) (as amended by subsection (a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (9), by striking '', as defined under section 109(12)''; and

(B) in paragraph (10), by striking '', as defined under section 109(13)''.

(2) Section 105 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) (as amended by subsection (b)) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''be revealing'' and inserting ''by revealing''; and

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking ''be,,'' and inserting ''be,''; and

(II) in the third sentence, by striking ''may be may'' and inserting ''may be, may''; and

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking ''described in section 109(8) or 109(10) of this Act'' and inserting ''who is a judicial officer or a judicial employee''.

(3) Section 107(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended in the last sentence by striking ''and (d)'' and inserting ''and (e)''.

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. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3059), as amended, was passed.

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.

HARRIET TUBMAN BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 697.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 697) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth.

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.

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. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, and the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 697) was passed, as follows:

S. 697

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 ''Harriet Tubman Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Harriet Tubman was a formerly enslaved abolitionist who guided about 70 people from slavery to freedom in 10 years.

(2) Born in March 1822, Tubman was a notable abolitionist who not only freed herself, but also freed others from slavery.

(3) Harriet Ross Tubman, born Araminta ''Minty'' Ross, was born enslaved on the plantation of Anthony Thompson in Dorchester County, Maryland.

(4) With the help of the Underground Railroad network, in the fall of 1849, Tubman escaped from Poplar Neck in Caroline County, Maryland, heading north to freedom in Pennsylvania.

(5) With the passing of the Fugitive Slave Act as part of the Compromise of 1850, the operations to help enslaved persons escape became dangerous and she risked her life to rescue them from slavery.

(6) Despite passage of the Compromise of 1850 and the Fugitive Slave Act, Tubman

continued her work, escorting her refugees to Canada instead.

(7) It was during the 1850s that Tubman made 13 trips back to Maryland, guiding approximately 70 enslaved persons to the North, including family members, and providing instruction to about 70 more who found their way to freedom on their own.

(8) Regardless of the arduous process of helping fugitive enslaved persons escape through the Underground Railroad, not a single person was recaptured under Tubman's supervision.

(9) During 1859, Tubman aided abolitionist John Brown by recruiting supporters for his raid on Harper's Ferry, a planned insurrection against slaveholders in Virginia and Maryland.

(10) In the beginning of the Civil War, Tubman served as a spy, cook, and nurse in South Carolina and Florida.

(11) Tubman also recruited newly freed African-American men to join regiments of African-American soldiers called United States Colored Troops.

(12) In recognition of her abilities, Tubman served as an army scout and spy for Major General David Hunter and Colonel James Montgomery. Harriet Tubman was inducted into the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame.

(13) Tubman distinguished herself as the first woman to lead an armed expedition in the Civil War, the Combahee River Raid, resulting in more than 700 enslaved persons in South Carolina being freed.

(14) After the Civil War, Tubman frequently sheltered and fed newly freed enslaved persons at her home on South Street in Auburn, New York, which she purchased from Secretary of State William Henry Seward, even though she had little money herself. She found a means to an end by working as a domestic, selling produce from her garden, taking in donations of food, loans from friends, and raising pigs on her farm.

(15) Tubman became active in the women's movement as early as 1860. She attended meetings and gave speeches in her home State of New York, as well as in Boston and Washington, DC.

(16) Tubman was an avid advocate for African-American women and their civil rights. In 1896, she was invited as a speaker at the first meeting of the National Association of Colored Women in Washington, DC.

(17) Although living in financial insecurity, Tubman transferred a 25-acre parcel of land to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1903, which eventually became The Harriet Tubman Home for the Aged and Indigent Negroes. At the time, few social services existed for elderly and ill people of color.

(18) Escaping slavery, risking everything to save her family and friends, aiding enslaved persons in escape from slavery, leading a military raid, championing the cause of women's suffrage, advocating for civil rights and access to health care, Harriet Tubman is an individual that has performed achievements that have had profound impacts on history and culture in the United States.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of Harriet Tubman, the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) $5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 $5 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) be struck on a planchet having a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain at least 90 percent gold.

(2) $1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 $1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) be struck on a planchet having a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain at least 90 percent silver.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

(A) weigh 11.34 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

(C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGNS OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The designs of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the legacy of Harriet Tubman as an abolitionist. At least one obverse design shall bear the image of Harriet Tubman.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

(A) an inscription of Harriet Tubman;

(B) a designation of the value of the coin;

(C) an inscription of the year ''2024''; and

(D) inscriptions of the words ''Liberty'', ''In God We Trust'', ''United States of America'', and ''E Pluribus Unum''.

(b) SELECTION.—The designs for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary, after consultation with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. in Auburn, New York, and the Commission of the Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins under this Act only during the period beginning on January 1, 2024, and ending on December 31, 2024.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided under section 7(a) with respect to the coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of the coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include—

(1) a surcharge of $35 per coin for the $5 coins;

(2) a surcharge of $10 per coin for the $1 coins; and

(3) a surcharge of $5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), subject to section 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary equally to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, and The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. in Auburn, New York, for the purpose of accomplishing and advancing their missions.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, if an entity described in paragraph (1) of this subsection raises funds from private sources in an amount that is less than the total amount of the proceeds of the surcharge derived from the sale of the coins issued under this Act, the Secretary shall promptly pay to the other entity the proceeds of such surcharge.

(c) AUDITS.—The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, and The Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. in Auburn, New York, shall be subject to the audit requirements of section 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard to the amounts received under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code. The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that—

(1) minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government; and

(2) no funds, including applicable surcharges, are disbursed to any recipient designated in section 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of the coins authorized by this Act (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, winning design compensation, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

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.

PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3706, which is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3706) to provide for the application of certain provisions of the Secure

Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for fiscal year 2021.

There being no objection, 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. 3706) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3706

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

SECTION 1. COUNTY ELECTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 UNDER THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000.

Sections 102(b)(1)(D), 102(d)(1)(F), and 102(d)(3)(D) of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 7112(b)(1)(D), 7112(d)(1)(F), 7112(d)(3)(D)) shall be applied for fiscal year 2021.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 4521

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4521) to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022, THROUGH MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, February 18 at 9 a.m.; Tuesday, February 22 at 3 p.m.; and Friday, February 25 at 2 p.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, February 25, it next convene at 3 p.m., Monday, February 28; 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, Senator LEAHY be recognized to deliver Washington's Farewell Address, as provided under the previous order; and that following his remarks, morning business be closed and the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 139, H.R. 3755; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 28.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 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 8:17 p.m., adjourned until Friday, February 18, 2022, at 9 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate February 17, 2022:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. JONATHAN C. RICE IV

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

KAMILAH FORBES, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2026.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CHRISTI A. GRIMM, OF COLORADO, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHELE TAYLOR, OF GEORGIA, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

MARTHA WILLIAMS, OF MONTANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS REVIEW BOARD

MARGARET A. BURNHAM, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS REVIEW BOARD.

GABRIELLE M. DUDLEY, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS REVIEW BOARD.

HENRY KLIBANOFF, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS REVIEW BOARD.

BRENDA E. STEVENSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COLD CASE RECORDS REVIEW BOARD.

EXPORT–IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

PARISA SALEHI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, EXPORT–IMPORT BANK.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

BRIAN MICHAEL TOMNEY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. GREGG P. OLSON

IN THE ARMY

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

To be general

LT. GEN. MICHAEL E. KURILLA

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID W. BENNETT
COL. KARL S. BOWERS, JR.
COL. SHAWN G. RYAN

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. ROBERT M. SAGE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. BENJAMIN M. CASON
BRIG. GEN. THOMAS D. CRIMMINS
BRIG. GEN. TIMOTHY J. DONNELLAN
BRIG. GEN. VIRGINIA I. GAGLIO
BRIG. GEN. MICHELE K. LAMONTAGNE
BRIG. GEN. PAUL N. LOISELLE
BRIG. GEN. GERALD E. MCDONALD
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN D. MICHAUD
BRIG. GEN. PATRICK R. RENWICK
BRIG. GEN. JAMES G. SILVASY
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL A. VALLE
BRIG. GEN. WENDY B. WENKE
BRIG. GEN. JEFFREY L. WILKINSON

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MEAGHAN Q. LECLERC

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. PAUL D. JOHNSON
BRIG. GEN. MARK A. MALDONADO

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL L. AHMANN
BRIG. GEN. KEITH G. MACDONALD
BRIG. GEN. EDWARD L. VAUGHAN IV

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. APRIL D. VOGEL

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. SHAWN N. BRATTON

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. WILLIAM R. DAVIS
COL. FRANCISCO J. DOMINGUEZ
COL. MICHAEL T. DOTSON
COL. GREGG J. HESTERMAN

COL. KEVIN E. JACOBS
COL. CLARENCE K. MAYNUS, JR.
COL. STEPHANIE S. SAMENUS
COL. GINGER D. TURCOTTE

THE FOLLOWING AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. EDWARD S. JONES

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES AS INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DIANNE M. DEL ROSSO
BRIG. GEN. WALTER M. DUZZNY
BRIG. GEN. CHERYN L. FASANO
BRIG. GEN. ERNEST LITYNSKI
BRIG. GEN. TONY L. WRIGHT

To be brigadier general

COL. CHRISTOPHER W. COOK
COL. KIRK P. DAILEY
COL. KELLY A. HAGENBECK
COL. KIMBERLY K. HAMILTON
COL. STEVEN D. HAYDEN
COL. KAREN S. MONDAY–GRESHAM
COL. ROYCE P. RESOSO
COL. CHRISTINE V. RUMMEL
COL. JON E. SOLEM
COL. BLAISE ZANDOLI

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. BRIAN H. BENNETT
CAPT. MAXIMILIAN CLARK
CAPT. ADAN G. CRUZ
CAPT. KAVON HAKIMZADEH
CAPT. STEPHEN J. JACKSON
CAPT. KEVIN M. KENNEDY
CAPT. BRETT W. MIETUS
CAPT. THOMAS P. MONINGER
CAPT. MARTIN J. MUCKIAN
CAPT. GREGORY D. NEWKIRK
CAPT. MATTHEW C. PARADISE
CAPT. CHASE D. PATRICK
CAPT. BRADLEY N. ROSEN
CAPT. CHRISTOPHER D. STONE
CAPT. NICHOLAS R. TILBROOK
CAPT. ALEXIS T. WALKER
CAPT. DAVID P. WALT
CAPT. ROBERT E. WIRTH
CAPT. MICHAEL S. WOSJE

IN THE ARMY

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. CHRISTOPHER T. DONAHUE

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. DOUGLAS A. SIMS II

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LORENZO E. ARANDA AND ENDING WITH SAMUEL M. ZOHNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 31, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ROBERT A. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH RYAN W. ZIPPER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 31, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LUCAS G. BORG AND ENDING WITH SARAH M. WOOD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 31, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ASHLEY N. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH RICHARD CHASE ZANETTI, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 31, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN C. ARNASON AND ENDING WITH DAVID J. WEYH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 31, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHNNIE I. BARRETT AND ENDING WITH SHAUN S. WESTPHAL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 31, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CANG QUOC BUI AND ENDING WITH STACEY S. VAN ORDEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 31, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRIAN J. ALENT AND ENDING WITH BRYAN A. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 31, 2022.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF DANIEL J. BEAUDOIN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANDREW W. MACK, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF UNA HAN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SAMUEL A. ARNETT, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF WILLIAM P. BASS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF MICHAEL M. TOWNSEND, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ZACHARIAH J. KAMLA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF THOMAS A. WATSON, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SCOTT F. M. DUNCAN, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL A. CAP AND ENDING WITH CATHERINE M. SUMRULD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 5, 2022.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF JESSE C. TALLMAN, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

BETTY Y. JANG, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 10, 2023.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 6617, Further Additional Extending Government Funding Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S757–S804

Measures Introduced: Thirty-four bills and eleven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3673–3706, S. Res. 518–527, and S. Con. Res. 29. **Pages S785–87**

Measures Reported:

S. 2123, to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 117–81)

H.R. 3462, to require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration.

S. 1617, to modify the requirements for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration relating to declaring a disaster in a rural area, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2042, to reauthorize the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2521, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish an SBIC Working Group, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2710, to promote competition and reduce gatekeeper power in the app economy, increase choice, improve quality, and reduce costs for consumers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 3103, to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate the statute of limitations for the filing of a civil claim for any person who, while a minor, was a victim of a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241(c), 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of such title, with amendments. **Page S785**

Measures Passed:

Further Additional Extending Government Funding Act: By 65 yeas to 27 nays (Vote No. 64), Senate passed H.R. 6617, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, by the order of the Senate of Thursday, February 17, 2022, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, after agreeing to the motion to proceed and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Page S779**

Rejected:

By 46 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 61), Lee/Marshall Amendment No. 4929, to prohibit funding for COVID–19 vaccine mandates. **Pages S777–78**

By 44 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 62), Cruz Amendment No. 4927, to prohibit the use of Federal funding for schools and early childhood development facilities that enforce COVID–19 vaccine mandates on children in order to protect the rights of parents to make medical decisions that affect their child. **Page S778**

By 47 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 63), Braun Amendment No. 4930, to strike the Statutory PAYGO exemption and require balanced budgets in concurrent resolutions on the budget. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S778–79**

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

By 65 yeas to 30 nays (Vote No. 60), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S765**

Supporting an independent and democratic Ukraine: Senate agreed to S. Res. 519, supporting an independent and democratic Ukraine against any further Russian military invasion. **Pages S791–92**

Public Schools Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 520, designating the week of February 21 through February 25, 2022, as "Public Schools Week". **Page S792**

Black History Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 521, celebrating Black History Month. **Pages S792–93**

Congratulating the Los Angeles Rams: Senate agreed to S. Res. 522, congratulating the Los Angeles Rams on their victory in Super Bowl LVI. **Page S793**

Rare Disease Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 523, designating February 28, 2022 as ''Rare Disease Day''. **Pages S793–94**

National FFA Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 524, expressing support for the designation of February 19 through February 26, 2022, as ''National FFA Week'', recognizing the important role of the National FFA Organization in developing the next generation of leaders who will change the world, and celebrating 70 years of the National FFA Organization's membership magazine, originally called The National Future Farmer, now called New Horizons. **Page S794**

Yellowstone National Park 150th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 525, recognizing March 1, 2022, as the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, which spans the States of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. **Pages S794–95**

Condemning Attack at Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue: Senate agreed to S. Res. 526, condemning the antisemitic terrorist attack that occurred at Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue on January 15, 2022, in Colleyville, Texas, expressing gratitude that no innocent lives were lost, and applauding the dedication and bravery of law enforcement and emergency response officials in responding to the attack. **Pages S795–96**

Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1667, to address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals, and the bill was then passed. **Page S800**

John Lewis NIMHD Research Endowment Revitalization Act: Senate passed H.R. 189, to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide that the authority of the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to make certain research endowments applies with respect to both current and former centers of excellence. **Page S800**

Protecting Our Gold Star Families Education Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 3373, to improve the Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant and the Children of Fallen Heroes Grant, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S800–01**

Courthouse Ethics and Transparency Act: Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 3059, to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to provide for a periodic transaction reporting requirement for Federal judicial officers and the online publication of financial disclosure reports of Federal judicial officers, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S801**

Schumer (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 4931, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S801**

Harriet Tubman Bicentennial Commemorative Coin Act: Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 697, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S801–02**

Secure Rural Schools: Senate passed S. 3706, to provide for the application of certain provisions of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 for fiscal year 2021. **Pages S802–03**

Measures Considered:

Women's Health Protection Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3755, to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services. **Page S797**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, February 17, 2022, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 28, 2022. **Page S797**

Subsequently, the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill was withdrawn. **Page S797**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill following the delivery of Washington's Farewell Address, on Monday, February 28, 2022; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed on Thursday, February 17, 2022 ripen at 5:30 p.m. **Page S803**

Postal Service Reform Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3076, to provide stability to and enhance the services of the United States Postal Service. **Pages S797–98**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill,

and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of H.R. 3755, to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

Pages S797–98

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. **Page S803**

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, February 18, 2022, at 9 a.m.; Tuesday, February, 22, 2022, at 3 p.m.; Friday, February 25, 2022, at 2 p.m., and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, February 25, 2022, it next convene on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 3 p.m. **Page S803**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Margaret A. Burnham, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board.

Gabrielle M. Dudley, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board.

Henry Klibanoff, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board.

Christi A. Grimm, of Colorado, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

Kamilah Forbes, of New York, to be a Member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2026.

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

Parisa Salehi, of the District of Columbia, to be Inspector General, Export-Import Bank.

Brian Michael Tomney, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Brenda E. Stevenson, of California, to be a Member of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board.

Michele Taylor, of Georgia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as United States Representative to the UN Human Rights Council.

Martha Williams, of Montana, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

35 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

18 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

19 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps. **Pages S798–99**

Messages from the House: **Pages S784–85**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S785**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S787–88**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S788–96**

Additional Statements: **Pages S783–84**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S796–97**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S797**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—64) **Pages S765, S777–79**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 8:17 p.m., until 9 a.m. on Friday, February 18, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S803.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Franklin R. Parker, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Agnes Schaefer, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, and Ravi Chaudhary, of Virginia, and Frank Calvelli, of Virginia, both to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

AMERICAN ECONOMY

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the state of the American economy, focusing on a year of unprecedented economic growth and future plans, after receiving testimony from Cecilia Rouse, Chair, and Jared Bernstein, and Heather Boushey, both a Member, all of the Council of Economic Advisers.

WARRIOR MET AND WALL STREET

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Warrior Met and Wall Street, focusing on what corporate raiders are doing to workers and consumers, after receiving testimony from Senators Warren and Tuberville; Cecil E. Roberts, Triangle, Virginia, and Braxton Wright, Brookwood, Alabama, both of the United Mine Workers of America; James Kwak, University of Connecticut School of Law, Hartford; Douglas Holtz-Eakin, American Action Forum, and Duncan Wood, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, both of Washington, D.C.; and Nomi Prins, Los Angeles, California.

IRS CUSTOMER SERVICE CHALLENGES

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine IRS customer service challenges, after receiving testimony from Erin M. Collins, National Taxpayer Advocate, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; Jessica Lucas-Judy, Director, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; and Jan F. Lewis, American Institute of CPAs, Washington, D.C.

BIOSECURITY PREPAREDNESS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the gaps in America's biosecurity preparedness, including opportunities to address national strategy and programmatic challenges, after receiving testimony from Chris P. Currie, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; Asha M. George, Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense, Washington, D.C.; and Gerald W. Parker, Jr, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, College Station.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, February 18, 2022.

Committee Meetings

EXPLORING PATHWAYS TO AFFORDABLE, UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing entitled "Exploring Pathways to Affordable, Universal Health Coverage. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AMERICANS IN NEED: RESPONDING TO THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled "Americans in Need: Responding to the National Mental Health Crisis". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND IN A CHANGING GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled "The Role of the International Monetary Fund in a Changing Global Landscape". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SMALL BUSINESSES, BIG IMPACT: ENSURING SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES SHARE IN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled "Small Businesses, Big Impact: Ensuring Small and Minority-Owned Businesses Share in the Economic Recovery". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE BURMA CRISIS, ONE YEAR AFTER THE COUP

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation held a hearing entitled "The Burma Crisis, One Year After the Coup". Testimony was heard from Craig Hart, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for East Asia and the Pacific, U.S. Agency for International Development; and Kin Moy, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State.

CALL TO ACTION: PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE AND ITS IMPACT ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability held a hearing entitled ''Call to Action: Private Sector Investment in the Northern Triangle and its Impact on Homeland Security''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE JANUARY 6TH CAPITOL ATTACK: ONGOING REVIEW OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE INSPECTOR GENERAL FLASH REPORTS

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the January 6th Capitol Attack: Ongoing Review of the United States Capitol Police Inspector General Flash Reports''. Testimony was heard from Michael A Bolton, Inspector General, U.S. Capitol Police; and a public witness.

THE RISE IN VIOLENCE AGAINST MINORITY INSTITUTIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security held a hearing entitled ''The Rise in Violence Against Minority Institutions''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SECURING THE FUTURE OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION SCIENCE AT THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled ''Securing the Future of Climate Adaptation Science at the United States Geological Survey''. Testimony was heard from Lou Leon Guerrero, Governor, Guam; Therese M. Terlaje, Speaker, Guam Legislature; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Office of Insular Affairs Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 6504, the ''Native Pacific Islanders of America Equity Act''. Testimony was heard from Doug Beard, Chief, National Climate Adaptation Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

H2SUCCESS: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO ADVANCE A CLEAN HYDROGEN FUTURE

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled ''H2Success: Research and Development to Advance a Clean Hydrogen Future''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9 a.m., Friday, February 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Friday, February 18

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.

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