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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, March 11, 2022, at 10 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

(Legislative day of Monday, March 7, 2022)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, as the war in Ukraine continues, we look to You. Lord, You have been our help in ages past. You are our hope for the years to come. You continue to be our shelter from the storms of evil that buffet our world. You cause the enemies of freedom to retreat.

Today, execute judgment from Your throne as You use our Senators for Your glory. Lord, rule the nations with fairness, and continue to be our refuge in times of trouble.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore,

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, last night, the House of Representatives passed the strongest, boldest, and most significant government funding package we have seen in a very long time, bringing us one step closer to fully funding the government for the 2022 fiscal year.

As we all know, funding the government is a basic responsibility of Congress, but rarely does this responsibility arrive at such a critical moment for our country and for the world. War has erupted in Europe, and Americans are looking to relief from rising costs, and this package is critical for facing these challenges.

After weeks of hard work, I am pleased to report that this bipartisan funding package represents a robust and unapologetic investment in the American people: It will give our troops a raise, provide more money for schools and Head Start programs and Pell Grants, reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, fund the President's Cancer Moonshot, and open the floodgates for funding the bipartisan infrastructure law. This funding bill is overflowing with very good things for our troops, for American jobs, for our families, and for America.

Once this bill arrives at the Senate, Republicans must work with Democrats to pass the bill as soon as possible—hopefully, tonight. There is every reason in the world to believe that we can arrive at a path forward quickly.

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

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For one, the people of Ukraine need our immediate help, and this omnibus is the quickest and most direct way of getting them the help fast. At nearly $14 billion, Congress will approve more than double—more than double—what the administration originally requested for Ukraine aid, and that is a huge accomplishment. We took the President's original request for Ukrainian aid, examined it and added to it.

I can confidently say every last penny of this aid package will be much needed and well spent. It will provide food, medicine, shelter, and support for over 2 million refugees and resources for Ukraine's ruined economy. It will also inject billions into military assistance. It will enable weapons transfers like Javelins and Stingers. It will reassure and strengthen NATO and add teeth to our defenses against Russia's malicious cyber warfare.

And to every corrupt Russian oligarch who has dined off Putin's regime for years, beware. This package will increase the government's tools for hunting you down and holding you accountable.

The Ukrainian people are fighting for their lives and fighting for the survival of their young democracy. Congress has a moral obligation to stand behind them as they resist the evils of Vladimir Putin and his campaign of carnage.

The 2022 government funding bill is one way we are keeping that promise, and for that reason alone, it should pass the Senate as quickly as possible.

But on the homefront, as I already mentioned, there are lots of important things. This package increases investments across nearly every single domestic priority, very much needed.

I am particularly thrilled to say that, after a decade of false starts, this package will finally reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, which I originally helped write and pass when I was a Congressman back in 1994. Unfortunately, this very needed, important bill to protect those who are abused has languished in limbo for far too long. VAWA is one of the most important pieces of legislation of the past 30 years, and once it is reauthorized, it will once again provide lifesaving support for countless women who face sexual assault and domestic abuse. I thank Senators FEINSTEIN, DURBIN, ERNST, MURKOWSKI, and all the cosponsors—bipartisan—for helping to bring this law back to life.

Now, of course, nobody argues that this package is perfect. I am deeply disappointed—deeply disappointed—that the administration's request for more COVID funding failed to make it into the House bill, but we are going to keep fighting to make sure we get that money approved as soon as possible.

COVID funding right now is all about being prepared. It will provide funding for vaccines and therapeutics and testing, which means it will be much easier to keep schools open, to keep businesses open, and to keep life closer to normal than it was during Delta and Omicron. So we will keep working on COVID relief. It is very much needed.

Now, we are not over the finish line yet, but I want to thank appropriators from both sides of the aisle—bipartisan—for putting this package together, never an easy task. I especially thank Chairman LEAHY for his leadership and his counsel over the course of this process, and I thank Ranking Member SHELBY as well, and my House colleagues, too, for working in good faith to make this bill possible.

It has not been easy to draft this truly robust package, but after years of needless chaos and uncertainty under Donald Trump, this year Congress has been able to work together on a bipartisan basis to fund the government in a serious way. Now the Senate must follow through in finishing the job by approving this bill quickly and sending it to the President's desk.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, so we still have some more work to do, but it has already been a remarkably busy and productive week here in the Senate.

After nearly a decade of work, this week the Senate finally passed the largest postal reform bill in a very long time, with huge bipartisan support, I am happy to say. We also sent to the President's desk the first bill in American history that finally, finally—long overdue—declares lynching a Federal crime after a century of failed attempts. These are both momentous and indeed historic accomplishments, and I thank my colleagues for working in good faith to get them done.

I have always said that, whenever possible, Democrats would be willing to work in a bipartisan way to get things done, and, once the omnibus is done, in this week we will have achieved three major bipartisan accomplishments.

Yesterday, Senate Democrats also met for our DPCC retreat over at Howard University, where we had a spirited and productive conversation about the biggest issues facing American families: lowering costs. As the world continues to struggle with COVID, supply chain disruptions, and Russia's war on Ukraine, Americans need relief—relief on everything from energy costs, prescription drug costs, the cost of groceries and meat and so much more. Democrats will keep working these issues with laser-like intensity and unflinching focus.

Moving forward, the Senate will also continue the process of considering and, ultimately, confirming President Biden's exceptional nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court: Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. That Judge Jackson is qualified for the High Court is not in question. That she merits bipartisan support should not be disputed, because on three occasions she has already come before this Chamber and has been embraced by people on both sides of the aisle.

When Judge Jackson's confirmation hearings begin on March 21, the entire Nation will get to see what many of us in the Senate are learning for ourselves: Judge Jackson is brilliant, she is beloved, and she belongs on the Supreme Court. The three b's: brilliant, beloved, belongs.

We have more work to do before this week comes to an end, but, for now, I thank my colleagues for a very, very productive few days.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

COSTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Washington Democrats are trying to pull off a political spin job for the ages. Everyone knows that gas prices and energy costs have been soaring sharply for many, many months. Working families know all too well that gas prices and utility costs have been rising throughout President Biden's tenure.

Just this morning, we learned that inflation set yet another modern record last month. Prices skyrocketed another 0.8 percent in February alone. That comes out to 7.9 percent inflation year on year, the worst inflation in 40 years. And it keeps getting worse, not better.

This has been a painful pattern throughout President Biden's tenure. We have now had 9 straight months of inflation higher than 5 percent. And remember, 3 weeks ago, before the crisis in Europe, Democrats were already in a political panic over gas prices and desperately talking about a gas tax holiday. Three weeks ago, before the crisis in Europe, the average price of a gallon of gas had already shot up more than a dollar from when President Biden was sworn in.

Now, you would think the Democrats would have been proud of this. Hostility to fossil fuels and homegrown American energy is precisely what President Biden campaigned on. Here is what our President said on the campaign trail in 2020—a direct quote:

> No more subsidies for the fossil fuel industry. No more drilling on Federal lands. No more drilling, including offshore. No ability for the oil industry to continue to drill, period. [It] ends.

That was the President in 2020. Here is what he told an activist:

[L]ook at my eyes. I guarantee you . . . we are going to end—

End—

fossil fuel.

Now, President Biden spent 2 years campaigning on hostility to American energy. Now he has spent 14 months putting that hostility right into action, and Democrats' reckless spending that has fueled across-the-board inflation has made Americans' pain at the pump even worse.

But in the last few days, the Biden administration has tried to invent some laugh-out-loud—laugh-out-loud—revisionist history. They are trying to rebrand the entire increase in gas prices on their watch—listen to this—as an effect of Putin's recent invasion of Ukraine. So they want to blame 14 months of gas price increases on the last 2 weeks of turmoil.

Washington Democrats' war on domestic energy long, long predates Putin's war on Ukraine. So let me say that again. Democrats' war on domestic energy long predates Putin's war on Ukraine.

Now, I strongly support America stopping our purchases of Putin's oil, but Democrats' 14-month war on our own production will make that necessary action more painful for American families than it had to be. If the Biden administration had spent 14 months promoting American energy instead of attacking our production and fueling inflation, we would be better positioned to push back on Putin at a less painful cost to American families.

The President's team wants to pretend this lengthy problem only started 2 weeks ago, but American families have been paying for Democrats' bad policies for a lot longer than that.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, yesterday, the House passed a bipartisan, bicameral government funding agreement that will enable crucial investments in our national defense. Putin's war on Ukraine is just one manifestation of the major long-term threats to American security and American interests posed by major competing powers like Russia and China.

So, absolutely, we must rapidly fund the urgent assistance that Ukraine and our allies along NATO's eastern flank need right now, but we must also make the investments in military modernization that will equip America to achieve peace through strength for years and decades to come.

Our military commanders have clearly and consistently told us they cannot rebuild and modernize our military to meet the growing threats if Congress lets defense funding sleepwalk from one continuing resolution to another. The world is a dangerous place. It is growing more dangerous every day. The road to peace runs through American power. We all know it is true, so we have to budget accordingly.

Our recent negotiations put us Republicans in the surreal position of having to push a Commander in Chief's party into giving his own commanders the funding they need. But, over many Democrats' objections, Republicans made sure this deal gets the job done for our Armed Forces.

The compromise product provides significantly more money than the Biden administration had requested for defense and significantly less than they requested for nondefense.

Until 24 hours ago, this compromise was also going to reprogram money away from Democrats' wasteful spending spree that neglected COVID needs and reallocate it to vaccines and treatment for the American people, but House Democrats mutinied against Speaker PELOSI. The far left would rather preserve State and local bureaucrats' giant slush funds than fund vaccines and therapeutics for our citizens, so the COVID component has fallen out.

Overall, this agreement checks the three boxes I laid out months ago. The bill maintains parity between defense and nondefense spending growth. It maintains longstanding bipartisan policies, such as protecting taxpayers against funding abortions and being politically targeted by the IRS. And new far-left poison pills were cut out. But more urgently, amidst this war in Europe, this agreement delivers aid the Ukrainians need right now and a downpayment on our commitment to keep defending America and global peace in the years to come.

UKRAINE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, over the last few days, the Biden administration's confusing mismanagement and mixed signals surrounding the Ukraine crisis and the West's response have again spilled out into open public view.

Here is the pattern. Time and time again throughout this crisis and in the months preceding it, the administration's first instinct has been to resist strong and decisive steps. The President and his team initially take a pass on strong steps when they could have been put into place proactively and had a real deterrent effect, but then, after sustained public pressure, they buckle and implement the steps anyway, often too late. This ''leading from behind'' leaves us in a lose-lose scenario.

The pattern has played out yet again with this bizarre argument over MiG airplanes that President Biden's team has carried out in public with our Polish allies.

The mere fact that Biden administration officials are contradicting not only each other but also our NATO allies in public like this evidences a severe lack of the coordination and proactive leadership that we should be—us, Americans—should be providing. This isn't limited to just these Polish planes; there are all manner of different systems, tools, and arms that our eastern flank allies and partners could be providing more readily to the brave Ukrainians. This would take American leadership and coordination and an American commitment that we will help them replace their Soviet-era stocks with American and Western military technology.

The loan guarantees we included in the supplemental appropriations bill will give the administration a tool to do just this—help eastern flank NATO partners use their own money to modernize their defensive capabilities. This would be a win for Ukraine, a win for us, and a win for NATO.

These kinds of steps should be nobrainers for a confident, assertive, and decisive American administration. Instead, it repeatedly seems like the administration's first instinct is to flinch—to flinch—wait for international and public pressure to overwhelm them, and then take action only after the most opportune moment has nearly passed us by.

Nobody wants an escalation, but if the administration keeps repeating this pattern of self-deterrence, of convincing itself that any proactive step would be irresponsible, they are just internalizing Putin's false premise and amplifying Putin's false equivalence.

Remember this: Strength is not a provocation. The world needs President Biden and his team to be leading, taking the initiative, and shaping circumstances calmly, soberly, but with confidence and decisiveness. They seem to be trapped in a cycle of passivity, indecision, self-deterrence, and then, finally, reaction. The world needs the Biden administration to be flying this plane. Too often, it feels like the plane is flying them.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RUSSIA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it is interesting to listen to the reaction to the notion that we are going to stop our dependence on Russian oil. I totally support that. The notion that I would buy gasoline in my hometown and put it in my car or truck and somehow subsidize what Vladimir Putin is doing in the rape of Ukraine is just unacceptable. I believe there is not only a moral force but a political force behind this. Morally, there is no way we are going to support Putin. Politically, we have to come together with other nations and make this as painful as possible on him, and stopping the import of Russian oil is a move in that direction.

It is interesting that that was a bipartisan position which I joined over the weekend—many of us did—Democrats and Republicans all saying: Enough with the Russian oil. We will find other ways to keep America's economy and cars and trucks moving without being dependent on Vladimir Putin or subsidizing his war effort.

It was bipartisan—strong statements. In fact, there were as many statements in support of this from the other side of the aisle as this side of the aisle. Then what happened? Well, Dana Milbank, in this morning's Washington Post, tells the story of what happened.

After President Biden made his announcement Tuesday, he said, accurately:

> ''Since Putin began his military buildup on Ukrainian borders, just since then, [it is 2 weeks] the price of gas at the pump in America went up 75 cents. And with this action [the Americans will stop buying Russian oil] it's going to go up further.'' [President Biden] dubbed it ''Putin's price hike'' and said ''Russia is responsible.''

Since this was a bipartisan idea—stopping the flow of Russian oil into the United States and subsidizing Putin's invasion of Ukraine—you would think there would be bipartisan applause. The exact opposite occurred.

In a Dana Milbank article, which I will ask to be part of the RECORD, here is what was said by House Republican Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY:

> ''These aren't Putin prices. They're President Biden's prices''. . . . ''Gas prices started rising the day President Biden took office—when he canceled the Keystone Pipeline and halted new drilling on federal lands.''

It turns out that these assertions, by not just KEVIN MCCARTHY but other Republican leaders, are just not accurate. Nobody goes to the task and assignment of actually backing up some of these facts like real history and real numbers.

Here is what he says: Gas prices started rising on the day that Biden took office.

Wrong.

They have been on an upward trend since bottoming out in April 2020, at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. This is because of booming demand during the recovery. So this notion that these are Biden gas prices that just started going up magically after he was sworn—not true.

Then I love this one on the Keystone XL Pipeline. How many times have you heard on the floor of the Senate—maybe even this morning—that canceling the Keystone Pipeline is the reason that gasoline prices have gone up?

It turns out, according to Dana Milbank, that pipeline was only 10 percent completed when Biden canceled it. Its owners didn't even expect to open it until next year, 2023, at the earliest.

Well, how about this one? You hear this over and over again from so many Republicans: Biden halted new drilling on Federal lands, they say. According to Milbank:

> Wrong. After a temporary halt in new leases, Biden has outpaced Trump in new drilling permits for public lands.

That has been reported by the Washington Post.

And as for Biden's shutdown of American energy, listen to this:

> U.S. production has increased under Biden from 9.7 million barrels a day to 11.6 million barrels. The number of oil rigs operating was 172 in July of 2020. . . . Now, 519 are in operation. U.S. production is forecast to set a record next year.

Now, I don't doubt that stopping the Russian export of oil into the United States is going to have a negative impact on gasoline prices. It stands to reason. But there is an adjustment being made. The President spoke to it last night, at a meeting we attended, where he is working on other sources for America to make this hardship as little as possible.

I ask unanimous consent that the Milbank article be printed in the RECORD.

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

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

[From the Washington Post]

BIDEN HEEDED REPUBLICANS' PLEAS TO BAN RUSSIAN OIL. THEN THEY POUNCED

(By Dana Milbank)

A cynic is rarely disappointed by this Republican Party. Yet even by that standard, the current attempt to blame President Biden—and absolve Vladimir Putin—for the spike in gas prices is a special case.

For days, Republicans called for a ban on imports of Russian oil, a move that, while the right thing to do to counter Putin's attack against Ukraine, would cause already high gas prices to rise even further. Biden did as Republicans wanted—and they responded by blaming his energy policies for spiking gas prices.

It's not only that the charge is bogus—the current price of gas has virtually nothing to do with Biden's energy policies—but that the Republican officials leveling it are sowing division at home and giving a rhetorical boost to the enemy at a perilous moment when national unity and sacrifice will be needed to prevail against Russia.

Announcing the ban on Tuesday, Biden said, accurately: ''Since Putin began his military buildup on Ukrainian borders, just since then, the price of the gas at the pump in America went up 75 cents. And with this action, it's going to go up further.'' He dubbed it ''Putin's price hike'' and said ''Russia is responsible.''

REPUBLICANS LEAPED TO PUTIN'S DEFENSE

''These aren't Putin prices. They're President Biden's prices,'' House GOP leader Kevin McCarthy said during a news conference on Wednesday. Via tweet, he claimed: ''Gas prices started rising the day President Biden took office—when he canceled the Keystone Pipeline and halted new drilling on federal lands.''

Rep. Elise Stefanik (N.Y.), head of the House Republican Conference, added: ''Joe Biden blames Russia for skyrocketing gas prices. But make no mistake—Biden's war on American energy is to blame.''

Scores of Republicans piled on. The GOP side of the House Energy and Commerce Committee tweeted: ''Russia isn't 'responsible'. Biden's shutdown of American energy is.''

That's just a gusher of mendacity.

Gas prices ''started rising the day President Biden took office''? Wrong. They've been on an upward trend since bottoming out in April 2020 at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. This is because of booming demand during the recovery—not because of Biden's policies (or President Donald Trump's, for that matter).

Canceling the Keystone XL pipeline caused gas prices to rise? Wrong. It was only 10 percent done when Biden canceled it, and its owners didn't expect to open it until 2023 at the earliest.

Biden ''halted new drilling on federal lands''? Wrong. After a temporary halt in new leases, Biden has outpaced Trump in new drilling permits for public lands, The Post reported.

As for Biden's ''shutdown of American energy,'' U.S. production has increased under Biden from 9.7 million barrels a day to 11.6 million barrels. The number of oil rigs operating was at 172 in July 2020, E&E News reports. Now, 519 are in operation. U.S. production is forecast to set a record next year.

What's holding back oil production isn't government policy. U.S. producers still have 4,400 wells already approved and drilled that are not yet producing. They aren't drilling more because of a shortage of workers and equipment and, particularly, investors' greed. As The Post reported, major U.S. oil companies say they would rather use their profits ''to boost payouts to shareholders'' than ''rush to drill new wells.''

Blaming Biden for the spike in prices around Russia's Ukraine invasion isn't just false—it's an assist to Putin that damages national security.

Polls show that Americans—Republicans and Democrats alike—favor banning Russian oil imports, even if that increases energy prices. Seventy-nine percent said so in a Wall Street Journal poll this week. Americans know the stakes, and they are willing to sacrifice.

But what happens if Republican lawmakers and their Fox News masters persuade their supporters to believe that Biden, not Putin, is to blame for their problems? Their willingness to sacrifice dissipates—and so does their support for the fight against Putin.

It's lucky this hasn't happened already. Fox News's Tucker Carlson, after parroting Kremlin talking points justifying its invasion of Ukraine, has pivoted to blaming the United States for provoking Putin. ''Why in the world would the United States intentionally seek war with Russia?'' he asked on Monday night.

Trump himself has praised Putin's acuity, Sen. Josh Hawley (R–Mo.) has called for the United States to appease Russia by abandoning its support for Ukrainian membership in NATO, and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R–Ga.), after proposing to impeach Biden for ''threatening war'' with Russia, now asks: ''How is banning Russian oil (10 percent of our imports) helping reduce gas prices hurting Americans?''

Fighting Russian aggression while avoiding World War III is hard enough. With Republicans acting in bad faith, it's that much harder.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, finally, an omnibus spending bill. For months, there have been negotiations underway. The process has been drawn out. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, there was a lot of frustration. But soon we are going to vote on an omnibus spending package, and we are going to do much more than keep the lights on in our government.

In many ways, this spending package is a testament to the progress we have

made during the past year of the Democratic majority. We have historic funding to reduce the cost of living for working families. We get it; American families are having a tough time making ends meet and are living paycheck to paycheck. We take action in this omnibus spending bill to start to address that challenge, and we create good jobs here in America. Isn't it about time we focus on making things in America, putting people to work with good jobs that supply them? And we need to ensure families and children can access critical supplies, like nutritious food and clean water that they need to survive.

This bill also provides more than $13 billion to the Ukrainians fighting tooth and nail to defend their freedom. The Democratic Senate caucus was fortunate last night to have over an hour and a half with the President where he spoke candidly and informally about the challenge we face in Ukraine. We have sent millions—maybe billions of dollars—in assistance to those who are resisting Vladimir Putin's barbaric attack on that nation, and we know that it is the right thing to do. There are displays of courage by the Ukrainians the likes of which we haven't seen in modern times. President Zelenskyy, particularly, has impressed not only the United States but the world with his singular courage.

The funds we are putting in this bill will help Ukrainians on the frontline to continue to hold back Vladimir Putin, and on the ground, in the air, through cyberspace, as well as helping our NATO allies in the region. NATO has never been stronger—30 different countries standing together, shoulder to shoulder, to stop Vladimir Putin's invasion.

The omnibus spending package, also, makes crucial investments in America at a time when we need it. It will fund research into the technologies and innovations. Innovation is an American phenomenon. Other countries do it, but I think we do it better. And whether we are curing a disease, creating a new industry, or combating the climate crisis, America needs to continue to lead the world in innovation. This spending bill does that.

At a moment of great peril and uncertainty in the world, we are coming together to defend our families, our security, our economy, and our future. But we need to move fast. We need to send this package to President Biden's desk quickly.

For the past 2 weeks, Russian mortars and missiles have been raining down on innocent people and children throughout Ukraine. More than 400 individuals have been killed, with some estimates in the thousands of deaths, believing that the current numbers are really an undercount.

Let me say one word while we are on the subject of Vladimir Putin and war crimes. What more evidence do you need than the bombing of a maternity hospital and the killing of mothers and infants? This man, Putin, and his attack on the Ukrainian people, is not following any standards or rules of decent conduct in any way whatsoever. I think it is obvious.

Yesterday, the Russian airstrike that devastated the hospital complex in Mariupol is an indication that we will never forget. A video released shortly after the bombing showed a pregnant woman being carried away on a stretcher, surrounded by pulverized cars in flames and blackened trees covered in debris. It was a scene from a horror movie—a horror created by Vladimir Putin.

Ukraine needs humanitarian, military, and economic aid today. That is exactly what this omnibus bill will provide—billions of dollars in military equipment and intelligence support and even more billions in emergency supplies, food aid, healthcare, migration, and refugee assistance.

This is how America stands by our fellow defenders of democracy at their darkest hour, and Ukraine needs our help.

Here at home, the spending package includes a number of provisions that will strengthen America and the 330 million Americans who live here. We are bringing vital investments back to our home States. I support the return of congressionally directed funding, because Senators and Representatives know their States and know their districts better than any Federal Agency personnel in Washington.

I am pleased to report that my colleague, Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH, and I worked to include $210 million in funding for Illinois projects in this bill; and I will be ready to stand up and defend every single one of them piece by piece, project by project, as a good investment in the future of my State and our Nation.

This funding is going to help localities in Illinois launch important infrastructure, access to healthcare, environmental conservation, strengthening community violence prevention initiatives, supporting nonprofits doing important work through our State, and much more.

We also do something that I have worked on personally for the last several months and that I am particularly proud of; we are going to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, known as VAWA. For months, I have worked on this proposal with some amazing people in the U.S. States Senate. On my side of the aisle, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN really was one of the founders of this effort. On the Republican side of the aisle, two women Senators have just been amazing—LISA MURKOWSKI of Alaska and JONI ERNST of Iowa. We wouldn't have passed this bill and included it in this appropriations measure were it not for their good effort; and I thank them very much. They have helped to provide a lifeline to survivors of sexual and domestic violence.

With this year's spending package, Congress will finally reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

Additionally, the omnibus includes funding for a longstanding priority of mine: research. These investments in research are going to help keep America on the cutting edge of innovation when it comes to lifesaving medical treatment, therapies, and so much more. For example, this bill provides the National Institutes of Health with a significant funding increase—this time, a $2.25 billion increase; that is more than 5 percent. Five percent, I have kind of established—and, I hope, with some of my colleagues—as the Holy Grail of increases each year in research, particularly at the NIH. And with the good help of Republican Senator—retiring Senator, unfortunately—ROY BLUNT of Missouri, we have managed to keep our promise. Lamar Alexander, now retired from the Senate, was one of the leaders on this issue. And PATTY MURRAY is always there from the State of Washington. Well, we are going to keep our word again this year.

Basic medical research, which the United States leads the world in, is going to be enhanced with this improvement of more than 5 percent increase in the budget of the National Institutes of Health.

I am particularly pleased that this omnibus bill includes a dedicated $25 million for the implementation of the ACT for ALS bill, which became law late last year. I want to thank Senator COONS for his leadership on that issue. This funding will ensure that NIH can quickly launch new initiatives to expand access to treatments for those suffering from ALS.

Sadly, I am disappointed to say that the package does not include COVID relief. We are at a turning point in this pandemic. New cases of COVID are at their lowest rates in more than 7 months, praise the Lord; and parents and families are just as anxious as can be to get their kids back in school and life back to normal. These are promising developments—from vaccines to better treatments—but we cannot pretend that this pandemic is over for good, nor that it won't resurface in terms of new variants. We need to prepare for whatever the coronavirus might have in store for us. We need to make sure we have the therapeutics and strengthen our capacity to detect new variants before they become pandemic.

Given the dire urgency of the situation in Ukraine, I understand we simply don't have time to go back to the bargaining table, but many of us still believe that a toolkit to deal with future infections in COVID or the next pandemic is absolutely essential. I can only hope the Senate agrees with that on a bipartisan basis.

Two years into this pandemic, we know this virus is anything but predictable. It operates like free-form jazz. Just when we think we have found

our rhythm, the tempo gets turned upside down with a new variant. This current lull in cases is the perfect moment to tune up our instruments, keep our fingers sharp, and prepare for whatever is next.

Let me close by saying that, aside from the omission of additional COVID relief, there is much to celebrate in this spending package. It is an example of what Congress can achieve when it works together.

In the face of Russia's horrible invasion of Ukraine, an invasion that has already created 2 million Ukrainian refugees, we are standing together in defense of democracy. Russia's invasion is a tragic illustration of one man's mania and of a conflict that will define the 21st century if we don't stop it in its tracks. Right now, Putin is waging yesterday's war with yesterday's goal of reestablishing the Soviet Union. He is sending ill-equipped teenagers in Russian Army uniforms into Ukraine to terrorize innocent families and bomb children in hospitals, all in some delusional effort that he is going to create the new Russian Empire, with him being installed as the Czar of that enterprise. He is not willing to face the challenges of the New World. So he is trying to revive the Old World.

Autocrats like Putin live in fear of the future. Democracies like America welcome it because we know that the future represents an opportunity to build a better world for everyone. That is precisely why President Zelenskyy and every Ukrainian is fighting to protect their country. They are protecting, as well, the freedom to shape their own future, not to have their future dictated by a man like Vladimir Putin.

With the spending package before the Senate, we can begin building our own future as well—a future made in America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The Senator from Iowa.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it has been a year since we in the Senate confirmed Merrick Garland to be Attorney General.

During his confirmation hearing, I outlined what a successful Department of Justice looks like and what I expected of him as our new Attorney General. I gave him the answers to the tests. By this rubric, he has failed. For instance, I urged him to build off the successes from the previous Justice Department to reduce crime, maintain the rule of law, and protect our civil liberties. But violent crime continues to rise, the rule of law is undermined, and our civil liberties are in danger.

Instead of condemning all violent crime, Attorney General Garland's Justice Department targets lawful gun owners and blames those gun owners for the rising murder rates, carjackings, and attacks against law enforcement.

But the explosion of crime in blue cities is actually tied to depolicing measures, hiring progressive prosecutors, and enacting disastrous bail reform policies. Lawful gun owners are not to blame for this rise in crime.

And in the midst of a crime spike, a number of Biden appointees and judicial nominees strongly backed by Attorney General Garland have supported radical ideas in the past, like defunding the police or at least reducing funding for police. And some have even advocated not prosecuting certain crimes. So how do you expect to effectively fight crime with the lineup that I just gave you?

Instead of tackling the opioid crisis, the Garland Justice Department wants to make it easier for fentanyl traffickers to spread their poison. Fentanyl analogs are responsible for most overdose deaths and are lethal in very tiny amounts, as we all know. But the Garland and Biden administration support eliminating mandatory minimums for these fentanyl analog dealers. Really?

In addition, Garland has wielded his power to undermine the rule of law and cave to political pressures. The Attorney General has summarily reversed a number of decisions issued by Attorneys General Sessions and Barr that helped enhance the integrity of our asylum system.

This Attorney General has also issued memos, interpretations, and filings to the Supreme Court that contrast with previous Department of Justice positions.

Let me give you an example. His Department of Justice reinterpreted the law to make sure that inmates released to home confinement under COVID relief stay there. His Solicitor General also switched positions on a cocaine sentencing case that was before the Supreme Court. Now, it happens that both of these policy outcomes align with my positions. I agree with those outcomes. But his way of getting there is political. Rule of law must be consistent and not political.

So Garland's flip-flopping also jeopardizes our Nation's security. Instead of protecting the American people from the Chinese Communist Party's espionage, he disbanded the previous administration's successful China Initiative. This program prioritized investigations of national security from China, which is still a very serious threat given that the FBI opens a new Chinese espionage case every 12 hours. So I don't know why this would be disbanded. This move is concerning and dangerous to our national security and reflective of partisan pressures trumping smart law enforcement.

Also, political decisions are getting in the way of the consistent application of the rule of law. For example, Attorney General Garland's Department of Justice is politically selective about which cases to pursue and which cases to dismiss. Despite the 100-night siege against the Portland courthouse in 2020 and 96 people being charged as violent rioters, almost half of those charged have been dismissed.

Compare this to the Department of Justice's own statement on the 1-year anniversary of January 6:

> The Department of Justice's resolve to hold accountable those who committed crimes on Jan. 6, 2021, has not, and will not, wane.

Now, we all know that those who break the law should be held accountable—no question about that. And as our Nation's top law enforcement officer, it is incumbent upon him to enforce the rule of law. He cannot pick and choose when the rule of law is politically convenient or easy.

Under Garland's leadership, the Department of Justice is also undermining valuable civil rights. This is something that he and I have had a lot of discussions on as he has appeared before our committee.

So undermining valuable civil rights, instead of prioritizing that, Attorney General Garland has killed the speech of American parents. He sent a memo to the FBI and the U.S. attorneys around the country to be on the lookout for upset parents at school boards. He did this after the National School Boards Association suggested that some people should be branded domestic terrorists. Imagine that charge—that you go to a school board meeting, you might be a domestic terrorist.

What is even worse, there seems to be some evidence that the Secretary of Education may have asked the National School Boards Association to write that awful letter, which the association later had to apologize for. Garland says his memo was just about violence and threats of violence; but sure enough, whistleblower reports show that the FBI's counterterrorism division was looking way beyond only violence and threats. Parents' ability to voice their concerns, especially now, is a precious right, and the Department of Justice's actions cannot kill such vital speech constitutionally protected by the First Amendment.

Also, instead of being responsive, the Attorney General has been evasive. Last year, I sent approximately 50 letters to the Department. That is one-third of all letters that they received from Members of the U.S. Senate.

The Attorney General wanted me to know that I sent one-third of all the letters he got from the other 99 Senators. So when the Attorney General told me that, I don't think he meant it as a compliment.

I received some letters in response. However, when I am told that they have responded to me, simple or lots of words on a piece of paper don't, in and of themselves, make a letter responsive.

Furthermore, the Department has failed to provide responsive records, with the exception of one or two small productions. By way of example, I received a 30-page production of records from the Department. It included improper FOIA redactions and failed to

include the necessary spreadsheets. Accordingly, that production is a failed production because FOIA does not apply to documents going to the Congress of the United States, so you shouldn't have that redaction.

Also, I have repeatedly asked if Nicholas McQuaid is recused from the Hunter Biden criminal investigation, and that is an important thing because he seemed to work in the law firm that was representing Hunter Biden. And it ought to be a simple question to answer, but Attorney General Garland refuses to tell me whether McQuaid is recused from those cases.

At the Judiciary Committee's October 27, 2021, Justice Department oversight hearing, I said to Attorney General Garland:

> When I placed holds on your nominees for the Department's failure to comply with Republican oversight requests, I said either you run the Department or the Department runs you. Right now, it looks like the Justice Department is running you.

That ends my quote of October 27 last year.

So that statement still holds true. Instead of protecting the American people, the Attorney General is sacrificing our Nation's top law enforcement agency to politics during a violent crime spike. Instead of being stewards of our Nation's laws, the Attorney General is leading the charge upending the rule of law. Instead of fighting for civil rights, he is chipping away at those civil rights.

Attorney General Garland, there is still time to change. You have 3 years left in this administration. I urge you to change course. I urge you to bring the Justice Department back to a place of leadership: leadership in reducing violent crime, leadership in maintaining the rule of law, and leadership in protecting our civil liberties.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

UKRAINE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine continues to escalate. Americans who walked by a newsstand on Monday were met with the wrenching picture of a Ukrainian family killed by Russian shelling, a mom and her two children struck down as they attempted to flee along a main evacuation route from Irpin to Kyiv, an evacuation route that Russia shelled.

Yesterday, the world saw pictures of the devastation after a maternity hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine—maternity hospital—fell victim to a Russian air strike.

President Zelenskyy reported that there were children buried under the rubble—children.

One newspaper reported:

> The bombing took place during what was supposed to be a ceasefire in Mariupol so that civilians could evacuate. It marks the fourth time a so-called 'humanitarian corridor' out of the city has failed because Russian forces opened fire.
>
> ''[T]he fourth time a so-called 'humanitarian corridor' out of the city has failed because Russian forces opened fire.''
>
> ''Opened fire'' on civilians, on parents trying to save their children, this is what Russia is doing.

The scenes in Ukraine are unreal. They are scenes that we thought had finally been left behind in the dust of European history: devastated cities, apartment buildings with their sides sheared off, the smoking ruins of homes and businesses, a school reduced to rubble, mass graves.

In 2 short weeks, Vladimir Putin has wrought an unimaginable amount of devastation. The damage he has done will take years, if not decades, to rebuild. The scars may last much longer.

And for what, Mr. President? For what? For one man's vision of a Russian Empire. Vladimir Putin wants Ukraine, and he is apparently willing to destroy Ukraine to get it—destroy Ukraine and devastate his own nation, because Russia is suffering too because of Putin's war of aggression.

There are no smoking ruins of apartment buildings in Russia, but there is the senseless waste of so many young Russian lives, soldiers and conscripts sent to die in Ukraine for a war that is not their own. There is Putin's brutal crackdown on protesters and journalists, and there is the economic devastation his nation will suffer—is already suffering—as a result of sanctions and companies' decisions to pull out of Russia to protest its unprovoked attack on Ukraine. Vladimir Putin is laying waste to two countries.

These have been dark days for Ukraine, but the devastation in Ukraine has been met with determination. This is Ukrainians' fight, and they are not shrinking from it. The Washington Post recently reported that more than 66,000 Ukrainians who were outside the country have returned to answer President Zelenskyy's call to arms. That is 66,000 Ukrainians who could have sat in safety outside Ukraine who have returned to help defend their country.

Outnumbered as they are, the Ukrainian people are standing fast, and they are slowing down and in many places holding off the Russians. Soldiers and civilians alike have taken up arms to defend their nation, and it is clear that the spirit of Ukraine, now roused, will not be quenched.

No matter the resolve of the Ukrainian people, Ukraine cannot hold out alone. Without military, intelligence, and humanitarian support from other free nations, Ukraine may fall. We can't sit by and let that happen.

Congress is currently considering legislation to send additional military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. I hope that we will be able to take a vote on this and very, very soon. As I have said before, the United States was too slow to send aid to Ukraine and sanction Putin in the lead-up to Russia's attack. We can't afford to make the same mistake again.

I commend President Biden for doing the right thing this week and banning American imports of Russian energy. Every dollar we send to Russia to purchase energy is a dollar that Russia can use to prosecute its war in Ukraine.

Now, we need to focus on developing our energy resources here at home, all of them—all of them, conventional and alternative—to ensure that our Nation never again has to depend on countries like Russia for essential energy supplies. We should also take this oil ban a step further by enacting the bipartisan Crapo-Wyden bill to suspend permanent normal trade relations with Russia and Belarus.

The bill would also direct the U.S. Trade Representative to seek to suspend Russia from the World Trade Organization. A nation that flouts the rules and makes a mockery of diplomacy should not enjoy a seat at the table.

I heard directly from President Zelenskyy in a Zoom call Saturday, and he made a powerful appeal for help from the West. Among other things, President Zelenskyy requested that we help close the skies over Ukraine.

One solution that has been offered to help protect Ukrainian airspace is for Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, and Slovakia to provide their MiG–29 jets to Ukraine. We need to do everything that we can to help Ukraine in this fight, including helping to pave the way for Ukraine to get the air defense resources it needs.

Poland has stepped up and expressed a willingness to provide the MiGs, but we now find ourselves at a dead end as to how to facilitate the transfer to Ukraine. We need to find a solution, and I encourage the administration to find a way to safely navigate the logistics of such a transfer. After all that Ukraine has managed to do, it would be a tragedy to see the country lose its fight because the United States and other NATO countries could not agree on how to get the Ukrainians the resources they need.

While we should be cautious about what Putin may choose to do as his losses grow and his off-ramps dwindle, the United States and NATO cannot allow Moscow to dictate our actions. To do so would not only be to surrender Ukraine but to give a green light to despotic governments the world over, from China to Iran.

On Saturday, President Zelenskyy delivered an address to the Ukrainian people. ''Free people of a free country,'' he began. ''Free people of a free country.'' That is what Ukrainians are fighting for, to be a free people in a free country. And I think their fight is very close to the hearts of the American people, for after all, for what did our forefathers fight but to be a free people in a free land, to have the right to determine their own destiny and to live free of oppression?

''Free people of a free country.'' Long may the Ukrainians remain so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, let me thank Senator THUNE for his remarks.

I would simply add that I hope we can all keep in our hearts the prospect that the Ukrainians might actually win this thing, given the success they have already seen, as long as they get adequate support from us and the world community.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here for a rather different reason. It is to call on this Chamber yet again to wake up to the urgent threat of climate change.

I wish I was done with these ''Time to Wake Up'' speeches. Frankly, I wish I had never had to deliver a single one.

I wish Congress had dealt with this threat—for instance, back when another Senator from Rhode Island, Republican John Chafee, held hearings on the looming challenge of carbon dioxide pollution.

I wish we had dealt with it when the House, under Speaker PELOSI, passed the Waxman-Markey climate change bill, only for Majority Leader Harry Reid and President Barack Obama to kill it in a Democratic Senate with a filibuster-proof majority.

I wish the Citizens United decision hadn't allowed the fossil fuel industry to capture the Republican Party and kill the bipartisanship on climate that existed before that decision in this Chamber.

In my church growing up, there was a prayer about things we have left undone that we ought to have done. In that spirit, here is a graphic on carbon emissions we prepared in conjunction with the Biden White House that charts out where we are on this problem.

Green, this line here, is carbon emissions business as usual if we keep kowtowing to the fossil fuel industry here and don't take serious climate action.

Orange, this line, with quite significant emissions savings, is the Finance Committee's climate tax package. That is the effect just of that climate tax package if it comes into law.

Down here is a clean electricity standard. If you could put into law a national U.S. clean electricity standard, you could reduce emissions to this gray line.

If you were to combine the two, if you were to combine the Finance Committee tax package and the clean electricity standard, you push emissions down to this yellow line.

Look at the blue line. This upper blue line is the carbon savings from a modest price on carbon, one that we have discussed and negotiated with the White House—$15 per ton in 2023, rising to $70 per ton in 2032. Look at how powerful the emissions effect is of that single intervention.

Now, this lowest one that reduces emissions the most, this is the safety pathway. This dark blue emissions line is all of those policies together. That is what they add up to. That is what we could be doing. We could be creating a pathway to safety.

As these emissions results show, a carbon price is the key policy to hit the 50-percent emissions reduction target we have and to get on a pathway to safety. Well, that is not happening right now.

So, while fossil fuel-funded Republicans block legislative action on climate, what could be done through executive action? Regulation. It is not a substitute for ambitious legislation, but it can make a big difference.

The EPA has more or less restored Obama-era fuel economy and greenhouse gas emission standards for cars and light trucks. It has a proposal to regulate methane leakage from oil and gas facilities. It restored an Obama-era rule limiting mercury and other toxic air pollutants from coal-fired powerplants. That is all good, but it is a return to the pre-Trump polluter status quo, not progress—not new progress.

Here is what EPA could still do:

Start with regulations for big, easily identified sources of greenhouse gases, not just coal-fired powerplants but point sources, including in the industrial sector, which generates more than one-fifth of total greenhouse gas emissions. We need a multipronged regulatory approach targeting all major classes of point sources.

We need stronger rules for mercury, coal ash, soot, and other pollutants. Public health demands this, and it is even more urgent in light of climate change.

EPA can update the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule and tighten National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

We need greenhouse gas emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles and for aviation. Focusing just on light-duty vehicles won't cut it.

Over at the Office of Management and Budget, they could finish an updated social cost of carbon and issue guidance requiring its use throughout—throughout—Agency decision-making. This is a big one. The social cost of carbon calculates the long-term damage from carbon pollution, and it should figure in permitting, leasing, grant-making, investments, international development assistance, trade agreements, and procurement.

A Trump judge—likely installed on the Federal Bench using fossil fuel dark money—just blocked the Obama-era social cost of carbon. While that is litigated, the administration is correctly pausing leases, permits, and other actions for greenhouse gas emitters.

At the Department of Interior, stop doling out leases to big polluters. The President promised to end new fossil fuel leases on public lands and waters, so pause them while the social cost of carbon is litigated, and review them all to make sure that taxpayers are paid royalties that reflect the actual cost of fossil fuel production and combustion.

At the Department of Energy, update energy efficiency standards for light bulbs, washing machines, dryers, dishwashers, and all the electric appliances and products we use every day. There is low-hanging fruit there. I hear many of these rules are nearly ready but are held up in bureaucratic delay.

Get a move on.

The Department of Energy should also, along with the EPA and the Department of Agriculture, update the renewable fuel standards to ensure that renewable fuels actually generate considerable emissions reductions.

Here is another simple one: Federal procurement.

Update Federal acquisition regulations so Agencies price in the cost of emissions when they are buying products. Do that, and maybe we wouldn't wind up purchasing Postal Service delivery trucks with internal combustion engines no more efficient than their decades-old predecessors. Heck, we might even end up with clean, high-performing electric postal trucks. There is more to this regulatory list, but let me leave it there.

With legislation and regulation ought to come litigation. There are States, cities, counties across the country that have filed lawsuits against the fossil fuel industry based on local harm suffered as a result of climate change, and there is precedent for those at the Federal level.

In 1999, the Justice Department filed a civil lawsuit against Big Tobacco and its front groups, charging that they ''engaged in and executed—and continue to engage in and execute—a massive 50-year scheme to defraud the public.'' That is the language in the Department of Justice's complaint.

Well, it went to trial, and a few years later, U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler agreed. She found that the tobacco industry had ''coordinated significant aspects of their public relations, scientific, legal, and marketing activity in furtherance of a shared objective—to . . . maximize industry profits by preserving and expanding the market for cigarettes through a scheme to deceive the public.'' That is the language in the decision, ''a scheme to deceive.''

So here is a useful exercise: Pop out the word ''cigarettes'' in that decision, and drop in ''fossil fuel.'' Judge Kessler's finding in the tobacco case describes exactly what the fossil fuel industry has perpetrated: ''coordinated significant aspects of their public relations, scientific, legal, and marketing activity in furtherance of a shared objective—to . . . maximize industry profits by preserving and expanding the market for fossil fuels through a scheme to deceive the public.''

Nothing—nothing—prevents the Department of Justice from at least investigating whether to follow its own

successful blueprint; yet nothing has been done.

Progress will be easier on climate if we take on the fossil fuel-funded front groups that are armed to the teeth with dark money political weaponry. With proper countermeasures like exposure, we can help achieve victory on climate by exposing the rightwing, dark money groups fomenting and funding climate obstruction very likely as part of a scheme to deceive the public.

I will end with an example from a book I read recently about a ship that went down.

In September 1857, the S.S. *Central America*, which was known as the ''Ship of Gold,'' set sail from California to New York City with nearly 600 passengers and crew and 30,000 pounds of gold from the California Gold Rush. A few hundred miles off the Carolina coast, a hurricane hit the S.S. *Central America*. In the teeth of the gales, the passengers and crew did everything they could. Stewards and waiters and other staff were taken off their regular duties to fight the storm, to fight the flooding. Passengers were put into service to save the stricken ship. Heavy cargo was thrown overboard. In fact, divers are, right now, down, recovering the gold that was thrown overboard to save the ship. The ship itself—its doors and panels—were broken up to help block the sea out or were thrown overboard to lighten the stricken ship. At the end—at the end—passengers and crew were side by side, deep in the hold, shoulder deep in water, desperately pumping to save the ship.

The lesson here: The passengers and crew did everything they could, but at each step, they started too late. They ultimately took all the necessary measures, but each one—each one—they took too late, and the ship sank.

I fear that that is the analogy for our present predicament. Indolence in the face of known danger is a particularly stupid form of cowardice. It is made worse here by a fossil fuel industry that pays people to block our efforts to save the ship.

For the steamship the S.S. *Central America*, there was another boat that stood by in the storm to help rescue passengers, and out of the 600 men and women on that ship, a few dozen were saved. Us? We have no other planet standing by. This is our chance for this ship of ours, and it is time to wake up. It is time to take self-rescue seriously by every available means—and fast.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

ENERGY POLICIES

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I want to talk about gas prices.

The people in West Virginia woke up this morning, and according to AAA, the average gas price in West Virginia is $4.12 per gallon. Some parts of the country are paying—probably the part that is the Presiding Officer's country—more than $5 or even more than $6 per gallon of regular gas. Just up the street here in Washington, DC, at the gas station close to the Senate office buildings, it is $5.19 per gallon. We have surpassed the highest recorded average gas prices ever, and that is quite alarming. Unfortunately, this has been all too predictable given the Biden administration's domestic energy policy actions.

On day one of his Presidency, President Biden managed to immediately kill thousands of union jobs and paralyze America's energy industry with the Executive orders that killed the Keystone XL Pipeline. At peak capacity, this pipeline would have delivered 830,000 barrels of oil per day to American refineries. It is pretty similar to what we are importing from Russia.

The President put a moratorium on all new oil and gas leases on Federal lands, moving America from the energy superpower that we have been back to having an increased reliance on foreign adversaries for fuel feedstocks. These are countries that have much laxer environmental rules than we have or that we will ever have.

The administration has also been openly anti-pipeline and anti-fossil fuel with its rhetoric, through its actions, and embodied by the people it has elevated to unaccountable leadership roles. Two by name are Gina McCarthy and John Kerry. This administration has instituted regulatory uncertainty at a time of record inflation.

The administration wants to make a new definition of WOTUS, which is a rule otherwise known as the waters of the United States, to regulate every pond and ditch—even on private lands all across the country. This will devastate energy production as well as hurt sectors like agriculture and home building at a time when their products are already in high demand and under immense inflationary pressures.

The administration is considering new, tighter methane regulations that will also raise our energy costs, including for home heating and, as we move to the next season, for home cooling and electricity bills.

It is revising the NEPA permitting process by undoing the streamlining that was done during the Trump administration. NEPA touches almost every single infrastructure project in our country. Think about it. We just passed an enormous infrastructure package, but if you add more and more redtape onto these infrastructure projects that we have bipartisanly passed through here, you are going to add more and more costs for producers and more and more costs for everyday Americans. This regulatory uncertainty is increasing energy prices for Americans across the board and is felt most acutely at the gas pump because we can see it so clearly every time we fill up, and we see it posted at the stations.

You also have an Energy Department that is slow-walking the build-out of LNG export terminals, which means we can't export much needed energy to our allies as efficiently as we could be.

Endless regulatory delay and environmental lawsuits, including on permits already issued, delay more than pipelines and kill more than jobs. We have one in West Virginia, the Mountain Valley Pipeline, that is working hard to complete the last 5 percent of the pipeline to move the product. They also crush our economy with inflation and leave us and our allies more susceptible to bad actors like Russia, Venezuela, and Iran.

We are seeing the importance of energy independence play out in realtime with the destruction—the horrifying destruction—in Ukraine. Because of the Biden administration's policies that I just outlined, we are not able to immediately provide an energy backstop to our European allies that are trying to break their Russian oil and gas habit. They are begging for our coal as we speak. It is the perfect storm for a global energy crisis. It almost sounds cliche to say, as it has been said so often, but energy security is our national security. Specifically, fossil fuel security will help keep us secure nationally.

So what is the Biden administration doing?

We have seen reports that the administration is discussing a possible trip soon to Saudi Arabia to convince the Kingdom to produce more oil. Well, he has tried this—and, oh, by the way, they won't even take the President's phone calls.

We know the administration is considering easing sanctions on Venezuela so they will produce more oil.

Once again, President Biden opened the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, even though it didn't work the last time, costs the taxpayer, and depletes our own stockpile that we created from the last oil crisis to be used when the United States faces another crisis. But incentivizing oil and gas production in our own country or letting it move forward? No.

So, according to the administration and its actions, Saudi and Venezuelan and OPEC oil is good, but American oil is bad. OK. Got it. Rather than encourage American oil production, this administration would like to line the pockets of the Saudis, Nicolas Maduro, and, yes, Vladimir Putin.

You cannot hinder American oil and gas production in the name of reducing emissions and then nudge countries like Saudi Arabia and Venezuela to produce more. Emissions are emissions, no matter where it comes from. Emissions are emissions when it comes to global climate change.

And while I know the climate czar John Kerry is disappointed that war in Ukraine is distracting people from climate change—as we see 2 million people leaving that beautiful country—I don't see our European friends trying

to secure alternative sources for more solar panels. Instead, they are worried about access to oil, coal, natural gas, and nuclear. That is because wind and solar aren't able to meet their energy demands.

And, sadly, with the energy decisions the Biden administration has made, American fuel won't be there to meet their needs either. We just don't have the physical infrastructure in place to export. We are producing more than we ever have—even in this regulatory purgatory—but that just underscores how much more we could be doing if the Biden administration's redtape and policies were not in place.

Right now, the world is begging for American leadership; Ukraine is begging for American leadership; Europe is begging for American leadership, and that includes energy leadership.

Putin is emboldened every day that the Biden administration flails on this issue.

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine is completely heartbreaking. According to the United Nations, as I stated, more than 2 million people have been forced to leave their homeland. Tens of thousands of Ukrainians still in Ukraine are without food, water, or power. We have seen the haunting images of the bombings of schools, apartments, and hospitals, including, sadly and just horrifyingly, a maternity hospital just yesterday. Civilians are being targeted. Children are being orphaned. It is an absolute atrocity.

We cannot leave Ukrainian patriots and our European allies at the mercy of Moscow. We must address the poor energy policy decisions of the Biden administration in order to unleash full American energy production, support our allies in Europe, and stop funding Putin's war against Ukrainians.

We should be acting quickly. The security of the free world depends on this.

And I thank you for that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

UKRAINE

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, for weeks, the United States and the world have witnessed the horrors that are unfolding in Ukraine, the result of Russia's unprovoked and unjust attacks on a sovereign nation and its people. Innocent men, women, and children have lost their lives. Homes have been destroyed, neighborhoods and businesses obliterated. Families and communities have been torn apart, some never to be reunited again.

Let's be clear: The blame for this chaos and devastation falls directly on the shoulders of one tyrant—one tyrant—Vladimir Putin. And no amount of hollow justifications, false equivocations, false flag operations, or outright propaganda will change that.

Putin, you are responsible. Putin, you will not prevail. Justice is coming—coming for you and coming for your cronies.

And as appalling as the stories and videos of Russia's brutality have been, we have also seen incredible acts of heroism, kindness, and patriotism from Ukrainian leaders, the military, and, well, everyday citizens. The people of Ukraine have inspired the entire world with their resilience, with their courage, and with their determination to live in a free and democratic country.

This past week, I joined my colleagues in a call with President Zelenskyy, and I will say now what we said to him then. We are with you. And the people from Nevada, we are with you too.

From north to south, Nevadans have come together to voice their support for the Ukrainian people and their opposition to Russia's aggression and brutality. Nevadans agree that we can't sit idly by as Putin continues to terrorize—terrorize—the Ukrainian people. The horrific images that the world has seen, they require action. They require action. We cannot sit idly by and do nothing.

Here in Congress, we are working to give Ukraine more security assistance and to hold Putin accountable by crippling Russia's economy. And I call on every Senator in this body to vote yes on the omnibus package, which includes nearly $14 billion to aid Ukraine's fight against Putin's forces and to support the Ukrainian people. This bipartisan legislation builds on the work that Congress and the administration have been doing over the past several weeks to confront Vladimir Putin head-on.

I applaud the Biden administration for so forcefully bringing together an international coalition of partners, a coalition that stands behind Ukraine's cause: the cause for freedom. But we must do more. We must do more to support Ukraine, to devastate Russia's economy, and to stop Putin's violent attacks.

President Zelenskyy made it clear in our call just this past weekend that Ukraine urgently needs fighter jets to defend itself. Let's heed his call and work closely together with our European partners that have these jets to provide Ukraine with the aircraft they desperately need and to find ways to compensate or backfill our allies' supplies.

We also must continue to strengthen the security of our NATO allies and demonstrate that the transatlantic community remains united. And we must do more to bring Putin's war to an end and make Putin himself feel the full consequences of his horrible actions. That means hitting Russia's economy where they will feel it most: energy.

Just this week, I cosponsored bipartisan legislation that would end all Russian energy imports to the United States. I am glad to see the Biden administration responded to this call and that the United States is now ending all Russian energy imports, which are funding Putin's cruel, cruel, cruel, and unprovoked war. I am heartened to see the United Kingdom follow suit, and I call on all of our allies to do the same.

Another area where we can put pressure on Russia is through trade. As chair of the Commerce subcommittee that oversees trade policy, I strongly support legislation to strip Russia's most favored nation status at the World Trade Organization. And I am committed to pursuing additional actions that would severely weaken Russia's economy and drain Putin's war fund.

And our efforts are not only about defending Ukraine and stopping Russia, though stop them we must. This is about defending democracy and the fundamental right of a nation and its people to choose their own destiny—the fundamental right of a nation and its people to choose its own destiny.

America must make it clear that we will not stand idly by when an autocratic bully decides to invade another nation without provocation and without justification. The United States and our allies must leave no stone unturned to ensure that Vladimir Putin pays a steep price for his aggression against the people of Ukraine.

We—we—must continue to serve as a shield and a beacon for democracy and freedom for those in need. On behalf of the Battle Born State of Nevada, I stand with Ukraine and will continue fighting to make sure the United States stands proud and strong as a beacon of peace and security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

INFLATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about inflation. And one thing is sure, Joe Biden is the President of high prices.

New numbers are out today. This morning, we found that inflation remains the worst it has been in 40 years—40 years. Now, we knew that today's inflation numbers were going to be bad for Americans and bad for the administration, but the numbers today are worse than people thought.

Prices rose nearly 8 percent in just the last year. That means we are now seeing more inflation in the last 13 months under President Joe Biden than we did in the previous 4 years. And families are suffering. Prices are going up, but wages are not keeping up. Last week, we found out that wages, in terms of an escalation, had slowed down a bit, which means that people are falling further and further behind. Wages just cannot keep up with the prices that continue to go up. Month after month after month, the American people have found themselves falling further and further and further behind.

I remember when Joe Biden told all of us that inflation would be ''transitory.'' He kind of laughed about it. He

said it over and over again. And then, in December, he said inflation had ''peaked.'' Mr. President, inflation had not peaked. Joe Biden, once again, dead wrong.

Now, the American people are reminded about this every time they go to the gas station, every time they go to the grocery store, every time they go out to purchase goods.

So why is this happening? What has happened to America under Joe Biden and the mismanagement of this Democratic administration that has the House, the Senate, and the White House?

Well, there are two main things. One is Democrats' spending, excessive spending. The other, of course: Democrats' restrictions on American energy.

One year ago, Joe Biden signed the largest spending bill in American history. Democrats put $2 trillion on America's credit card. They flooded the country with government cash, and prices went up. And ever since that day, prices have been going up faster than wages. There is still no end in sight. The painful truth of all of this is energy prices, food prices all across the country are going to continue to go up thanks to the mismanagement of Joe Biden and this administration.

Today, a gallon of gas in the United States is the highest it has ever been—ever. When Joe Biden took office, the average price of gasoline in America was $2.38 a gallon; and today, it is about $2 a gallon more than it was then. Coming from my home State of Wyoming, where people drive more miles per capita than any other State in the country, people in my State are really feeling the pain of the mismanagement by Joe Biden and the Democrats.

If we think it is bad in Wyoming, let's go to the liberal paradise of California. I don't know what it is in the Presiding Officer's home State of Hawaii, but in California, it is $5.60 a gallon. Summer is coming, and people are expecting the prices to get even higher.

So what is Joe Biden's answer to this? He is blaming everything on Vladimir Putin—everything. It is a convenient excuse. It is just wrong. By the time that Vladimir Putin started to encircle Ukraine and then actually invaded Ukraine, inflation had been roaring here at home for over 10 months. Gas prices were already way up, $1.25 a gallon higher than they were on the day Joe Biden took office. So Biden's numbers just don't add up.

Russian oil amounts to about 3 percent of our energy use in the United States. Gas prices haven't just gone up by 3 percent. No, no. They have nearly doubled during Joe Biden's Presidency.

The real reason that prices are up so much for energy is Joe Biden has restricted our use of American energy. If you listen to his—go back to the tapes on the debate stage when he was running for President. He said he is going to keep it in the ground, no oil and gas or exploration or coal on public lands—none, zero. The White House Press Secretary the other day said, Oh, we are at record high production.

We are not. Mistake. Absolutely wrong. She should be fact-checked. We are over a million barrels a day fewer U.S. barrels of oil produced today than we were during the height of our production before the pandemic—actually, 1.4 million barrels a day fewer barrels today than we were at the height of our production before the pandemic.

Well, when supply goes down as a result of the mismanagement and the decisions made by this Biden administration and the refusal to allow for permits to explore for energy, prices go up; and they have. When the price of energy goes up, the prices of everything go up as well.

What are the Democrats proposing about high prices for energy? Well, the answer for Democrats seems to be anything except more American energy. Democrats have essentially floated three proposals: One is defund our roads and bridges; the second is buy more energy from our enemies, people that chant ''Death to America''; or keep prices high. Those are the options we hear from the Democrats.

We see some frightened Democrats worried about reelection talking about suspending the gas tax and then bringing it back right after election day. Well, the gas tax is what pays for the roads and the bridges, the highways of our Nation, but bring it back right after the election. Well, does that mean we are going to need less energy after election day; so it is OK to raise prices after the election? Of course not.

Even former Clinton and Obama economic adviser Larry Summers calls this proposal being introduced in this body by Members of the Democratic side of the aisle—he called it ''short-sighted, ineffective, gimmicky, and goofy.'' That is Larry Summers from both the Obama as well as the Clinton administration.

If we completely repeal the gas tax, gas prices would still be $1.75 more a gallon than they were the day Joe Biden took office. So another option the Democrats are floating is, ''Hey, let's buy more energy from our enemy.'' Wouldn't that be a great idea, says the President? So officials from the Biden administration have gone hat in hand to Venezuela last weekend as well as to Iran. Venezuela is one of the closest allies to Vladimir Putin. I understand the current man in power in Venezuela actually called to congratulate Vladimir Putin for what he is doing in Ukraine—so is Iran, in terms of the world's No. 1 sponsor of terrorism. That is who Joe Biden has chosen to talk to—Iran and Venezuela—rather than United States energy producers.

Do we want to pay our worst enemies over $100 a barrel for each barrel of oil they will sell to us? Do we want to send billions and billions of dollars of hard-earned taxpayer dollars in this country to those who hate us and burn American flags and chant ''Death to America,'' or do we want to create jobs here at home, produce more American energy? The answer is obvious to most American people. It may not be obvious to the man in the White House or his administration or those around him, but Joe Biden would rather have an enormous transfer of wealth to our enemies than tell the climate elitists who he dances to the tune of that we are going to produce energy at home.

Finally, some Democrats are just proposing: Let's keep energy prices high. The Secretary of Transportation says: Just buy an electric vehicle; that will solve all our problems. He said, You won't have to worry about gas prices no matter how high they go. It is OK if they go high as long as you buy an electric vehicle.

Talk about being out of touch. The average electric vehicle costs over $55,000. Families who are struggling in this Biden economy, they can't afford to spend $55,000. We have many, many Americans living paycheck to paycheck, falling further and further behind.

And the Secretary of Transportation says: Hey, just go find $55,000, buy an electric vehicle, and you can plug it in. Where do you think the electricity comes from? It doesn't come from the wall. Talk about an administration being out of touch. That is what we are dealing with in this country today. Two-thirds of Americans say they are living paycheck to paycheck.

This morning, we had a hearing in the Energy Committee that said, What about everybody trying to buy an electric vehicle; can we do it?

What do we hear? You have to buy a lot of things from China or Russia just to get the rare Earth minerals that are needed to build the batteries for the electric cars. What does Elon Musk, Mr. Tesla, say? He says, Produce more American energy.

It is time for the President of the United States to wake up. It is really not an option for everybody to get an electric vehicle. Even if everybody had the money, there are not enough electric vehicles to be had anywhere in the near—not just the near future—the foreseeable future and beyond that.

Another option is not to send billions of dollars to our enemies. After all, as a State Department official from this administration told us in the Foreign Relations Committee as Putin was building up—before the invasion, but building up the army around Ukraine—said that Putin's energy was the cash cow that was paying for his military aggression.

The American people deserve better solutions, rational solutions, solutions that they understand. And they understand American energy.

Just yesterday, Joe Biden said: I can't do much right now to bring down prices.

It is not true. Last week, the morning after the State of the Union address, I, along with every Republican

on the Senate Energy Committee—every Republican signed the letter, sent it to Joe Biden, offered 10 points he could do and do now to make a difference for American energy production to help the American economy, to help with jobs, to help with energy production, and to help bring down the cost of energy.

We know what we need to do. To bring down inflation, we need to stop the reckless spending here in Washington, DC. Of course, that is gone now. The Democrats, on a single party-line vote—no Republican voted for it—did that last year to spark inflation and then all the rules and regulations and limitations on Americans' use of energy has added to and contributed to, today, a 40-year high of inflation.

Above all, we need to unleash American energy. We need to use American energy. More American energy will bring down the prices. We have it. When the Secretary of the Interior makes a statement that she wants us to keep all the oil and gas in the ground, that is a statement about this administration's lack of commitment to use American energy.

We have the opportunity in America to do it right. For more than a year now, the American people have been paying and paying and paying for the Democrats' anti-American energy policies, and they are sick and tired of it. You turn on the TV, and you see what is happening out there in the world. In Ukraine, people are getting killed by Vladimir Putin—a maternity ward and a hospital bombed, people killed. And what did former Secretary of State, John Kerry, the Democrats' climate envoy say in an interview to the BBC as the Russian troops encircled Ukraine? He said: I hope it doesn't distract from our climate agenda. That is obscene, and it is absurd.

The American people realize how absolutely ridiculous the position and how untenable the position of this administration is when you have the No. 1 climate spokesman for the administration, a former Secretary of State, somebody who was a Member of this body for years, close colleague and friend of the President of the United States—it is time for Joe Biden to stand up to John Kerry and to stand up to the climate elitists who say: Oh, no, no American energy because we are so pure.

The American people know what is important to them and their lives. We all want to make energy as clean as we can, as fast as we can, without raising costs on American families. The administration seems to be happy to see the prices go up on American families at a time when their wages are not keeping up with their expenses. It is long past time that we produce American energy and do it right here. We have the resources. We have the know-how. We have the workers. We are only missing one thing, and that is competent leadership in the White House and in the Democrats in this body on Capitol Hill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

ENERGY

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I was at the State of the Union Address, as was the Chair and most of the folks in this room.

In the State of the Union Address, the President made a very strong statement. I was pleased to be able to hear him say—he made this statement: We will buy American to make sure everything—everything—from the deck of an aircraft carrier to the steel on the highway guardrails is made in America from beginning to end. All of it. All of it.

Great. What he left out is what we have marked as little asterisks here on the ''everything,'' ''all of it,'' ''all of it,'' it seems to be, except oil and gas.

Oil and gas is one of those things that is essential for us. It is not just transportation. It is not just electricity. The carpet I am standing on has petroleum products in it. The finish on this desk has petroleum products in it. The suit that people are wearing often will have some petroleum products in it—maybe the buttons on the jacket, paint on the walls. There are petroleum products all over this room, and it is needed for all kinds of things.

Our economy is connected to petroleum. That doesn't mean we can't do it cleaner. That doesn't mean we can't do it better. But it is interesting to me to be able to note that when we talk about ''Buy American'' and ''Doing American,'' now, when there is the conversation and now decision finally from the Biden administration that we are going to cut off Russian oil and gas coming into the United States—good—that it immediately turns to let's get it from Venezuela or from Iran or find some other source.

We are all saying: Time out. There is this country called the United States. We also produce oil and gas, and we should be focused on what does it take to be able to do it more here so that we are not dependent on any country, especially a country that is run by an autocratic dictator.

I wish this was the only statement that I would challenge him on, but I was quite shocked that President Biden's envoy for climate, John Kerry, as the Russians were invading Ukraine, made this statement:

> I hope [that] President Putin will help us to stay on track with respect to what we need to do for the climate.

And then he said that a Russian war could cause ''massive emission consequences.''

Wow. The focus seemed to be on emissions consequences of a war, rather than the people of Ukraine. And the focus seemed to be on, ''I hope President Putin will stay on track with respect to climate change,'' rather than stop.

Listen, when I just talk to normal folks on the street in Oklahoma, they are frustrated by the price of gas. No matter how small their car is or how big their truck is, they are ticked at the high price of gasoline. They have been upset for a while. It is not just based on Ukraine. The price of gasoline just in the past 13 months has gone up over $1 a gallon. That wasn't because of Russia and Ukraine. That was directly because of policies that are of the Biden administration.

And now, it is accelerating even more. We need to find a way to be able to create greater energy security for the United States of America, and that does involve actually producing more oil and gas.

I would say that the Biden administration and I disagree on this, but the little-known fact is we don't disagree on this. I do agree with the Biden administration because if you look at the Biden administration's official numbers that they actually put out from the energy information, when they put out their official numbers and they have to estimate how much oil and gas we will use globally, the official estimate from the Biden administration is, between now and 2050, we will continue to need progressively more and more natural gas and petroleum products—by the way, also more coal in their estimates as well. Where we are different from the Biden administration is they do acknowledge, privately, the facts and lay the data out and say we are going to need more oil and gas and more coal, not less, to provide the basic energy needs of the world.

Where I disagree with them is how they are trying to be able to push the world into other energy solutions by raising the price of oil and gas, which directly punishes consumers, and to be able to meet American climate goals, saying, if we are going to meet our American climate goals, we need to push production out to other countries and have them produce the oil and gas and send it to us so that we can show a good score for our climate while we still actually need to be able to purchase that oil from someone else.

Let's admit the obvious. We need all kinds of energy, and in the next 30 years, according to even the Biden administration, we are going to need more gas, natural gas, more petroleum, more oil, and more coal worldwide.

We are also going to need all kinds of other forms of energy. Unlike others, I am not opposed to every type of energy. Let's also make it as clean as we possibly can. We need to have all forms of energy out there, but we also need to admit the basic facts. We need oil and gas production.

And that doesn't mean we go get it from Venezuela. Venezuela is a ruthless human rights violator. The leadership of Venezuela tortures his own people. We need to not go run to Venezuela to be able to get additional oil.

We certainly don't need to go run to Iran. No, I don't know that this administration is running to Iran, but there

are great rumors that are flying around currently about the final negotiations of an Iran nuclear deal, and we are waiting to see what the actual details are, whether that is going to include putting Iranian oil on the world market. I hope it does not. I hope also that they deal with, in an Iran nuclear deal—they actually deal with the weapons that Iran is producing to actually deliver a nuclear warhead, as they continue to be able to test more and more missiles, with more and more range, with a larger and larger warhead size that is specifically designed for a nuclear warhead.

We shouldn't pay attention to nuclear material and ignore the delivery system that they are actually experimenting with.

I hope we pay attention to what is happening in Yemen. Iran is the largest state sponsor of terrorism, and they are actually delivering the products of war to Yemen that is actually trying to destabilize all their neighbors around them.

I hope we don't lift sanctions on Hezbollah, on Hamas, on those individuals who were part of actually murdering our marines in 1983 in Beirut.

Those individuals who took away the property of Jewish citizens in Iran in 1979, I hope all of those sanctions remain and that those aren't up for bid and that we are also not talking about buying Iranian oil. Solving our need for energy should not be running to dictators around the world to go get it from them.

So what is happening now? The administration has done a release of 30 million barrels from the United States Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which, by the way, is a day-and-a-half of our oil usage. It does have some effect, but it is a day-and-a-half of our oil usage.

It is not the long-term solution. Long term, that is not even a bump in prices. Long term, we have to have stable supply to meet the demands that we have in the country.

This administration is saying that there is more oil production now in the United States than there was 2 years ago. That is factually true. During the time of COVID, production of oil plummeted in the United States, so there is definitely more oil being produced now than there was during the peak of the time during COVID.

But they have also taken on multiple different items, from the very beginning of the administration, to do what they could to be able to attack the production of American oil and gas. From day 1, with cutting off the Keystone Pipeline, which, by the way, I have folks who catch me and say what difference would the Keystone Pipeline make? Well, let me give you an example. The Keystone Pipeline would deliver more oil to Houston, TX, a day than what Russia does a day to the United States.

We could literally replace Russian oil with what would have come through the Keystone Pipeline, but they killed it because they had environmental goals. And why should we worry about where we buy our oil from? Why should we buy it from the Canadians when we can buy it from the Russians—was the theory.

Well, I think we know why I would much rather be buying from the Canadians today than buying from Putin's Russia. That was done right off the bat.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, just 2 weeks ago—not ancient history, just 2 weeks ago—announced a new restriction on natural gas pipelines and said they will make decisions on export facilities of natural gas and natural gas pipelines on a case-by-case basis based on their mitigation plans that they will present—no definition of what that would mean.

It is basically, if you are going to sink billions of dollars into doing a pipeline, we will make our decision when you are in process. What does that do? That discourages any company from actually doing a natural gas pipeline or certainly an export facility. When right now Europe is screaming at us to export more natural gas, FERC, literally, during the war, announced they are going to make it harder to do natural gas exports.

The Obama-era rule on waters of the United States destabilized a lot of investment because no one knew what was going to be the issue and what was not going to be the issue. The Biden administration is now saying they want to be able to reopen all of that and to create less certainty on investment.

There was a pause on oil and gas lease sales. They said they were going to do a temporary moratorium. They started that on January 20, 2021. It hasn't reopened yet, their temporary moratorium.

Every 5 years there is a plan that has to be presented for offshore leases and how they are actually going to do offshore work. That plan is due in June of this year. As far as we can tell, the administration has taken up nothing on it, meaning offshore will have no ability to be able to continue permitting because they are just apparently not going to do the plan, which means you don't get access to those leases.

So whether it is offshore, whether it is onshore, they are cutting off future supplies.

If that is not hard enough, the administration nominated Sarah Raskin to be Vice Chair of Supervision for the Federal Reserve, who has made public statements that she wants to be able to use the Federal Reserve to be able to help cut off capital to anyone who handles fossil fuels.

So, basically, if you can't get loans and you can't transport from here to there through a pipeline and you can't get additional leases offshore or onshore on Federal lands, you have severely limited the locations that you can actually get energy long term, while Biden's own energy information group says we are going to continue to need more oil and gas, more coal in the days ahead—the facts versus the reality of what they are actually putting into place.

Now, again, electric vehicles don't offend me. For those folks who can afford an expensive electric vehicle, that is great. It is 2 percent of the vehicles on the road, and they are fine. I don't have a problem with them. But even when they talk about, let's do what we can to double the number of electric vehicles that are on the road, great, we will be at 4 percent of the vehicles on the road will be electric.

The other 96 percent of the people in the country want to go to school, want to go to work, want to go to the grocery store, want to travel on vacation, and right now to do that, they are paying the price for it.

Let's have all forms of energy. Let's have some realism in our conversation. Let's do what we can to be able to open up energy production.

What am I doing? I have a specific piece of legislation that deals with the permitting processes. It deals with some of the Executive actions that President Biden has put into place to be able to slow down the production of American energy. It opens up the process so we can actually get back to producing more American energy.

I am also promoting some very key things that the administration can do right now. For instance, when energy companies are looking to do investment for additional drilling, they are asking the question how long is the war going to happen? When is all this going to fall apart? And no one knows that.

The administration today could announce we are doing a moratorium on buying Russian oil for the next 12 months, lay out a firm date on it, and then say 12 months from now we will review it. What difference does that make? That tells energy companies, if you are going to invest and you are planning to come online in the next year, we are not going to cut your legs out from under you by the United States buying Russian oil again in a few months; that we actually do American investments to be able to actually replace the Russian oil that is coming in.

This administration could also today say we are not going to make any changes to any of the rules that are out there that will affect any of the process for developing American oil and gas for the next 12 months, just a pause on making any changes on that.

And this administration could actually open up Federal leasing, which, by the way, is not a radical idea. It is the law. The law says that the administration has to do it every quarter, and so far four quarters in a row the Biden administration has ignored the law of the United States and just not done the leases, saying: They have plenty. I don't want to do more.

Four quarters in a row they violated the law.

So what could the Biden administration do to be able to help American

production? Follow the law; put a pause on new restrictions; declare how long they are going to actually hold off on Russian oil and how long that will be to give certainty for people in their investment; and pause all these new restrictions on capital.

If the Biden administration did that today, we would see an even greater increase in oil. Listen, there is no incentive that needs to be put in place. I have had folks say: What incentives do we need to put in place to be able to increase American production? Can I just say oil is at $120 a barrel.

There is no incentive that needs to be put in place. The problem is not the incentive; the problems are the restrictions on the other side. With that certainty in a constantly changing environment, very few people want to be able to take the risk for it.

So if Secretary Granholm is serious when she is calling out oil companies to ramp up production, do the work behind the scenes to open the path for them so that they have that kind of certainty.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

UKRAINE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, conditions are bad in Ukraine, and they are getting worse. Vladimir Putin's war is escalating in severity and scale.

This past Sunday, we received the first public reports that Russia is now deploying proxy fighters to Ukraine. Putin put out the call to action in Syria, Southeast Asia, and Chechnya, and now the mercenaries are pouring in. On Tuesday, we heard further allegations that as many as 1,000 proxy fighters from the Kremlin-backed Wagner Group will deploy to Ukraine and attack Kyiv.

This latest news about proxy developments makes it even more obvious how willfully blind the President has been to the disaster unfolding in Ukraine. If you look back at footage from the past few months, it is clear that the Biden administration thought they would be able to talk Putin out of this. They thought they could send in the diplomats, offer a few concessions, pat everyone on the back, and head home. But while they were lining up their talking points, Vladimir Putin was lining up bodies to throw at Ukrainian defenses.

When we first started to debate the threat that the Chinese Communist Party poses to the free world, it took a lot of time to convince the skeptics of China's tight hold on the global order. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, cheap telecom build-outs, and control over important supply chains, Beijing has created spheres of economic influence all across the globe.

The Kremlin has done the same thing with its proxies. But it is important to remember that this is not new information. The existence of Wagner and other Russian proxy groups is not a secret, and neither is their brutal history.

This won't be Wagner's first time in Ukraine. If fact, that is where these mercenaries actually got started. But for the past decade, they have been wreaking havoc all across Africa. Again, this is no secret. We know for a fact that they have caused chaos and bloodshed in Syria, Libya, Yemen, Sudan, Madagascar, Mozambique, and the Central African Republic and that they have helped turn Mali into yet another ''hermit kingdom.'' And what have the Russians received in return? They have gotten access to oilfields, diamond mines, silver, gold, and other extremely valuable natural resources.

By using his proxies, Putin gets the best of all worlds. He is able to force open doors into strategically important areas. He will then suck them dry of their natural resources and make his own name synonymous with violence in the face of resistance.

Furthermore, mercenaries exist outside the bounds of laws and norms, which means groups like Wagner operate with impunity and give cover and plausible deniability to Moscow. In their opinion, it is the perfect legal fiction.

Meanwhile, these proxy fighters have been accused of abductions, torture, and rape. They murder journalists and conduct summary executions on behalf of their Kremlin overlords. They target civilian populations with the specific purpose of terrorizing innocents and eliminating dissent, and when they are done, they simply disappear. That is what Vladimir Putin is preparing to unleash on the brave Ukrainian people.

I sent, and other Members joined me—we have insisted since February 24 that this is not a special military operation; this is a war. But by bringing proxies into the mix, Putin has signaled that he is prepared to do more than inflict violence on key strategic targets; he is preparing for a massacre.

This isn't a head fake. He knows exactly what he is doing because he has done it before. He is following the Syria playbook to the letter, from the booby-trapped humanitarian corridors to his use of cluster bombs, to the presence of proxies to carry out his dirty deeds.

It is no wonder that Moscow has ordered their fighters to travel with mobile crematoriums. It is the only way they will be able to even attempt to cover up the brutality inflicted by Putin's private army.

Over the past few months, Putin has shown us exactly what he intends to do to the brave Ukrainian people. He has made no attempt to hide behind diplomacy. His military commits war crimes in broad daylight for the benefit of the cameras. The introduction of proxies is the natural progression of this increasingly savage attack.

It is time for President Biden to pull the blinders off and decide what America's response ought to be, and he has to do that right now.

We have deprioritized the African theater for far too long, and now it is a breeding ground for glorified terror squads. That absolutely has to change. Russia is using proxies this very moment to destabilize and exploit Mali. We know what they did to the people of Syria. The pictures were too graphic for the nightly news. It is time to remind the world what happened there and make it clear that unless we do something, Ukraine is next.

We must also send a strong signal to Putin, Wagner, and other thugs around the world that there will be no more hiding. Collect the evidence now. Document the war crimes now. Prepare for prosecutions now. We must let Vladimir Putin know that no amount of propaganda can cover up the atrocities that he and his private army plan to commit against the people of Ukraine. But we have to do it before it is too late to free the world from Moscow's grip.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

POSTAL SERVICE REFORM ACT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, on Tuesday night, the Senate took a significant and historic vote to strengthen one of our Nation's oldest and most trusted institutions—the U.S. Postal Service.

For the past 15 years, this vital service that delivers to every single community in our country, no matter how remote, has faced unfair, burdensome requirements that have jeopardized its financial stability and its ability to provide reliable and timely delivery to Americans all across our country.

With 79 votes for the Postal Service Reform Act—one of the strongest bipartisan votes the Senate has delivered during this Congress—we passed significant reforms that will set the Postal Service on a more stable financial footing, preserve mail delivery for 6 days a week, and ensure greater transparency of delivery performance for the people who are counting on the Postal Service to bring them critical mail.

When our Nation's Founders enshrined the Postal Service in our Constitution, they could have never envisioned what a vital role this institution would play in the daily lives of Americans. Whether it is families who are receiving critical medications or connecting with loved ones, veterans and seniors who are relying on the mail for benefits and Social Security checks, or small businesses that are sending important financial documents and their products to customers, Americans are counting on the Postal Service to deliver. Over the past few years—especially during COVID–19—we have seen just how essential the Postal Service is to keeping our country connected.

The legislation that we passed earlier this week with overwhelming bipartisan support will help ensure that the Postal Service can continue its vital mission, and I am looking forward to seeing President Biden sign it into law.

I am proud of our bipartisan efforts to protect this vital public service, and I would like to take just a few moments to thank the many people who made this possible.

First, I want to recognize my Senate colleague on this effort, Senator ROB PORTMAN, who is the ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

I am also grateful to Chairwoman MALONEY and Ranking Member COMER on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, who worked with me hand in hand, as well as with Senator PORTMAN, to write and to build key support for this legislation.

Senator CARPER, who is a former chairman of Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and a stalwart advocate for the Postal Service, was an absolutely indispensable resource, a critical voice, and we worked together to advance this bill.

I would also like to recognize each of our Senate cosponsors: Senators TILLIS, SINEMA, and BURR, Chairman WYDEN of the Senate Finance Committee, Senators COLLINS, HASSAN, DAINES, ROSEN, CAPITO, PADILLA, SULLIVAN, MANCHIN, HAWLEY, SCHATZ, BLUNT, ROUNDS, SMITH, CRAMER, REED, MURKOWSKI, Chairman SANDERS of the Budget Committee, and Senators HOEVEN, TESTER, MORAN, and KAINE.

Key stakeholders like the Postal Service, our postal employee unions, Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, and the countless members of the public who spoke out about what timely service meant to them also played an essential role in providing technical assistance and building support in passing this legislation.

But none of these vital reforms to protect this longstanding public service would have been possible without the dedicated and tireless work of congressional staff.

First, I would like to recognize my staff on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, who worked tirelessly to ensure this bill received bipartisan and bicameral support, as well as stakeholder support.

Thank you to Annika Christensen, Lena Chang, and Victoria Pleasant for your determined efforts to craft and build support for this consensus reform.

I would also like to thank Senator PORTMAN's staff, Pam Theissen, Andy Dockham, Amanda Neely, and Renee Sheehy, who all played an important role in crafting and passing these reforms.

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House Ways and Means Committee staff Kathryn Olson, T.J. Sutcliffe, and Elisa Walker all provided critical technical assistance.

Leader SCHUMER's staff provided vital expertise and guidance throughout the entire process and especially over the past few weeks as we prepared to pass this bill on the floor.

Finally, Jackie Maffucci from Senator CARPER's office and Erin Bursch and Erin Schulte from Senator SINEMA's office spent countless hours helping to craft and secure robust support for the bill.

These folks, along with countless others, ensured that the Postal Service would be able to keep delivering for the American people.

In recent years, it has been a rare occasion when the Senate comes together to pass this kind of bipartisan, consensus legislation with such overwhelming support to address a very, very real problem. I am grateful to every person who played a role in raising awareness—working on this legislation—and getting it passed by both the House and the Senate.

Once signed into law, this groundbreaking, bipartisan bill will help ensure that the Postal Service can continue its nearly 250-year tradition of providing delivery to every American.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The Senator from Texas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, government funding, as we all know, is set to expire tomorrow night at midnight, and the Senate has the responsibility not just to keep the lights on but also to make critical investments in our country.

I could only wish that we had come to this point through a more rational and more deliberative sort of way; but, unfortunately, this seems to be more the norm than the exception where four people get into a room and they write a piece of legislation, then they bring it to the floor, and your only option is to vote yes or no on it. We don't have a practice of making sure that on each one of these bills, people get to actually offer amendments and shape that legislation. I guess that is a quaint and old-fashioned notion, but that is how I thought the legislative process was supposed to work. Maybe that is a topic for another day, but it is unfortunate that this is where we are.

Last night at 10 o'clock, the House voted on an almost 3,000-page bill, and then we are expected to vote on it the next day or the next 2 days. This is not a way to run a railroad.

We all know that democracy is under attack in the world, and that means we need to do everything we can to provide for our defense and to support our friends and allies around the world.

We know that there has been a tug-of-war between our Democratic colleagues and this side of the aisle when it comes to prioritizing national security spending, and that actually is one reason why we find ourselves here at this late date, voting on this multi-thousand-page bill, because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle wanted to prioritize domestic spending, not national security spending.

Thank goodness that has been now negotiated where there is virtual parity. Thanks to the leadership of Ranking Member SHELBY and our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, the bipartisan bill includes $42 billion more in defense spending. I can't think of any time in our recent history where we need those additional resources more for our security and the security of our friends and allies.

This $42 billion increase in defense spending will provide our military commanders with what they need to respond to the threats that we are facing today and to prepare for those threats we see on the horizon.

It is ironic I find myself speaking to the Senator from Maine, whom I serve with on the Intelligence Committee, because he knows a lot of this subject matter as well—certainly well, maybe better than I do. But we all know that Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine was what we thought was a relic of the past.

My dad was a B–17 pilot in the Army Air Corps in World War II. He was shot down on his 26th bombing mission over Nazi Germany and captured as a prisoner of war, where he served for the last 4 months of that war. We thought—Europe thought, the world thought—that perhaps we had gotten beyond that sort existential threat to our way of life and that the autocrats of the world—people like Vladimir Putin, President Xi, the Ayatollah in Iran, Kim Jong Un in North Korea—that these individuals would be deterred from provoking a war like Vladimir Putin has provoked in Ukraine.

One thing Winston Churchill liked to say: If there is one thing for sure, it is that humankind is unteachable. We keep making the same mistakes over and over again. We keep thinking, well, we can cash the peace dividend because that is in the past, only to find ourselves, as Secretary Bob Gates said—he said, of all the military conflicts we found ourselves involved in, in the last several generations, we haven't planned for a single one of them. But we had to be ready, and we had to be able to defend our way of life and our values and our allies.

So Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine is a reminder of the threats

that remain to our freedom and the freedom of other democracies around the world. So there could not be a more appropriate time to plus-up our national defense spending, while at the same time providing additional resources, humanitarian and otherwise, to our friends in Ukraine who are fighting for their very existence.

We know that Ukraine is not a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, so we have no legal obligation to come to Ukraine's defense, but I do believe we have a moral obligation to provide that assistance, both military and humanitarian.

Russia has waged an unmistakable war on that democracy, violated the sovereignty of the Ukrainian people. It has even targeted civilians and brought immeasurable destruction to Ukraine. The only question is, After Putin has miscalculated the will of the Ukrainian people to defend themselves and the commitment of America and our NATO allies and other freedom-loving countries around the world to support Ukraine—now that they are bogged down, Russia is bogged down in Ukraine, the question is, Well, is Putin going to give up? Is he going to try to come up with a face-saving device, or is he going to double down? I am afraid Putin is going to double down, which means we are going to see more attacks on innocent civilians. We are going to see more Ukrainian cities leveled to the ground, indiscriminate killing of men, women, and children. This is all that Putin knows. The question is, How does this end? That is a chilling question, but the answer is even more chilling.

As I said, I believe we have a moral duty to support Ukraine, and this legislation provides $13 billion in humanitarian, economic, and military assistance. We need to get this money out the door as soon as possible, while the United States and NATO needs to continue to supply the Javelins and other anti-aircraft, anti-tank weapons to help the Ukrainians defend themselves against this existential threat.

The good news is, this is a bipartisan effort. A lot of things we do around here we divide up along party lines—the shirts and the skins, I like to call them—but the fact is, we all support Ukraine, and we are all looking for ways we can help them during their time of need.

Another thing that this Omnibus appropriations bill does is it reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act. This critical program has been defunct and moribund since 2019. For some reason, this was not a priority of this Chamber or of this Congress for the last 3 years, but thanks to the leadership of Senators ERNST and MURKOWSKI—Senator FEINSTEIN was an essential part of the negotiations—we were able to reach a bipartisan agreement to strengthen and modernize this law.

I am a proud cosponsor of the legislation, and I thank our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for prioritizing its inclusion in this legislation. This funding will make critical investments for our country, including critical investments in our own people.

One of the good things about this Omnibus appropriations bill is it does exclude poison pills that included things like taxpayer funding of abortions. Those are not included in this bill.

While it is far from perfect, there is no question that a bill drafted solely by Republicans would look a little different. But the world does not operate on the basis of ideals. The perfect cannot be the enemy of the good. So despite its flaws, despite the crazy process by which we find ourselves here voting on this $1.5 trillion appropriations bill, notwithstanding all the reasons I could cite why maybe I should vote against it, I think there is enough good in this bill to support it.

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on another matter, 2 weeks ago, President Biden nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson—and I know I mispronounced her first name; Judge Jackson, let me just call her—to serve as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court.

During his State of the Union Message, President Biden said that choosing somebody to serve on the Supreme Court is one of the most serious constitutional responsibilities a President of the United States has. Likewise, I believe our responsibilities under the Constitution of evaluating the nominee, going through the advice-and-consent process, is one of the most serious responsibilities we as Senators have, and I don't take that responsibility lightly.

Members of this Chamber are pretty familiar with Judge Jackson's qualifications, as she was confirmed to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals just 9 months ago—sometimes called the second most powerful Federal court in the land, right below the Supreme Court of the United States.

There is no question that Judge Jackson is an incredibly smart person and has all of the sort of pedigree that you would expect: graduated from the best universities, the best law schools, has had a broad range of practice. She received both her undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard. She clerked for a Supreme Court Justice, Justice Breyer. She served on the Federal bench for nearly 9 years.

I could say, as somebody who served on the State court bench for 13 years, I appreciate the President picking somebody who has actually had real-world experience on the trial bench. Too often, I think our Supreme Court nominees are academics and people who have very little real-world experience. But you can't argue that Judge Jackson does not have that kind of real-world experience, serving as a public defender, serving on the trial court, and serving on the court of appeals for the last 9 months.

We all know that a nomination for the Supreme Court requires a rigorous assessment of far more than just a resume, though. Our Framers set forth the role of the Supreme Court in article III of our Constitution.

Alexander Hamilton noted in Federalist 78 that the judiciary, he said, would have ''no influence over either the sword or the purse. . . . [i]t may truly be said to have neither force nor will, but merely judgment.'' Now, if I can interpret what Alexander Hamilton was really saying in modern language, it is that judges shouldn't be politicians. They are not policymakers.

That is why we appoint them—they are appointed—for lifetime tenure, to be protected from the pressures of politics or personality, and that is why they have such a critical and important role in our government. But it is not the same role as we serve as elected representatives. We are enmeshed in politics. We are directly responsible to the people—not for the legal correctness of our arguments or our legislation or constitutional interpretation, although I think we do have some responsibility since we take an oath to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States, but it is different, and I think most people recognize judges are different than politicians. Judges should not be politicians appointed to serve for lifetime tenure and be unaccountable to the public and yet make policy. That is why judges decide individual cases. We don't decide individual cases here; we make policy for broad swathes of the American people. But judges decide cases based on a controversy, a set of facts, and the application of the law to those facts, which is, again, the antithesis of politics. That is what judging is all about.

So the Supreme Court is not just another branch of government that you can go to if you don't get your desired outcome in the political branches. If you don't win the election, if you don't elect your like-minded representative, you are not supposed to just go to the Supreme Court and say: OK, now you give me what I want because I couldn't get it through the political branches.

The Supreme Court is not supposed to be a failsafe to be utilized to deliver results that can't be secured through the legislative process. Our democracy, equal justice under the law—that is what it says right above the door of the Supreme Court of the United States: ''Equal Justice Under Law''—can only be accomplished when the same law applies to all of us. Cases are therefore decided based on their unique facts—not on politics, not on personal preferences, not even on strongly held personal beliefs. This is absolutely critical to our system of checks and balances and the health of our democracy.

So I look forward to meeting Judge Jackson in person. I saw her across the hearing room when she was before the Judiciary Committee just about a year

ago. But I want to ask her a little more about her judicial philosophy and how she views her role on the Supreme Court.

Now, some have suggested, since she has been confirmed to the circuit court, that this ought to be a rubberstamp. Well, I don't view it that way. Circuit court nominees and district court nominees have to apply Supreme Court precedent, but when you are a member of the Supreme Court, there is no higher court that dictates the decision or the precedence you need to apply.

Now, ideally, you are applying the statutes and laws passed by Congress and the Constitution itself, but there is admittedly more flexibility for the nominee, which means her philosophy is even more important to know now.

I tried to flesh out Judge Jackson's judicial philosophy during her confirmation hearing for the DC Circuit Court. A number of us submitted questions for the record asking her to clarify her judicial philosophy and the way she interprets the Constitution.

We have heard a lot of testimony over the years about originalists and textualists and different ways people approach their duties as a judge.

I don't think Judge Jackson was particularly forthcoming with her answers when we asked about her philosophy, and I ultimately voted against her confirmation for the circuit court. Now, that vote is not going to determine how I view her nomination to the Supreme Court, but I think the question applies with even greater strength because she will not be bound by Supreme Court precedent.

I know she will have plenty of time and plenty of opportunity to clarify her views during the confirmation process, and I hope to see an unvarnished look, beginning with our conversation tomorrow, on Thursday.

I am also eager to learn more about Judge Jackson's views of the Supreme Court as an institution, which has increasingly come under attack by partisans, again, who don't particularly like the decisions of the Court. But that is not supposed to be the test. The test is whether they apply the Constitution and laws of the United States to the facts found by the finder of fact.

There have actually been a number of calls here on the Senate and in our political system in general to change the makeup of the Supreme Court, to actually add additional Justices to the Court—something that used to be called court packing back in the days of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. But Justice Breyer, to his credit, whose seat Judge Jackson has been nominated to fill, has been a steadfast defender of the Supreme Court as an institution, and I hope soon-to-be-Justice Jackson takes her cues from her mentor.

Justice Breyer echoed the comments of the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg and warned about a potentially dangerous politicalization of the Supreme Court and the consequential loss of public confidence in its judgments. Well, I would like to know whether Judge Jackson agrees with Justice Breyer and whether she shares Justice Ginsburg's assessment that nine seems to be a good number when it comes to the Supreme Court.

In the coming days and weeks, the Senate will thoroughly review Judge Jackson's qualifications, just as this body has done for every other nominee to the Federal bench. This is a familiar process to most of us. Judge Jackson is the fourth Supreme Court nominee we will have considered in the last 5 years.

But I hope there is something we do differently this time than has been done in the recent past, particularly in the case of Justice Kavanaugh. Frankly, the confirmation process for Justice Kavanaugh was an embarrassment and, I believe, a black mark on this Senate. Conversely, I think we have an opportunity to show the American people how to do it the right way and treat Judge Jackson with civility and dignity, even when we disagree. We know that outside groups launched a full-on character attack against Judge Kavanaugh. Even Justice Barrett, more recently, was attacked based on her religious beliefs.

I can assure you that will not happen this time around. We will meticulously review Judge Jackson's record. We will ask detailed questions to understand her judicial philosophy. We will read and review her opinions and carefully evaluate her ability to serve. Through it all, there is no question that she will be treated with dignity and respect.

I think the confirmation process must be thorough and it must be civil. The American people and, frankly, the nominee deserves nothing less. I am prepared to fulfill my advice and consent duties as a Member of this body and as a member of the Judiciary Committee.

As we know, there is no particular timeline for this process. In some cases, it moves quickly, and in others it has taken significantly more time. Chairman DURBIN has announced that the Judiciary Committee will begin its confirmation hearing in the week of March 21, which doesn't allow much more time for our colleagues to meet with Judge Jackson before evaluating her record, and I know she has prioritized meeting with Members of the Judiciary Committee. I hope she will have adequate time to meet with other Members who are not on the Judiciary Committee, as well.

I know our colleagues are anxious to expedite this process, but we all know Justice Breyer will stay on the Court until the end of this term, which will be the first week or so in July.

Justices do not have term limits. They are not held accountable on elections, but they wield tremendous power under our Constitution. So we have a duty, not necessarily to get it done fast but to get it done right and thoroughly evaluate Judge Jackson's qualifications and ensure that, if confirmed, she will serve as a fair and impartial member of the Supreme Court.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I was listening very carefully to my friend, my colleague from Texas, on his comments regarding the process by which we give our advice and consent to all of our judicial nominees, but, of course, particularly our responsibility with regard to Supreme Court nominees.

There seems to be some concern that we are rushing the nomination process for Judge Jackson. Nothing could be further from the truth because everybody remembers the speed with which nominee Amy Coney Barrett was put on the Court, from the time of her nomination to the hearings, to her being sworn in.

There will be enough time for all of our Members of this body to consider Judge Jackson's nomination, not to mention that we have already confirmed her twice, once to the district court and another time to the circuit court. It is not as though she is unfamiliar to us.

Also, any connotation that somehow President Trump's nominees were ill-treated—again, nothing could be further from the truth because the whole process, especially with regard to Justice Kavanaugh, was with the utmost desire on the part, particularly, of the Democrats on the Judiciary Committee to get to the bottom of certain allegations against Justice Kavanaugh that were highly serious.

To cast any kind of doubt or aspersions on the work of the members of the Committee—especially the Democrats on the Committee—with regard to President Trump's nominees is not well-taken.

ABORTION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, let me move onto why I am here this afternoon. It is not an exaggeration to say that we are at a crisis point. Republican legislatures all across the country are continuing to pass bills that control our bodies and, at the same time, Trump Supreme Court nominees are closer than ever to overturning Roe v. Wade.

There are 26 States across the country that are likely, if not certain, to ban abortion if the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade. There is no question that these restrictions that have been enacted by States all across the country have an incredibly discriminatory impact and will disproportionately harm those who are already facing far more obstacles when it comes to accessing healthcare, including women of color, women with low incomes, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, rural women, and many more.

For over 50 years, Roe v. Wade enabled women to make the decision about whether or not they wanted to

start a family. But, today, because of new abortion care restrictions, 90 percent of counties in the United States do not have an abortion provider. Women are faced with impossible decisions and, as a result, will be forced to have babies they can't afford, didn't plan for, or are unable to care for, or faced to have babies under life-threatening conditions. And, tragically, women may also die because they lack the access or resources to safely end pregnancy. Abortion bans are a matter of life and death.

Women across the country are under attack and so, too, are the healthcare professionals who provide safe and legal abortions. Today is Abortion Provider Appreciation Day. This day was established to honor Dr. David Gunn, who was killed on March 10, 1993, outside his abortion clinic in Pensacola, FL, by a White supremacist, anti-abortion extremist.

Abortion providers are compassionate, credentialed, and highly trained professionals who allow women to actually make choices about their own bodies, their futures, and whether or not they want to start a family, and they do so without judgment and in the face of violence.

Tragically, Dr. Gunn's murder was just the first known instance of a murder of an abortion provider. Across the country, abortion providers experience intimidation, harassment, threats, and violence from anti-abortion extremists.

According to NARAL, between 1977 and 2015, there were over 7,200 acts of violence carried out against abortion providers by anti-choice extremists. These included 42 bombings, 185 arson attacks, and thousands of death threats, bioterrorism threats, and assaults. Every single day, even right here in DC, anti-choice extremists station outside of abortion clinics and harass staff and patients.

Fourteen States and the District of Columbia have needed to enact laws to protect abortion providers and patients, including laws that prohibit blocking the entrance to a clinic, threatening or intimidating staff, damaging property, and more. Three States have even had to go so far as to establish a ''bubble zone'' to protect people within a certain distance of a clinic. These doctors, nurses, and staff fear for their lives just to provide access to reproductive care.

Being an abortion provider is a dangerous profession in this country. What other medical profession deals with this level of harassment and violence just to provide medical services, medical care? For what other medical profession do we have to create a bubble zone of protection?

On Tuesday, I joined Senator PETERS and my colleagues in the House to introduce a resolution to honor all healthcare providers who keep patients safe and healthy and do their part to help provide access to reproductive care, including abortions.

Today, on Abortion Provider Appreciation Day, I stand on the Senate floor to affirm my commitment to ensuring the personal safety of all abortion providers and clinic staff. I thank these fearless individuals for maintaining abortion access to communities across our country. A big aloha and mahalo to these courageous people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3811

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, a few days ago, the Senate heard directly from President Zelenskyy. The bravery and leadership we have seen from President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people is incredible.

And during this call, he was very clear about what the Ukrainian people need to defend themselves against Russia's unjustified invasion. What is unbelievable is that even after seeing horrifying images on the news and hearing from the Ukrainian President himself, the Senate has done nothing to get the aid they so desperately need approved and on its way. Why? Because Senator CHUCK SCHUMER is holding it hostage.

Senator SCHUMER is keeping this body from voting on and passing the Ukrainian aid package because he is holding it hostage to include it in the $1.5 trillion omnibus. People are dying. Yesterday while the Senate floor was closed at Senator SCHUMER's direction, Putin's evil forces bombed a children's hospital.

What in the world are we doing here? It is heartless. It is shameful. It is a stain on the integrity of the Senate and the United States that aid for Ukrainians is being used as a political tool.

We could have voted on the weekend. We could have voted on Monday or Tuesday or yesterday.

But Senator SCHUMER closed the floor and made it impossible to vote. Ukrainians are dying. It is time to end these games. These are stupid games. That is why I am asking that we immediately take a vote to pass the aid to Ukraine.

And I am thankful that many of my colleagues have joined me to make this request. Senators MARSHA BLACKBURN, JOHN BOOZMAN, TOM COTTON, STEVE DAINES, JONI ERNST, CHUCK GRASSLEY, CYNTHIA LUMMIS, and ROGER MARSHALL have all cosponsored my proposal.

What I am asking is to pass the exact text—the exact text—that both the Democrats and Republicans, they have already agreed to this. We can send this to the President's desk today. By holding this hostage in the omnibus, Senator SCHUMER is forcing even further delays. The omnibus won't go to President Biden's desk until next week.

The people of Ukraine are in the fight for their lives and their freedom. Every day the Senate waits to send American aid, weapons, and resources to help them is another day that their fighting against this Russian invasion is even made more difficult.

There is no reason we can't vote on this aid package now and pass it today. Waiting even 1 more day puts more lives at risk. Let's act now to protect global freedom from Putin's tyranny.

Now, I will turn it over to Senator ROGER MARSHALL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. I thank Senator SCOTT for leading this issue.

Mr. President, every moment of every day is precious, but none more so than when war has engulfed your home. It was just 3 weeks ago today, what now feels like an eternity, that Russian forces first invaded Ukraine's sovereign border and launched a deadly, unprovoked attack on the people of Ukraine. And since that day, the world has watched in horror as hundreds, perhaps thousands, of innocent civilians—including children—have perished from gunfire and explosive weapons. More than 2 million people have now fled their homes.

Among the Russian targets have been a bread factory, a maternity ward, and a nursery. Despite enduring the suffering and being greatly outnumbered by Russian force strength and military might, the Ukrainian people have bravely defended their homeland, an inspiration for the entire world. Here at home, though, President Biden has been doing his best to fool the American people into thinking he is a wartime President, but his track record tells a different story.

To say the President is leading from behind is an understatement. The President's handling of the Ukraine invasion has been littered with missteps and tardiness nearly every step of the way, his words and actions seldom lining up.

In December, the administration slow-walked a shipment of military arms that would have hardened Ukraine's defenses. It took nearly a month for the package to be approved and the armaments to arrive in Ukraine. In January, Senate Republicans moved to stop sanctions on the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. President Biden dispatched his allies in this Chamber to filibuster the bill and allow the project to be slowed down.

A month later, the President finally came around and moved to impose sanctions on the project. Last week, I introduced with 10 of my Republican colleagues to ban Russian oil imports. Democrats in the Senate joined in calling for an announcement of such an action during his State of the Union speech, but none was made.

Always afraid to lead, it would be a full week later when President Biden would finally impose the import prohibition. This President has repeatedly been late to act. His failure to show strength and take proactive maneuvers empowered a war criminal to move to reclaim one of the most prized former Soviet republics, a land rich with wheat and corn and sunflowers.

I was on a phone call with many of my colleagues last weekend with President Zelenskyy. And my friends across the aisle were so excited, they were so motivated, wanting to move quickly to place ammunitions and MiG–29 jets in the hands of the brave Ukrainians. But no; cowardice is contagious. Democrats in Congress have now taken a page out of our President's playbook by settling on a process that would deliver this most recent round of military aid to Ukrainians more than a week after President Zelenskyy laid out his country's need to Members of Congress.

And the MiG fighter jets that are so desperately needed by the Ukrainians, they remain grounded and out of the hands of the sieged. Instead of a stand-alone bill or attaching this invaluable relief to the short-term CR that will be signed to keep the government open while the massive 3,000-page bill is enrolled and sent to the President, they are insisting that it remain part of the omnibus in order to sweeten a sour bunch of grapes—once again, delaying lifesaving aid by many days.

At a time when our national debt is over $30 trillion and our government spent almost $2 trillion extra on government programs this year already, the bill increases discretionary spending on more than $45 billion. Indeed, we won't let a crisis go to waste.

It also funds the administration's tragically misguided attempts to electrify our electric fleet and implement the Green New Deal. All the while, we are witnessing a self-imposed Biden energy crisis because they have killed our domestic oil and gas industry by declaring war on American energy.

Today, I would ask the Democrats partying in Philadelphia with drag queens and sampling Pennsylvania beers that they should jump on the next Amtrak train and come back and help us pass this Ukrainian aid immediately. Let's not force it into an omnibus that makes the Ukrainian people wait 5 more days before it would be officially signed into law. I support the much needed Ukrainian aid. We would pass it as a stand-alone piece of legislation today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I do want to thank my colleague from Florida for doing the right thing for our partners in Ukraine by bringing up this supplemental appropriation for its own vote—its own vote.

But this isn't something that he should have had to do. It is something that should have been demanded by every Member of this Chamber. Vladimir Putin is waging a war, an all-out war on Ukraine. He has reduced maternity hospitals, orphanages, schools, and private homes to piles of rubble. He has boobytrapped humanitarian corridors. He is using weapons so horrific that to possess them constitutes a war crime. And he is preparing to terrorize civilians with the same proxy fighters that have brutalized innocents in Mali and in Syria.

And here we stand as our Democrat colleagues try to use an aid bill for Ukraine to link onto its back a $1.5 trillion spending spree.

At last count, there are more than 4,000 earmarks in this omnibus spending bill.

You and I have been through the issue of earmarks when we each were Members in the House. Earmarks, 4,000 of them, this bill is divisive, controversial, and requires actual deliberation and debate. It should not be used as a vehicle to hold this emergency funding for Ukraine hostage.

The fact that we even have to have this discussion is just disrespectful of the process. And it does not help the Ukrainian people. It slows down the aid to them. It is time to stop this manipulation in its tracks.

We need to give the people of Ukraine airpower. We need to give them humanitarian aid. And it needs to be done now. We need to give them the funding and the support that they need to survive, and it should be done now. And we need to separate this supplemental from this $1.5 trillion spending spree, and it ought to be done now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I also rise to protest the manner in which funding for the people of Ukraine has been strapped to this spending bill, thereby delaying aid to Ukraine and strapping it to a bill that is going to need days to get to the President's desk so it is in good shape.

I have been following—just as you have—the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, and I am incredibly concerned for the people there: the women and children who have been murdered in the streets by Vladimir Putin's bombs, the housing complexes that have been destroyed, the maternity hospital that was bombed just yesterday, all from unprovoked Russian aggression.

We want to help these people. The people of Wyoming whom I represent want to help these people.

Because of this, I was particularly appalled at the decision by congressional Democrats to include Ukraine aid funding in the massive government funding omnibus bill that we are starting to consider.

We could get this Ukraine money on its way today. We could get it to the President's desk today. Most of us agree. I think it would be unanimous to send the money to Ukraine.

As a former House Member and a longtime legislator, I know that any big piece of legislation has good pieces and bad or, as former U.S. Senator Al Simpson used to say, ''some spinach.'' But this is a cynical approach to legislating.

It forces Members of Congress to make an unnecessary choice: choose between helping the Ukrainian people and further indebting our own constituents. It is a cynical ploy, and it is cynical because of what is in the rest of bill, the omnibus spending bill. At a time when the United States is over $30 trillion in debt, instead of taking a serious look at our budget, we are piling on.

We are increasing nondefense discretionary spending by 7 percent, even though inflation this year is more than 7 percent. Worse still, the omnibus continues to fund President Biden's vaccine mandates, even after the President himself called for a return to normal. This bill also contains anti-Second Amendment provisions that threaten the rights of law-abiding citizens in Wyoming. Finally, after banning the practice for years, this omnibus contains around $10 billion in earmarks for pet projects around the country.

Here is the book of earmarks. Look how thick this is. It is printed on both sides in about 4-point font. You almost have to have a looking glass to see what is in here—4,000 earmarks after we had gotten away from this.

I am sympathetic to the argument that earmarks are a more direct way of addressing problems around the country, but historically they have been abused as a way for leadership to whip votes on bad legislation and a way to fund unnecessary pet projects to curry favor back home.

But instead of having a debate about these and other concerns of the massive spending bill, Ukraine funding was dropped in here in an effort to get Members to vote for a bad bill so we can get funding to Ukraine.

We should have a stand-alone vote on the aid for the people of Ukraine. This issue is entirely separate from the omnibus spending bill that Congress is considering and should be recognized as such on the Senate floor. Anything less does a disservice to the people we are trying to help and to the American people we serve.

I am proud of Senator RICK SCOTT for calling for a separate vote to help the people of Ukraine.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Wyoming. I want to thank my colleagues from Kansas and from Tennessee for their interest in making sure that we get Ukraine aid to the citizens of Ukraine today.

I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. 3811, which is at the desk; that there be 2 hours for debate, equally divided in the usual form; and that upon the use or yielding back of time, the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I want to reserve the right to object.

I have been listening to the arguments that are made here. Let's get to the facts.

The fact is, if we split this Ukrainian funding now, it is not going to get there quicker; it is going to get there slower.

The bottom line is, if you want to help the Ukrainian people out—and I believe the speakers want to help the Ukrainian people out—then pass the omnibus bill that is in front of us.

The Senator from Florida is proposing just to pass one portion of this omnibus appropriations bill, and that is the $13.5 billion in aid to Ukraine.

I want to be very, very clear on what this move would mean. If we don't pass the rest of the omnibus, the Pentagon is going to shut down at midnight on Friday. OK?

Now, all our eyes are on Ukraine, and they well should be, but don't forget for a second that China is a pacing threat to this world. We are going to shut the Pentagon down on Friday? I don't think that is a smart move.

Eleven days ago, all the Senators in this body had the opportunity to go to a classified briefing led by Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. I asked him what he needed from Congress to respond to the Russian aggression. Do you know what he said? He said: We need a full-year appropriations bill. That is what we have in front of us today.

And yet, the Senator from Florida is effectively proposing to give the military less than 1 percent of what the Secretary of Defense says he needs to respond to threats around the world. That is $6.5 billion out of $744 billion.

And for the folks who say this $1.5 trillion package is a boondoggle, well, let me tell you, then you should stand up and say half of this bill is a boondoggle because half of it goes into defense to protect this country, to make the world a safer place.

I really don't understand what the Senator from Florida is trying to accomplish, but I want no part of it.

Congress should have passed this budget to cover the military needs and cover this country's needs over 6 months ago.

Passing a bill to cover 1 percent of our troops' funding needs is, once again, kicking the can down the road. It is 110 percent unacceptable to me and to every American who expects their government to keep them safe at home and around the world.

This is really, really, really a bad idea, and we should quit wasting time on these kinds of ideas and get to the point of voting on this omnibus bill, getting it out so that we can deal with the Ukraine situation.

And by the way, in the Defense bill, over and above the $13.5 billion, there is another $300 million for Ukraine. So it is time to get this ball rolling. It is time to get this bill passed in the U.S. Senate.

Quit dilly-dallying around. Let's get 'er done. There is too much on the line today to keep fooling around.

I object.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, it is hard to express my anger and frustration.

What in the hell are we doing here?

I asked for the Senate to do a very simple thing: vote today on desperately needed aid for Ukraine, and Senate Democrats have blocked it.

This is the exact text—the exact text—that both Democrats and Republicans have already agreed to.

People need to know exactly why Democrats have blocked this commonsense bill. I know. It is because they are following orders from Senator SCHUMER to block passage of aid to Ukraine so we can continue to hold it hostage in the omnibus.

That is what we are dealing with here.

We could send this to the President's desk today, but Senate Democrats have said no because they are insisting that it be passed with the omnibus.

The omnibus is $1.5 trillion, 2,700 pages; as my colleague from Wyoming said, 4,000 earmarks. Senator SCHUMER alone has 150 earmarks, $600,000 for a greenhouse in New York, $3 million for museum galleries in Brooklyn.

I mean, to him, the omnibus is just a joke. It is a way to send some money home.

Today, inflation just hit 7.9 percent—another 40-year high. And contrary to what President Biden just said this morning, that is just for February. That massive spike in inflation doesn't reflect the big price hikes we have seen in March. The truth is, we have no idea how the omnibus will impact inflation, and we haven't anywhere near the time we need to actually read it.

This whole process is broken, and it reminds me of a truth here in Washington: In Washington, compromise means that both sides get everything they want, and no one has to make a tough choice. Put simply, when Washington settles, taxpayers all across this country lose.

Americans should be furious with Congress. Ukrainians should be absolutely furious with us. While Russian bombs are being dropped on their homes, cities, and hospitals, Democrats in the Senate are blocking the approval of American aid so that they can play politics. Every day that Senator SCHUMER refuses to allow a vote is a big gift from Senate Democrats to Putin.

I am actually disgusted by what happened here today. To see aid for Ukraine used as a political tool is heartless. It is a stain on the integrity of the Senate and the United States. A fight for freedom and democracy rages in Europe, and Senate Democrats should be ashamed by what Senator SCHUMER has forced each of you to do today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, the House is not in session. To say that we are going to pass this and presto chango it goes right to the President's desk—that is not how the process works, Senator SCOTT. That is not how the process works.

So you can stand up and say, you know, we are blocking this aid. No, no, no, no, no.

The fact is, the person who came up and asked for unanimous consent—the good Senator from Florida—is blocking this bill or we would be voting on it right now.

You want to talk politics? That is what this is about—politics.

You can be unhappy with the omnibus bill, but the fact of the matter is, it has been negotiated over the last year by Democrats and Republicans, and that is where we are at today.

We need to pass this bill. If you are concerned about Ukraine, we need to pass this bill. If you are concerned about feeding hungry people in this country, we need to pass this bill. If you are concerned about childcare, we need to pass this bill. If you are concerned about housing, we need to pass this bill. If you are concerned about the high cost of gasoline, we need to pass this bill. And if you are concerned about the threat that China is to this country, we need to the pass this bill.

Enough excuses. Let's get the job done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HAITI DEVELOPMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, it is my understanding that the Senate has received a message from the House of Representatives to accompany H.R. 2471.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the message to accompany H.R. 2471.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 2471) entitled ''An Act to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti.'', do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move that the Senate concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2471.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 4984

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to concur in the House amendment to H.R. 2471, with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to concur in the House amendment to H.R. 2471, with an amendment numbered 4984.

Mr. SCHUMER. That is the correct number.

I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. ___. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4985 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4984

Mr. SCHUMER. I have an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 4985 to amendment No. 4984.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the effective date)

On page 1, line 3, strike ''1 day'' and insert ''2 days''.

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 4986

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to refer H.R. 2471 to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions to report back forthwith, with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] moves to refer H.R. 2471 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith, with an amendment numbered 4986.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To add an effective date)

At the end add the following:

SEC. ___. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 4 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4987

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 4987 to the instructions of the motion to refer.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the effective date)

On page 1, line 3, strike ''4'' and insert ''5''.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 4988 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4987

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] proposes an amendment numbered 4988 to amendment No. 4987.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To modify the effective date)

On page 1, line 1, strike ''5'' and insert ''6''.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that if Senator PAUL makes a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 35, the vote on the motion occur at 4:15 p.m. today; further, that following the vote, the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on the confirmation of Calendar No. 547, the nomination of Maria Pagan, as provided for under the previous order; and that following the disposition of the nomination, the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The President pro tempore.

H.R. 2471

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, before I even start, I do want to compliment the staff—later, I will put all of the names in the RECORD—who worked weekends and late at night. I remember times when I would get off the phone with them at 11 o'clock at night and 12 midnight. I could go to bed, but they were still there working until 3 or 4 in the morning.

Yet, after all of those months of negotiations, the Committee on Appropriations introduced the $1.5 trillion fiscal year 2022 Omnibus appropriations bill. As I will explain, this is the consolidation of 12 annual appropriations bills to fund the Federal Government for the remainder of the fiscal year. Last night, the House passed it on a bipartisan basis. It is now before us, and we need to act on it quickly.

Our annual appropriations bills are where we reflect on our national priorities. In total, this bill includes $730 billion in nondefense funding. That is a $46 billion increase over fiscal year 2021. This 6.7-percent increase is the largest in 4 years for nondefense programs. It allows for significant investments in the American people that will expand the middle class.

The bill also provides urgent funding for the people of Ukraine as they battle Vladimir Putin's immoral, unprovoked, and brutal invasion—an invasion which, actually, labels Vladimir Putin as a ''war criminal.''

It is unquestionably in the interest of the American people that the Senate act quickly to pass this bill and send it to President Biden. I will tell you why it is so important.

In the wake of the pandemic, children and schools across the country have been falling behind in math and reading, and children in low-income and minority communities have been falling even further behind their peers. One study found that third graders who are attending school in low-income communities tested 17 points lower in math than they did just in 2019. We can't allow a global pandemic to set these children further back on the path to a bright future.

The bill includes $17.5 billion—the largest increase in more than a decade—for title I-A grants. These grants provide funding for more than half of our Nation's public schools to help students, particularly in low-income communities, meet college and career-ready academic standards.

And to help these children succeed before they even step foot in the classroom, the bill includes more than $11 billion for Head Start. The bill also increases the maximum Pell Grant award by $400—also the largest increase in more than a decade—so that as these students succeed they can go on to pursue a college education. Pell Grants help more than 7 million students pursue a postsecondary education every year.

Now, of course, we are investing in these children, but we are also investing in their families. Ask any young family and they will tell you that the pandemic exacerbated the childcare crisis. Parents, and particularly women, are being forced out of the

labor market because they cannot afford the high cost of childcare. The bill provides more than $6 billion for childcare and development block grants. That is a 4.4-percent increase over last year. These grants will assist low-income families in gaining quality childcare that fits their needs to prepare their children to succeed in school.

Across this country—the wealthiest and most powerful Nation on Earth—more than 38 million people, including 12 million children, are what can be called food insecure. Many of us in this room cannot even imagine the heartbreak and pain a parent must feel when they cannot put enough food on the table for their child. So the bill increases support for nutrition programs. These programs are a lifeline to these American families.

It also ensures that over 4 million low-income women and children will not see their benefits reduced at the end of April by extending the WIC Cash-Value Voucher Program. It is a special $35 monthly benefit for purchasing fruits and vegetables. It fully funds $6 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children—WIC—to help support 6.2 million low-income women, infants and children younger than 5 years old every month. It also includes more than $140 billion, which is a 23-percent increase, for SNAP. SNAP provides assistance to more than 40 million people every year in this country.

It also keeps families in their homes by providing billions of dollars to build and support public housing. This includes a 75-percent increase for Choice Neighborhoods, which helps to transform communities by revitalizing public and assisted housing. It provides an 11-percent increase to build new affordable housing through the HOME program. And it includes $4.8 billion for community and economic development.

We understand that hundreds of thousands of Americans are homeless. The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report found that on a single night more than 580,000 people experienced homelessness. People who are struggling with homelessness have been robbed of a central pillar of the American Dream—having a place that they can call their own. The bill provides $3 billion—a 6.6-percent increase—for homeless assistance grants.

We know it is a bipartisan priority in Congress to keep our communities safe so the bill provides a 15-percent increase for Department of Justice grants to State and local law enforcement and communities to prevent and respond to crime. It provides COPS Hiring grant funding to place more than 1,700 officers on the streets to keep our communities safe. But as a country, we have collectively grieved the loss of life that inspired the Black Lives Matter movement. So this bill provides new resources to fund deescalation training, implicit bias training, training that emphasizes the duty of fellow officers to intervene, and providing crisis intervention teams.

It is also a commitment to the future of scientific research, development, and innovation in this country. It provides the largest increase in 12 years for the National Science Foundation. The NSF funds a quarter of all federally supported basic research conducted by colleges and universities in this country. It provides a 6-percent increase for the Department of Energy Office of Science and a 5.3-percent increase for the National Institutes of Health to speed the development of new therapies, diagnostics, and preventative measures.

I think it also, importantly, includes $1 billion to launch the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, the ARPA-H, as President Biden's bold and promising proposal to revolutionize how we prevent, treat, and cure devastating diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, and diabetes.

Marcelle, my wife, and I had the opportunity to listen to then-Vice President Biden speak about this at the University of Vermont's medical school a few years ago and then again to hear President Biden, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, and Dr. Jill Biden speak about it at the White House. I was committed to making sure that it would be in the Omnibus bill, and I am pleased that it was included and that that request was joined by numerous other Senators.

The bill closes the chapter on 4 years of denying the existence of the climate crisis by the previous administration. It provides billions of dollars to support climate research, mitigation, and adaptation. This includes $900 million in NSF funding to support climate and clean energy research, $40 million for NOAA climate-related projects, $425 million for clean air programs, and an historic investment in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, EERE.

We also provide hundreds of millions of dollars to support international climate change adaptation and mitigation programs. We included this funding because the scientific communities are in agreement that we are running out of time before the damage to our planet is irreversible. So we are taking a small but long-overdue step to confront that reality.

The bill also backs up our commitment to our veterans. It provides $97.5 billion—an 8.7-percent increase—for VA medical care. That provides essential health services for 9.2 million veterans, those men and women who have served our country and whom we always promised to back up, as they did us. Now, we are. This includes funding for rural health programs, veterans' homelessness prevention, and mental health resources.

Consistent with long tradition, the bill includes billions of dollars for food and other humanitarian aid for victims of war and natural disasters, $700 million to support global health security programs to prevent and prepare for future pandemics, and it provides the funds to support PEPFAR's global HIV-AIDS program.

It provides the funds to support our embassies and other foreign missions around the world. And it supports organizations like the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria, the National Endowment for Democracy, the U.S. Institute of Peace, the Peace Corps, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the International Development Finance Corporation.

Anybody who is watching the news knows what is happening with the war crimes that are being imposed on Ukraine by a much larger neighbor, Russia, under the unbelievable, irresponsible leadership of Vladimir Putin.

So we have included a $13.6 billion bipartisan agreement to provide emergency assistance to Ukraine and our NATO allies—$13.6 billion. That has the necessary resources to bolster the defense capabilities of the Ukrainian military but also our regional allies and partners. It also supports the implementation of economic sanctions and export restrictions on Russia.

Importantly, it addresses the evolving humanitarian crisis—this horrible, tragic humanitarian crisis—that has resulted from President Putin's unprovoked attack on the Ukrainian people, an attack I call a war crime. The escalating crisis President Putin has inflicted on Europe poses the greatest threat to democracy and sovereignty in a generation.

The American people overwhelmingly support the people of Ukraine. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue; this is a human rights issue. This is where America stands with the people of Ukraine.

I remember a few years ago when I was chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I joined with my friend MIKE CRAPO, another Senator, and we reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act. We dramatically increased it and improved it. We added Native Americans, we added the LGBTQ community, and we added the sexual exploitation of children.

Well, the Violence Against Women Act has been stuck. It hasn't been reauthorized. This bill reauthorizes the Violence Against Women Act.

VAWA continues to be one of the most consequential laws addressing the scourge of violence against women and domestic violence in our country. I remember how bad it was when I was a prosecutor, but it has become far, far worse today. We need the tool of VAWA, and the bill includes the highest funding level ever of grants to support these programs. It provides crucial support for programs and initiatives designed to support survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Of note, this bill also reforms and reauthorizes the EB–5 Visa program, which has been abused by corrupt actors for too long. I have championed

these bipartisan reforms for many years, and I am proud that we are finally going to enact them.

In total, the bill includes $730 billion in nondefense funding, a 6.7-percent increase. The bill includes, $782 billion in defense funding, a 5.6-percent increase over fiscal year 2021.

This is a product of months of negotiations—sometimes weekends, sometimes evenings, sometimes days, over and over again—negotiations between myself and dear friends Vice Chairman SHELBY and House Chair DELAURO and Ranking Member GRANGER.

I mentioned earlier our staffs who spent countless late nights working through the details of this bill. Those are not just weekday nights; those are weekends too, giving up plans they might have had, personal plans, family plans, whatever. So I think of specifically Charles Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Jessica Berry, and Jay Tilton on my staff and Bill Duhnke and David Adkins on Vice Chairman SHELBY's staff and so many, many more who worked those nights and days—far too many names to say right now.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have a list of the staff printed in the RECORD.

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

CHAIRMAN LEAHY LIST FOR H.R. 2471 (CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022) STAFF FOR THE RECORD

Charles Kieffer, Chanda Betourney, Jessica Berry, Jay Tilton, Maddie Dunn, Megan Fariel, William Duhnke, David Adkins, Blair Taylor, Margaret Wiles, Ann Tait Hall, Robin Juliano, Matt Washington, Jason Gray, Anne Marie Chotvacs, Johnnie Kaberle, Sara Peters, Dianne Nellor, Rachel Erlebacher, Hannah Chauvin, Morgan Ulmer, Patrick Carroll, Elizabeth Dent, Jean Toal Eisen, Jennifer Eskra, Blaise Sheridan, Michael Bednarczyk, Angela-Gussi Caalim, Brian Daner, Allen Cutler, Kevin Wheeler, Erik Raven, Mike Clementi, Katy Hagan, Kate Käufer, Brigid Kolish, Robert Leonard, John Lucio, Andy Vanlandingham, Abigail Grace, Andrew Platt, Hanz Heinrichs, John Forbes, Rachel Littleton, Todd Phillips, Doug Clapp, Jennifer Becker-Pollet, Aaron Goldner, Laura Powell, Christopher Crowley, Jen Armstrong, Nora Khalil, Anna Newton, Sirisha Rayaprolu, Ellen Murray, Diana Hamilton, Reeves Hart, Andrew Newton, Alexandra Adcock, William Tutt, Lauren Nunnally, Kamela White, Jennifer Piatt, Jim Daumit, Frank Reed, Teri Curtin, Jason Yaworske, Chris Cook, Daniel Mencher, Thompson Moore, LaShawnda Smith, Melissa Zimmerman, Ryan Hunt, Martha Roberts, Anthony Sedillo, Emy Lesofski, Lucas Agnew, Nona McCoy, Alex Keenan, Kelly Brown, Michael Gentile, Mark Laisch, Meghan Mott, Kathryn Toomajian, Fiona O-Brien, Laura Friedel, Anna Lanier Fischer, Ashley Palmer, Emily Slack, Michelle Dominguez, Joanne Hoff, Jason McMahon, Patrick Magnuson, Jennifer Bastin, Tim Rieser, Kali Farahmand, Sarita Vanka, Madeleine Granda, Paul Grove, Katherine Jackson, Adam Yezerski, Dabney Hegg, Kelsey, Daniels, Rajat Mathur, Jessica Sun, Amanda Wahlig, Alison Graab, Michael Ciamarra, Jason Woolwine, Courtney Young, Clint Trocchio, Christy Greene, Jenny Winkler, Valerie Hutton, George Castro, Hong Nguyen, Elmer Barnes, Penny Myles, Karin Thames, Lynn Cookley.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, this is a good bill. It is a bill that reflects American priorities and invests in future prosperity and our health. It reduces everyday costs for millions of Americans, such as childcare, a college education, and heating and cooling costs. It is a bill that invests in us—us—the American people.

We know that a government shutdown on Saturday would be senseless. Look at the impression it would give the rest of the world when we are telling everybody to stand up and be strong. We know that a delay would be senseless, so I strongly urge all Members to vote aye when the bill comes to the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING GEORGE NETTELS, JR.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I rise today on a solemn occasion. I rise in memory of George Nettels, Jr., a man who lived a life of service to his community and to our State.

Affectionately referred to as ''the face of Pittsburg''—Pittsburg, KS, that is—George was a loving husband to Josie and a devoted father to Chris, Meg, Kate, and Becky. He was born in Pittsburg, KS—the very southeast corner of our State—where his dedication, hard work, and thirst for adventure was cultivated.

As a young man, George joined the U.S. Army in the closing years of World War II. Upon his return home, he attended the University of Kansas, where he was a letterman on the swim team and graduated with a degree in civil engineering.

George spent most of his career in his beloved hometown, where he became the proud owner of Midwest Minerals, a crushed limestone aggregate and agricultural lime supplier with a strong four-State presence.

In 1966, he served as the chairman of the Kansas Republican Party and the National Limestone Institute, so civic and politics, as well as his devotion to his profession and those it employed. It was the preceding association to what we in Washington, DC, and across the country know as the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association.

His work at the National Limestone Institute led to his appointment in 1970 as president and CEO of McNally Manufacturing, which started as a small boiler shop and helped transform Pittsburg into a Southeast Kansas industrial powerhouse.

George's leadership included serving as chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers and as director of Kansas City Power and Light.

In 1986, the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas honored him with the distinction of Kansan of the Year—a fitting tribute for his life of service to his community, State, and profession.

His deep involvement in civic business and philanthropic endeavors kept him busy in Pittsburg, where he served as president of the chamber of commerce, chairman of the Mt. Carmel Hospital board of trustees, a member of the United Way, and president of USD—Unified School District—250 Board of Education. His devotion to Pittsburg's public schools is one he inherited from his father, who spearheaded a campaign to build an elementary school that ultimately would be named for him.

George Nettels' appetite for adventure led him to 24 countries, skydiving in tandem with his grandson, Jack—he did that at age 84—and taking a 6-day bike tour through the hills of Italy. Whether around the world or at home, he never turned down a new physical challenge, which led him to being named the honorary starter of the Get Busy Livin' 5K Run and Friendship Walk in Pittsburg at 87 years old.

I heard this story from one of my staff, who saw George jogging in 100-degree heat just over 2 years ago. Worrying about his age and the heat, my staffer offered George a ride, to which he replied:

> I grew up working in this heat and it doesn't bother me one bit.

George learned from his father that life is a gift and the length is not guaranteed. He took that lesson to heart, making sure that while he was on Earth, he bettered his hometown, made countless memories with his family and friends, and was always ready for an adventure.

Southeast Kansas's dynamic industrial sector, the city of Pittsburg, and our entire State have George Nettels, Jr., to thank for his advocacy, leadership, and commitment to excellence.

Robba and I extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends and all those who knew and loved him.

REMEMBERING ROGER KEMP

Madam President, I rise as the entire Kansas City community mourns the death of Roger Kemp.

Over the years, Roger and I became close friends, and I knew him to be a passionate member of the Kansas City community. Nowhere was this passion and drive more evident than his work following the death of his daughter.

In 2002, Roger and his wife Kathy's daughter Ali was murdered at the age of 19 while she was working at a local pool as a lifeguard.

Living through a parent's worst nightmare, Roger channeled his grief into bringing his daughter's murderer to account for this heinous crime. Roger demanded nothing less than absolute justice for his daughter. He worked tirelessly, including through a billboard advertisement campaign, to find Ali's killer. This campaign not

only worked to bring her killer to justice but led law enforcement, both locally and nationally, to adopt a similar strategy that has been credited with helping to apprehend hundreds of other suspected killers.

His work did not stop there. Roger wanted to devote his life and his efforts to making certain that other women, other young girls, were not caught defenseless as Ali was and that no other parent had to experience the torment and loss that he and Kathy endured. So Roger founded The Ali Kemp Educational Foundation and T.A.K.E. Defense programs. An honor student, Ali was, at both Blue Valley North High School and Kansas State University; her life was just getting started. She had just finished her freshman year at K-State, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority and a volunteer in her church.

But even though it was tragically cut short, Ali's tragic death touched thousands of people, and The Ali Kemp Educational Foundation continues to positively impact the lives of many and allows her legacy to live on.

''I don't care what it cost to do this program,'' Roger said. ''If we save one life out there, it's worth it.''

That was Roger's mantra, and he lived up to it. Over the nearly 20 years since its founding, The Ali Kemp Educational Foundation and its T.A.K.E. Defense programs have trained more than 70,000 girls and women across the country, ranging from the ages of 12 to 90, no doubt saving more than one life.

Roger was an active member and served on the board of directors of the Ad Hoc Commission Against Crime and on the committee which reviewed and awarded grants to shelters and homes for victims of abuse for three different Kansas attorneys general.

But it wasn't just those of us in Kansas that recognized just how special a person Roger was. In 2011, I had the honor of successfully nominating Roger to receive the Presidential Citizens Medal, the second highest civilian award presented by a President. He was 1 of 13 recipients out of more than 6,000 nominees.

I think a quote from the foundation he created in Ali's honor perfectly captures who he was, and it reads:

> Roger's faith in the American justice system; his belief that 99 percent of the world is good, his powerful love for his daughter Ali and sons Tyler and Drew and his deep dedication to his wife Kathy drove him every day, fighting the good fight, to make our world a better place.

Roger Kemp was a loving father and husband, a dedicated member of his community, and a man who created good from the devastating disaster, the murder of his daughter.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Kathy, Tyler, and Drew and all who knew and loved Roger in this time of sorrow. I am honored to have considered him a friend, and it comforts me to know that he has reunited once more with Ali.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

UKRAINE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, Vladimir Putin's brutal invasion of Ukraine rests on the false historic claim that Ukraine is not a real country but a part of Russia.

Both Ukraine and Russia trace their roots to ancient civilizations centered in Kyiv. Kyiv was a major city when Moscow was a backwater that no one had heard of.

The devastating and brutal Mongol invasion in the 13th century changed everything. Collaboration with the Mongols allowed Muscovy, the predecessor of modern Russia, to become a dominant regional power. Meanwhile, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania exerted control over much of what is now Western Ukraine, giving it a very Western European perspective.

Russia, since the Mongol invasion, has been ruled with an iron fist. By contrast, Ukraine has been home to the Cossacks, who embody a sense of freedom and individual autonomy. Just think of Ukrainian Cossacks as the equivalent of the American cowboys of the Wild West. They hated serfdom and oppressive government and sought to elect their own rulers, which they called a hetman.

A Cossack state using the name Ukraine in what is now Ukraine's southeast became a major power in the mid-17th century. Then, when Catherine the Great conquered that Ukrainian state, she is recorded as having said:

> Every effort should be made to eradicate them and their age from memory.

Ukrainians' strong national identity threatens the claim of Russian nationalists to be the heir to the ancient Kyiv civilization. When Ukrainians revolted against the Soviet collectivization of agriculture dictated from Moscow, Stalin seized the Ukrainian wheat harvest and food stores, starving millions of Ukrainians to death. This is remembered as Holodomor, which means ''extermination by hunger'' in the Ukrainian language.

Putin rehabilitated the image of Stalin and banned the human rights organization memorial which investigated Stalin's crimes against humanity. Putin is following, then, in a long tradition of Russian nationalists and the autocrats associated with it who have tried to stamp out Ukrainian national identity.

When Putin talks about being threatened by NATO, he does not mean he thinks the Russian Federation faces a military threat. Until Russia invaded and occupied Crimea and portions of Eastern Ukraine, our NATO allies bordering Russia hosted no troops from other NATO countries. Today, there are a small number of U.S. troops in NATO's eastern flank which were reinforced only as a result of the current Russian invasion of Ukraine. But these defensive troops are still dwarfed by the number of Russian military personnel in Russia's western military district. NATO does not have enough troops deployed to repel an invasion, much less to be considered an offensive threat to Russia.

What Putin is really threatened by is that Ukraine, true to the history I just gave you, is asserting an independent path. They don't like that independent path because it separates them from Russia. Ironically—in fact, very ironically—his aggressive actions to date have only unified Ukrainians in Ukraine's determination to be free of Russian influence. Putin has pushed Ukraine toward the European Union and toward NATO.

Putin seems to believe his own twisted view of history, so he convinced himself that the current freely elected government of Ukraine is not supported by the Ukrainian people. Putin thought that he could topple President Zelenskyy and appoint a puppet government.

Putin thought Ukrainians would not fight. Boy, has he been proven to be wrong—really wrong. Putin cannot achieve his goal since the Ukrainians will never, never accept Russian domination. So Putin has taken to leveling civilian areas, cynically agreeing to humanitarian corridors to allow families to escape, only to shoot those who have gathered, bombing maternity wards, killing many women and babies. And, of course, as you see every day on television, the atrocities can only get worse.

We must provide Ukraine with everything it might need to stop the mass murders. That includes military aircraft, drones, anti-aircraft systems, anti-missile systems—almost anything they need—and we must do it now.

I wanted more arms and sanctions before the invasion happened. We saw that invasion coming. Any bureaucratic delays now are unacceptable. Our Eastern European allies acted with lightning speed. We seem to follow them. Our European allies were giving up weapons that they need for deterrence in their own defense, and then we followed. We ought to continue to follow their example; but instead of following, we should be leading. And we should agree to fill any gaps caused by past and future donations of weapons to Ukraine by frontline allies.

Ukraine's success and its defense will prevent a wider war that will cost more in lives and resources. It is in our interest to do everything we can to stop the Russian terror campaign now. We should be leading—not leading from behind. We should lead NATO—not follow NATO.

We should be the great United States of America that we are because we are dealing with a sick autocrat, probably with an ego that has to be satisfied; and it is all totally understandable, except that somebody is very sick.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled votes: myself for up to 15 minutes, Senator PAUL for up to 15 minutes, Senator MENENDEZ for up to 7 minutes, and Senator RISCH for up to 5.

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

NOMINATION OF MARIA L. PAGAN

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, the Senate will soon vote on the nomination of Maria Pagan to serve as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative and our envoy to the World Trade Organization in Geneva.

This vote has been a long time coming; and in a moment, I am going to talk about Ms. Pagan's extensive qualifications and her long experience. But, first, Madam President and colleagues, there is a new urgency today for the Senate to confirm Ms. Pagan with strong bipartisan support.

The Russians' inhuman behavior means that they have forfeited the right to enjoy the fruits of the post-World War II international order.

The World Trade Organization is one of the key venues where the United States and our economic allies must hold Russia accountable for its illegal and unjustifiable war in Ukraine. It means the United States and our economic allies basically have to go to the World Trade Organization and tell Russia: Go fly a kite.

Now, here in the Congress, as the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I am working with the ranking member, Senator MIKE CRAPO; House Ways and Means Chairman RICHIE NEAL; and Ranking Member KEVIN BRADY on legislation that would revoke Russia's permanent normal trade status with the United States. This is part of suspending Russia's benefits at the World Trade Organization and would mean Russia's exports to the United States would immediately be hit with significant tariffs.

Our country has led the effort to ratchet up sanctions against Russia to levels nobody has seen.

Russia's economy is in free fall, and there is no question that hitting Putin's tight circle of oligarchs who dominate Russia's largest industries will pay off. Taking away Russia's trade benefits is an essential next step that will help to freeze Russia out of key markets around the world.

As our Envoy to the World Trade Organization, Ms. Pagan would be our point person coordinating this effort. She will be the one coordinating with like-minded countries and intervening in support of Ukraine. That is why it is so important that she be confirmed today and why it is so important that she have strong backing from both sides of the aisle.

Now, her nomination won bipartisan support in the Senate Finance Committee. The Finance Committee approved her nomination by a vote of 27 to 1, so we are talking about near-unanimous support—certainly something of a rare sight in the Congress these days. She got that support because she is a highly experienced public servant who knows how to get the best possible deal for our workers and our farmers and our businesses.

Over three decades in government, she has served at both the Department of Commerce and at the Office of the USTR. She is an expert in a variety of fields. From trade in services to government procurement, she has litigated several disputes before the World Trade Organization. She now serves as deputy general counsel at the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the person called in when issues are particularly challenging. She was recently at the center of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada negotiations, and she was key to helping Democrats guarantee that the final deal would be enforceable. That was a must-have for all Americans; otherwise, the agreement wasn't going to pass.

Working through the WTO to isolate Russia is just going to be one part of her job. There are critical negotiations at WTO that absolutely have to move forward. These include COVID vaccines and the unfair fisheries subsidies that do so much damage to our environment and our fishing industry.

The WTO itself has big issues that have to be addressed. Its rules are out of date, and its procedures move too slowly to keep up with a modern economy.

The Chinese Government, for example, takes advantage of the World Trade Organization's current shortcomings to game the trade system, and they do it at the expense of American jobs, growth, and innovation. A system that is intended to produce ironclad, predictable rules is now opening up loopholes that trade rip-off artists are exploiting.

Ms. Pagan understands these challenges that I described. She is equipped to confront these issues. She is a proven negotiator and a strong advocate for American workers and farmers and businesses.

She has secured significant support from Democrats and Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee.

There is urgent work that awaits her in Geneva. I urge my colleagues to support this nomination. It is priority business for today, given our trade challenges with Russia.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The Senator from Kentucky.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE—S.J. Res. 35

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S.J. Res. 35, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sales to the Government of Egypt of certain defense articles and services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is pending.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, according to tradition, King Menes united the two lands of Europe about 5,000 years ago. Although Egypt appears today as a single state on the globe, American foreign policy still treats the country as if it were two completely different lands—one a critical ally of American aid and one a tyrannical nightmare unworthy of American security assistance.

A State Department human rights report details how General Abdelfattah Elsisi converted a country into a prison. Among other horrors, Egyptian security forces engage in extrajudicial killings, torture, as well as harsh crackdowns on anyone who wishes to practice the right of freedom of speech.

As a result of Egypt's abysmal human rights record, the Biden administration recently blocked $130 million in annual security assistance. At first glance, that might sound like a rebuke to Egypt. Before applauding this supposedly principled act in solidarity with the long-suffering Egyptian people, keep in mind that in the same week, the State Department—the Biden State Department—approved a military sale of Super Hercules aircraft, which are used to airdrop troops and military equipment, to the Elsisi regime for $2.2 billion. On the one hand, they blocked $130 million; on the other hand, they approved $2.2 billion.

In what may be only described by definition as a slap on the wrist, the $130 million the State Department blocked is only one-tenth of the annual $1.3 billion the United States has given to Egypt every year since 1987. In fact, Egypt is one of the largest recipients of U.S. military aid.

If the State Department strictly adhered to Federal Leahy laws, it would insist that Egypt abandon its despotic ways before Egypt received any more security assistance. This law was named after our colleague Senator PATRICK LEAHY. These laws compel the United States to withhold security assistance to countries that have committed gross violations of human rights.

The Biden administration should strictly enforce the Leahy laws and deny Egypt the American dollars it craves until it becomes a place where human rights are honored and respected. Instead, as punishment for their crimes, the ruling class of Egypt will somehow, some way, have to make due with only 90 percent of what they annually expect in largesse from the American taxpayer. Adjusting for inflation, the decades-long transfer of wealth from America to Egypt amounts to over $41 billion. Of the $41 billion, some estimate that the previous President, Hosni Mubarak, and his family stole nearly half. The aid not stolen is used by Egypt to buy American weaponry.

Since 2009, the United States has sold Egypt $3.2 billion in fighter aircraft,

$1.3 billion in tanks and armored vehicles, $750 million in missiles, $36 million in ammunition, and $328 million in military technology, as well as $240 million in naval craft. As the United States prepares for yet another military sale, perhaps we should review how one of our most reliable customers treats their own people.

Human Rights Watch reports that ''Egypt's security apparatus has arbitrarily arrested and prosecuted tens of thousands of persons'' and that ''torture crimes against detainees in Egypt are systematic, widespread, and likely constitute crimes against humanity.''

One such victim of torture is known as Hamza. He was arrested at his home late one night for the crime of participating in a public demonstration. Despite tireless attempts to track him down, his family was unable to locate him for months. Later, it was revealed that the officers who captured him—the officers of the government of Elsisi—used electric shocks on his genitals, his head, and his tongue. But even that was not enough for Elsisi's henchmen, who later suspended Hamza from his arms until his arms were dislocated at the shoulder.

As a physician, I have treated patients who have dislocated shoulders. It is a very painful injury. Imagine being hauled up by your own government, suspended by your arms until your shoulders are dislocated, and then when they finally cut him down, they left him on the floor without medical treatment for 3 winter days without any blankets.

Such torture would be virtually unbearable for any man. Hamza was not even yet a man; he was a 14-year-old boy at the time of his torture and arrest.

Hamza is not alone. The stories of other victims appear in Human Rights Watch's 43-page report detailing Egypt's systemic torture of children, including a victim as young as 12 years old.

In Egypt, journalism—journalism—is a dangerous profession. The Committee to Protect Journalists ranks Egypt the third worst jailer of journalists in the world behind only China and Myanmar.

Take just a few examples. When a 26-year-old man died in police custody, a prominent Egyptian journalist, Islam el-Kahly, was arrested for covering and reporting on the detainee's death. He is only one of many well-known journalists to be imprisoned for the crime of keeping his people informed.

Photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid was arrested in 2013 for covering the violent break up of a sit-in protest—a peaceful sit-in protest—in Cairo. Zeid was released after 5 years in prison, but he is still not free. He is required to report to the police station at 6 p.m. every night, where it is unknown whether the officer on duty will keep him or not, whether he will be imprisoned every night of his life.

Perhaps no activity is more dangerous than running for Egypt's Presidency. General Elsisi was reelected—if you can call it an election—in 2018 with 97 percent of the vote, whose Soviet-style results were made possible only after opposition candidates were effectively eliminated.

Two candidates, Sami Anan and Ahmed Konsowa, were imprisoned. A third candidate to run against Elsisi, Ahmed Shafik, was placed under house arrest. A senior staffer to one of the candidates, Hisham Geneina, was brutally attacked by three men, resulting in serious damage to his left eye and orbital bones. When another candidate, Mohamed Anwar al-Sadat, withdrew from the race, he said: ''It's like committing suicide to run against someone like this.''

President Biden pledged to put human rights at the ''center of our foreign policy.'' Torture of children, arbitrary arrests of dissidents and journalists, sham elections, and the violent crushing of peaceful opposition—if these are not gross violations of human rights, nothing is.

The United States cannot proudly proclaim human rights to be the center of our foreign policy while it arms a regime that has a war against its own people. We should end military sales to Egypt's criminal masters. Partially taking away some military aid while offering new sales that are 10 times what we withheld shows weakness in the face of repression.

Our weapons are an incredibly important part of America's power, and we should not willy-nilly and without judgment give them to anybody and everybody around the world. They could be used as leverage for improving human rights. Instead, we just give them, and there is this vicious cycle of enriching those who produce the munitions and no concern for human rights.

Mere slaps on the wrists cannot hide the inescapable fact that the United States has handsomely rewarded Egypt as it degenerated into one of the most autocratic places on the globe. America should in no uncertain terms demonstrate we will no longer strengthen a strongman.

My resolution is to cancel military sales. It offers a choice—whether the United States will side with the Egyptian people or with their oppressors.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the motion to discharge S.J. Res. 35.

I am a little perplexed by the Parliamentarian's decision that this can move forward because there is a statutory timeframe that says that the resolution needs to be brought forth in order for it to have validity.

My understanding of the Parliamentarian's decision is that even though—if there was passage of this resolution—it would not have validity because it is past the timeframe, it still can be brought. That seems to be a pursuit of the Senate's time in a way that is an extraordinary amount of time on unlimited numbers of discharge resolutions that potentially exist that, having passed the statutory timeframe, can still be brought to the Senate floor even though whatever the vote is has no consequence. I fail to understand that.

Since that is the ruling, let me just say that I appreciate that the Senator from Kentucky has concerns about human rights in Egypt, and I agree that we must absolutely continue to raise concerns in a way that will meaningfully bring about positive change. I believe we should be doing more to prioritize a country's human rights record in the context of our broader relationship.

In fact, last year, with several of my colleagues, I introduced S. 1473, the Safeguarding Human Rights in Arms Exports Act, or what we call the SAFEGUARD Act, to ensure that human rights issues full attention and arms exports decision making are considered.

And I invite all of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support and cosponsor this important legislation.

As I think everyone in this body knows, for years I have led the fight in the Senate against arms sales to countries that commit significant and repeated human rights abuses such as Saudi Arabia.

Last Congress, the Senate approved 23 resolutions of disapproval that I introduced when the Trump administration sought to short circuit our rights to consider these sales according to law.

Joint resolutions of disapproval are just one tool that we have, and we must make sensible distinctions about the types of systems we consider. In this particular debate, as I have argued before, a critical distinction is between arms that are inherently offensive and lethal and those that are not. Some are defensive; some are simply logistical.

Today, we are considering a sale of 12 cargo aircraft, which I believe squarely falls in the category of largely defensive, nonlethal arms. This aircraft is used for transporting military and other cargo, including humanitarian supplies, as well as personnel in-country and internationally. Egypt has earlier model C–130s since the 1980s, but its current fleet is aging and becoming more expensive to maintain.

The United States and Egypt have a long and valuable relationship that goes beyond the security realm. Egypt is also an important security partner for other U.S. allies in the region. This, of course, does not mean that it is above reproach—it is not—or that the nature of that relationship is static. It is not.

Indeed, I supported the Secretary of State's determination made last month not to release $130 million in withheld foreign military financing because Egypt's government has not made, in his view, sufficient progress in human rights, especially with regard to the

treatment of peaceful activists and the continued targeting of independent civil society organizations.

I have used my prerogative as chair of the Foreign Relations Committee in the arms sales process before, and I will continue to do so in the future regarding systems that may consistently relate to these concerns.

But in the end, our relationship with Egypt has to be one of maintaining a balance between the foreign policy and national security concerns of the United States and our partners.

We should, however, continue to raise human rights concerns and press for meaningful reforms. We should continue encouraging the government to uphold its own commitments, but to this end, because these are purely, not only—they are logistical at best, I urge my colleagues to reject this motion to discharge.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, tonight we are going to consider S.J. Res. 35 and 36, and they are the resolutions of disapproval regarding arms sales to Egypt. Egypt has been a key partner of the United States since the 1979 Camp David Accords.

It continues to play a critical role in Middle East peace. Egypt is a valuable counterterrorism partner and is essential to U.S. accession in the region and the U.S. success in the region. Look, for those who haven't had the good fortune of being there, when the peace broke out between Israel and Egypt decades ago, Egypt played a key role in making that peace. And ever since then, the border between Egypt and Israel on the Sinai has been peaceful, notwithstanding the fact that they have incidents there all the time.

But the Egyptians and the Israelis, brokered by the multilateral force that is there, keeps the peace, and it has been a great success story in the Middle East, one of the few that has had duration. And so in that regard, Egypt has been very valuable in helping keep the peace in the region.

The Biden administration and Democratic Senate and House leaders agreed on these sales because they are in the interest of the United States and, indeed, of the world and particularly of the Middle East. These sales of cargo aircraft and radar support the United States-Egypt relationship and are in keeping with Egypt's legitimate defense requirements.

Human rights are a critical element of our foreign relations. They always have been, and they always will be. And Egypt has problems it needs to fix.

The United States has withheld aid and taken other measures to highlight our concerns to the Egyptian Government. Indeed, Egypt is not a perfect partner, and we have almost no perfect partners when we are dealing with foreign countries on national security.

Nonetheless, each of these is transactional, and they have to be weighed and viewed individually. These sales that we are talking about here to Egypt present no direct human rights concerns and should be separated from that conversation.

So, on substance, I oppose the resolution.

In addition to that, there is a bigger issue here. The statutory 30-day congressional notification period for these sales expired last Wednesday, March 2. The Parliamentarian has now ruled that the statutory 30-day period is effectively irrelevant and that any Senator can offer for privileged consideration a resolution of disapproval for any arms sales notified over the course of an entire Congress.

If this stands and continues, it would have a chilling effect on U.S. alliances and partnerships worldwide, and it could set a new procedure as far as dilatory tactics are concerned on the Senate floor.

The 1987 precedent that the Parliamentarian cites as justification is from a time when there was a bipartisan agreement to extend the timeline for simple procedural reasons. This is not the case now. And I disagree with the Parliamentarian's interpretation thereof.

It always amazes me around here that we can get a Parliamentarian ruling that is in direct—I mean direct contradiction of a statute, which is what we have here.

I ask—and I would urge—Senate leadership to work to ensure the intent of the statutory 30-day notification period is restored. Perhaps we should repass the statute and say we really, really mean it. Nonetheless, that is where we are, and this really needs to be corrected.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The result was announced—yeas 19, nays 80, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 73 Leg.]

YEAS—19

Blumenthal
Brown
Carper
Heinrich
Hirono
Leahy
Lee
Luján
Markey
Merkley
Murphy
Ossoff
Padilla
Paul
Peters
Sanders
Smith
Stabenow
Warren

NAYS—80

Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blackburn
Blunt
Booker
Boozman
Braun
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Fischer
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hassan
Hawley
Hickenlooper
Hoeven
Hyde-Smith
Johnson
Kaine
Kelly
Kennedy
King
Klobuchar
Lankford
Lummis
Manchin
Marshall
McConnell
Menendez
Moran
Murkowski
Murray
Portman
Reed
Risch
Romney
Rosen
Rounds
Rubio
Sasse
Schatz
Schumer
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Shaheen
Shelby
Sinema
Sullivan
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Tuberville
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden
Young

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The motion was rejected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Maria L. Pagan, of Puerto Rico, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 74 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blumenthal
Blunt
Booker
Brown
Burr
Cantwell
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Cassidy
Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Cortez Masto
Cramer
Crapo
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Fischer
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hassan
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Hoeven
Kaine
Kelly
Kennedy
King
Klobuchar
Leahy
Luján
Manchin
Markey
McConnell
Menendez
Merkley
Moran
Murkowski
Murphy
Murray
Ossoff
Padilla
Peters
Portman
Reed
Risch
Romney
Rosen
Rounds
Rubio
Sanders
Sasse
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Toomey
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden
Young

NAYS—19

Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Braun	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Hagerty	Marshall	
Hawley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask that the motion to reconsider with respect to the Pagan nomination be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ENERGY

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I come to the floor this evening to offer a few remarks about claims that have been made on this floor over the course of the last few days regarding the path forward to American energy independence.

The oil industry—reaping record profits in the billions of dollars—is taking advantage, quite artfully, of the crisis in Ukraine to make arguments to the U.S. Congress and this administration that they should be given new liberties to drill on lands in the United States to be able to reap even greater profits.

And the claim that the oil industry makes that is often parroted by friends inside this body is that the path to American energy independence runs through drilling for more oil in the United States of America. That is not true. That is an oil industry talking point. That is a means by which the industry can get Congress and the administration to provide them with new opportunities for more profit.

But the facts belie the argument that America could achieve energy independence solely through drilling for more oil and exploring for more gas in the United States. Why do we know this? Well, we know this, primarily, because the oil industry doesn't drill in the United States to benefit our national security. They drill in the United States to make money. And the reality is, when the price of a barrel of oil is too low compared to the cost of pulling it out of the ground in the United States, the oil companies don't drill. Right now, for instance, the oil industry has thousands of leases to drill on public lands that they are not utilizing.

As you would hear it on the floor of the Senate, the failure to be energy independent is Joe Biden's fault because he is not providing for any new leases on public lands. Well, you do not need any new leases on public lands because there are thousands of leases that the oil industry already has to drill that they just are not using. There is nothing in the ground. There is no oil coming up. And the reason for that is, well, the economy was in shambles, so there wasn't demand; the price of oil was down so that the companies didn't see a big enough profit; there is a general workforce shortage right now in the industry. But none of those reasons are Joe Biden. Those are market-based reasons why the oil industry has not been drilling on land they already own.

The second reason why there is not a path to energy independence through drilling alone is because the oil that we drill in the United States, it doesn't stay in the United States. Some of it does, but much of it gets exported. In 2020, we were drilling about 18 million barrels a day in the United States. About half of that was shipped overseas. Only half of that stayed in the United States. I wanted to make sure that wasn't something we needed to pay closer attention to.

The oil that we drill in the United States doesn't stay here. It goes to the highest bidder. In fact, often, the oil we drill in the United States is going to China. For as hard as my friends on the other side of the aisle say we should be on China, the reality is, during some months of the last several years, America was sending record amounts of oil from U.S. oil production facilities to the Chinese Government.

It just isn't true that there is a path to American energy security simply by drilling for more oil in the United States. That oil only comes out of the ground when the price is high enough. The oil industry doesn't drill to be patriotic. They drill to make money. And there is never a guarantee that that oil or that gas stays in the United States; much of it is sent overseas.

As I mentioned, there is also no argument to be made credibly that Joe Biden is waging some war on American energy independence.

The two biggest changes that are often cited that the President made: One is, as I referenced, this pause on new leases on public lands. That just has very little impact because, first of all, very little of the oil that the industry drills is on public lands. Only 10 percent of the oil the industry drills is on public lands. Ninety percent of it is on privately held lands, so a pause on 10 percent of the leases just doesn't have a macro effect on oil drilling.

Second, any leases that the administration would give out right now, they don't end up in drilling occurring for years. So whether or not we are pausing or not pausing leases on 10 percent of the opportunities to drill in the United States, that has an impact years from now, not today.

The argument is, ''Well, the President stopped the Keystone Pipeline from going into effect.'' Same thing. The Keystone Pipeline was years out; and, second, most of the Keystone Pipeline oil wasn't staying in the United States. Most of that oil was going to be shipped overseas.

There is a reason why the Keystone Pipeline was ending up near the terminals in the Gulf that ended up sending oil to places other than the United States. Once again, the Keystone Pipeline was not a guarantee for American energy independence; that was a guarantee that the majority of that oil was going to end up in some other country.

And so if you are serious about energy independence, then you are not serious if you are talking about getting there through drilling. This is not a serious solution, because the facts tell you that the drilling only happens when the oil industry makes enough money and that the lion's share, at least half of that oil and gas, can end up going overseas, not to American consumers.

Do you know how you do make this country energy independent? Investing in renewables, because we don't ship wind power overseas. We don't ship solar energy overseas. When a wind turbine is running in Iowa or a solar panel is generating energy in California, that energy goes straight onto the American grid. That energy stays right here in the United States.

Now, it also has a tremendous benefit of being clean energy, of not contributing to the warming of the planet. That alone is a good enough reason to prioritize clean energy over fossil fuel energy, but renewable energy also has the benefit of being truly domestic energy; truly secure, American-only energy, as opposed to fossil fuels, which only get turned on when the price is high enough and often end up leaving the United States to other countries.

Those are the facts. The oil industry delights when crises like this occur and the prices go up at the pump, and friends of theirs come down and claim that the only path to energy independence is through more drilling. But the problem is it just isn't true.

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

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about our Nation's energy policy and the crisis that we find ourselves in as the cost of energy continues to go up and up and up.

Right now, gas prices are nearly double what they were the day that Joe Biden became President of the United States.

So you ask: Why is this happening? That is what consumers, that is what

people in my home State of Wyoming are asking about. What has happened? How is it that it has gone up so much?

Sure, there is the war in Ukraine, but the prices have been going up day by day by day after Joe Biden became President, and the reason, I tell people at home, is because Joe Biden has declared war on American energy—the policies of this administration, the policies of the Democrats in this body and across the way in the House.

On day No. 1, Joe Biden shut down the Keystone XL Pipeline; he shut down oil and gas leases on Federal lands; and he shut down the exploration for energy in the Arctic.

My colleague the senior Senator from Alaska, who previously had chaired the Energy Committee in the Senate, has said that we are actually, in the United States, using more energy from Russia, more oil from Russia than we are from Alaska, her home State, a State in the United States.

Now we see the President's appointees making it almost impossible to build gas pipelines. So even if you were able to explore and discover energy—oil, gas—you can't get it to market because they are blocking pipelines all across the country.

And the FERC—the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—just a week and a half ago revised its guidelines to make it even tougher.

They talk about oil and gas leases. Once you get a lease—you pay for a lease to explore for energy—you have to come to the government for permission to drill for it. You actually have to pay money to apply for permission to drill. It is actually called an Application for Permit to Drill. And the Biden administration last month said, ''We are not going to give you any more of those,'' to anybody who wants to explore for energy on public lands. And, in fact, there are about 4,600 of those stuck in limbo right now.

In my home State of Wyoming and across the country, people are asking: How can a President put such a radical and self-destructive agenda which we have to live under?

And what I tell them and what they understand is that the Biden administration is completely controlled by the climate elitists, the climate alarmists who dictate the policies of the Democratic Party in this country.

So just look at Joe Biden's climate czar. Now, that is kind of a nickname for the position, but the reality of the title is the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate. It is John Kerry. So this is a very high position in this administration.

He didn't come to the Senate for confirmation. Oh, no. They wouldn't risk putting something like that up here because then John Kerry would have to answer questions.

But John Kerry, no question about it, does speak for the administration. Joe Biden appointed him. John Kerry and Joe Biden served together in the Senate, in this body. I served with both of them on the Foreign Relations Committee. John Kerry was a previous Secretary of State of the United States at the time that Joe Biden was Vice President of the United States.

So the position of John Kerry is also the position of this administration, otherwise, why would he be the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate? When John Kerry speaks, it is Joe Biden whom he speaks for.

Well, John Kerry and this administration have a delusional obsession, and their delusional obsession is with climate. John Kerry and this administration are so obsessed with our climate that they believe it is more important than our energy security and than our national security.

Now, there are countless examples. And I just want to go through a couple of them that have occurred just within the last 3 weeks, just within the time that Vladimir Putin's soldiers have encircled Ukraine and now have attacked Ukraine, continuing to kill innocent civilians.

The night before Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, with the troops at the ready, John Kerry actually told the BBC in an interview that he was worried about the carbon emissions that would result from the war—the carbon emissions, not the death, not the destruction, not the suffering; no, the carbon emissions.

He also said—I mean, it is astonishing. People listened, and they said: This can't be the position of the administration of the President of the United States. But yet it is the position of John Kerry, the President's Special Envoy, that war would be a distraction, would distract from the climate agenda.

John Kerry went on to say this. He said:

> I hope President Putin will help us to stay on track with respect to what we need to do for the climate.

Let me repeat. John Kerry, Special Envoy, speaking for the President of the United States:

> I hope President Putin will help us stay on track with respect to what we need to do for the climate.

John Kerry believes, by his statements and others that I will get to, that what is happening with the war in Europe is a distraction from the real issue of the day, the key issue—climate change.

People are being murdered in the streets, Vladimir Putin is conducting nuclear drills, and the President's key spokesman on issues affecting energy in this country is hoping that President Putin will help us stay on track, and what is happening there is a distraction.

This is absurd. John Kerry thinks that Vladimir Putin cares about the climate? It is impossible. Putin just yesterday bombed a maternity ward. Putin's forces have killed dozens of children. Yet John Kerry is desperately waiting by the phone, clinging to the hope of a phone call from Vladimir Putin.

I hope John Kerry isn't holding his breath waiting for Putin to address the issue of climate.

Now, in the very same interview, John Kerry was asked about the possibility that Russia would invade Ukraine.

John Kerry's answer is this. The former Secretary of State, former chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said: ''I thought we lived in a world that said no to that kind of [thing].'' What kind of a world is John Kerry living in? Sounds like a nice place. It is not the real world—not the world we live in, not the world that is right now wreaking havoc on the people of Ukraine.

The fact that John Kerry, the President's spokesman on issues of climate, said this out loud in public just shows that John Kerry and this administration—in terms of their position on energy and energy security and national security, it must put them in the position of being the most naive people on the face of the Earth. John Kerry flying around the world in his private jet, representing the administration, worrying about the carbon emissions of a war, whereas we know as of now that thousands of innocent people already have or will lose their lives.

Then on Monday, just 3 days ago, I believe John Kerry made it worse. At that point, the tanks were in the streets, Russia was on the attack, people were dying, and millions of people have left the country of Ukraine, seeking asylum, seeking help, seeking relief, going across the border, seeking humanitarian care, and John Kerry, in a heartless statement, said the 2 million Ukrainian refugees were nothing—John Kerry—nothing in comparison to the refugees who will flee a warmer climate someday. Someday. Two million refugees—nothing compared to what may happen someday with climate change.

This is the world's largest refugee crisis in the last 70 years, since World War II. There are 2 million Ukrainians now displaced, trying to get out of the country of Ukraine, some losing their lives—they think they are going on safe corridors—being killed by Putin as he bombs them as they think they have safe passage.

John Kerry doesn't seem to be impressed, which, to me, means Joe Biden is not impressed; the administration is not impressed because Joe Biden has allowed John Kerry to continue to this very day, to this very moment, to speak for this administration as the climate envoy.

John Kerry should be fired. If he is not, he continues to speak for the President of the United States because John Kerry—which means this administration is more concerned about a hypothetical event in the future than what is happening on the face of the Earth right now.

This is an obsession. This is delusional. And the obsession explains a lot. It explains why this White House

always puts environmental fantasies ahead of American security and American energy. That is what we are seeing. This administration puts climate ahead of jobs. It puts climate ahead of bringing prices down. It puts climate ahead of working families. The administration puts climate ahead of our allies. We have sky-high gas prices, the highest of all time. You know, we see inflation is the highest in 40 years. We got the new bad inflation numbers again today, which are hurting our families. We can't keep up. Wages can't keep up. A 40-year high inflation but the worst of all time highest gas prices ever. We have the worst prices in Europe in decades and decades and decades. And the Biden administration won't even consider—won't even consider—producing more American energy.

Earlier today—today—Reuters reported the White House has decided not to boost exports of liquefied natural gas to Europe. They are pleading for it. They want it. We have it. We have it in abundance. Now, the administration won't let us build the pipelines to move it, won't let us explore for it, but we have plenty of it here in the United States. They are desperate, and they are trying to break the ties they have to Russia.

The report from Reuters today says: ''The White House was weighing the announcement of . . . ways to boost LNG exports to Europe . . . However''—however; wait a minute, not going to happen—''the interagency review has been shelved . . . after some in the White House argued''—some in the White House argued; not a supply and demand issue—and I see the junior Senator from Maine here, who talks about a supply and demand issue with regard to LNG. Oh, no. Those in the White House argued that ''it would counter the administration's efforts.'' Letting our friends and colleagues in Europe who need our LNG, of which we have an abundance—oh, no. ''[I]t would counter the administration's efforts to wean the U.S. off fossil fuels.''

Once again, this White House, with John Kerry the spokesman and it looks like Joe Biden the lapdog—whatever John Kerry says, we are going to do—has put climate before our national security and before our energy security.

It is time for the administration to get its priorities straight, and it is time to remove John Kerry from this position. It is time for Joe Biden to wake up and to speak up. The climate elitists have done tremendous damage to our Nation and are continuing to do damage to our allies. For ourselves and for our allies, it is time to produce more American energy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I hope the Senator from Wyoming will stay so we might have a discussion.

Why has the price of gasoline gone up? Why did it start going up about the same time that Joe Biden became President? Was it because of the cancelation of the Keystone Pipeline? No. Most of the oil going through the Keystone Pipeline was scheduled to be exported, so I don't think that was it. Was it a pause in leases that wouldn't have produced oil for 3 or 4 years? No. There are something like 8,000 leases that are currently in place that aren't being drilled upon, so I don't think that did it.

Do you know what caused gas prices to go up? The extraordinary recovery that the economy went through starting in early 2021, after Joe Biden became President—one of the quickest recoveries in our history from a recession.

If you look back to the recession of 2007 and 2008, you see a slow—I call it a lazy U. You see a downward of the recession, and then jobs and the economy came back very slowly over 5, 6, 7 years. The recession recovery from 2021, from the pandemic recession, is a V, and we recovered virtually all of the jobs that were lost during the pandemic in the last 14 months. GDP has grown as fast as it has in our history. The economy came back enormously rapidly.

Oil was down in 2019 and 2020 because of the pandemic. Demand collapsed—this is economics 101—demand collapsed, the price of oil collapsed, and then the recovery came, and the demand increased, but the production didn't increase.

Let's talk a little bit about oil in the United States. In 2021, half of the oil produced in the United States was exported. Did that do anything for our consumers? Did that do anything for the people who were paying higher and higher rates for gas?

The White House doesn't set gas prices. Presidents are always blamed for gas prices. I have never heard one given credit when gas prices are low. But the truth is, the price of gas depends upon the price of oil, and the price of oil depends on the world market, and the price of oil in the world market depends upon supply and demand.

I am old enough to remember the Arab oil embargo in the seventies. Why did prices go up so much? Because the OPEC closed down the source, and supply dropped, and the price went up. That is economics.

So what happened during 2021? The price went way up. The oil companies made the highest profits they have made in 8 years. What did they do with that money? Demand is resurging. There is a need for more oil. Prices were going up. What did they do? They put $100 billion into buybacks from their stockholders, and they put that much—the combination was $100 billion in buybacks and dividends.

They had a choice. Did they put the money into production, which would have reduced the price because we would have higher supply? No. They made a deliberate choice to give the money to their stockholders to bump up their stock price, which I suspect may have had a positive effect on the executive salaries, but they didn't increase production.

That is why we are in this problem that we are in now with high gas prices. Of course, the war in Ukraine has exacerbated that because we are cutting off purchases from Russia, which is one of the highest producers of oil in the world.

So if the idea is—you know, I keep hearing my friends on the other side trying to blame Joe Biden. If you want to blame him for anything, blame him for the quickest recovery from a recession in recorded history. And it was the recovery and the increase in demand that wasn't met by an increase in production that caused these high prices.

I read a quote this morning in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. There was an executive who said: We made a promise to our shareholders that we were going to be disciplined and we were going to return the money to them.

He said: I guess the choice came down to keeping our promise to our shareholders or being patriotic.

Well, we know what choice they made.

So all this talk about the Biden administration's war on oil and it is what is causing what is going on at the pump—no. What is causing what is going on at the pump is low supply and high demand. That is what happened in 1972, that is what is happening now, and that is what happens whenever you get supply and demand out of balance.

As far as exporting LNG to Europe, I am all for trying to help our European allies. I am all for it. But we have to do it with open eyes. The more we export LNG, the higher the price is going to be here in the United States. Seven or eight years ago, the Australians went big into exporting LNG, and their domestic natural gas price doubled, and that is about what has happened here in this country. Five years ago, we exported zero LNG production. Now, it is about 15 percent, but with the plants that have been approved, it is going to go up to 25, 30, or 35 percent. That is going to impact prices here. That is going to be great for producers, but it is going to kill the competitive advantage that low gas prices gave this country. If it is $13 in China and it is $3 here, where do you think it is going to go?

That is what is going on here. This is nothing but economics. We need to understand that what has happened is the oil industry made a conscious decision last year—and when I say ''conscious decision,'' I mean conscious. They had a choice: Do we invest in production and increase supply or do we give money to our shareholders in the form of dividends and stock buybacks? They chose the latter, and we are reaping the fruits of that.

So I am tired of hearing that somehow a pause in leases on Federal land

that wouldn't have produced any oil for 3 or 4 years is somehow the cause of the high prices at the pump. That is nonsense. The cause of the high prices at the pump is a lack of supply, and last year—talk about energy independence—we exported half the oil that was produced in this country.

We had a vote here 4 or 5 years ago, and we were told: If you allow—exports of oil were illegal until 4 or 5 years ago. We voted to allow it because we were told: Well, this won't really affect us because we have an excess of supply. It won't affect prices here in this country.

Well, that hasn't proven to be the case.

So what I would like to see is for all of us to work together, to think about—I am aware of policies involving pipelines and those kinds of things, and I believe that we have to make fuel available and energy available to all of our people. But let's be realistic about what is going on and not turn it into a partisan issue.

The only partisan issue here is that we have had a startling and extraordinary and, frankly, positive recovery of our economy. But we didn't have a recovery of the production of oil, which leads to the production of gasoline, which means a shortage, which means higher prices.

So I am delighted to engage in this debate, but I think we really ought to be trying to talk about the facts and talk about what is really going on here and what is really causing this problem.

I always want to learn more, and I learn from my colleagues. And I noticed that my colleague who just made the speech left, and he didn't seem to want to engage on this, which I think is unfortunate. I hope that perhaps here in the Senate we could actually have a debate and talk about what the issues are and what the reality is and quit just casting everything in a partisan way.

It has gotten to the point that, if Joe Biden walked out of the White House and walked across the Potomac River, the other side would say: The President can't swim.

Come on. Let's just talk about reality and not make everything about what is good for the administration or bad for the administration. Let's talk about what is really happening, and what is really happening right now is we have got solid demand in this country. The economy has come back, but we don't have enough production to meet that demand.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I did listen with great interest to every word of my colleague from Maine. We spend time together on the Energy Committee. He has lots of very good ideas, and we discuss things constructively.

When we talk about supply and demand, I just find it very interesting that for something like natural gas, of which we have an abundance in Wyoming—and when I was in the Wyoming State Senate, natural gas prices were over $16. With the renaissance of American natural gas energy and the production of something called fracking, prices dropped dramatically to the kind of numbers that the Senator from Maine mentioned earlier—to about $3. It went down, way down.

That doesn't help the people in Massachusetts, where the price is $18, because they can't get permission to have pipelines to deliver the affordable gas that we produce here. I mean, it is fascinating to take a look at Pennsylvania, which is half the price than in Massachusetts; and they are not too far apart. I just went out here, as the Senator was speaking, just to take a look and see what the differentials were in the prices. The price of natural gas is twice as high in Massachusetts as in Pennsylvania when they are less than 200 miles or 300 miles apart.

It has nothing to do with the availability of gas in the ground; it has to do with the delivery to the end user. That is the result of political decisions being made on the ground, in States, to prevent the infrastructure to deliver the material, to deliver the natural gas, that those people need.

It was even an issue on the ballot in my colleague's home State of Maine to move energy from Canada down to Massachusetts, and it was blocked by the voters in Maine, which is their right to do. They have a right to make those decisions as to what they want to vote for or against. And that was on the transmission of even renewable energy. Politics and decisions by either the administration or a State or voters make those decisions. So there is an abundance of natural gas, and there is a limitation on how you can get it to people because of political decisions.

I heard my colleague mention the number of leases that are out there. There are about 9,000 leases the administration continues to talk about, saying there are 9,000 leases of which nobody is exploring or that drilling hasn't been done.

Well, that is just the first step of getting a lease. It is like leasing an apartment: You pay the rent, but you need a key to get into the building. I mean, you pay the rent, and it is your apartment, but you can't actually get in until they give you the key. That is the same thing that happens here. You need to apply for permission to drill, and we know that the administration has said: We are not going to give any of those. There is no permission. Sorry. I know you paid for the lease, but we are not giving anybody a key. And they did that to about 4,600 recent leases.

Normally, some of those decisions are made at a local level but not in the Biden administration. Oh, no. Some assistant secretary said: Every one of them has to come to me.

I can get the documentation for the Presiding Officer or for my colleague and friend, the Senator from Maine.

This is a very heavyhanded administration when it comes to exploring for American energy, and they continue that way.

The President, when he was in Glasgow for the climate conference, I think surprised many of us when he asked OPEC+—''plus'' being Russia—to produce and sell more energy to the United States. Over the last year, we have averaged about 670,000 barrels a day of oil coming in from Russia, which is more than we get from Alaska. The Keystone Pipeline, which the President killed on his first day in office, would have brought in over 800,000 barrels a day.

It is not that the President has been shy about the fact that he has done all of these things; he has taken great credit. I mean, look at the Presidential debates when President Biden—then Candidate Biden—said, if he got elected, there would be no oil and gas exploration on public lands—no leasing, no use. That is why they have shut down all of these applications for the permits to drill. That is why the administration has said: You are not taking it out of the ground.

This is a Presidential promise.

As of today, we continue to produce a lot less oil in the United States than we did at the height of our economic boom prior to the pandemic. We have about 1,400,000 barrels a day less in U.S. production today than we had during the height of the economy before the pandemic. So we have a lot of catching up to do.

When the administration says you can't bring it in from Canada because you are not going to have Keystone and then pounds its chest in pride, that is a political statement. When the nominee for the Secretary of the Interior says to leave it all in the ground—all of it—that is a political statement. When a local community says, ''No pipelines in here. We don't care if the people in our communities have to pay twice what they are paying in our neighboring State,'' that is a political statement. It is all based on climate because we have John Kerry and his words to prove it, as well as those of the President of the United States.

So I continue to enjoy having discussions with my colleague from Maine, and we will continue that on the Energy Committee, where he is a very productive member. There are areas we work together on and areas in which we disagree. People are entitled to their opinions.

These are the facts as to what is happening with American energy today and as of the needs of the Nation. As we have recovered and continue to recover from the pandemic, we are still very far behind in American energy needs, and it is the political activities of this administration that have limited our ability to return to our full, productive capacity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to call the attention of my friend from Wyoming to a column today by Dana Milbank in The Washington Post. I think it is really worth reading in light of some of the things that have been said on the floor:

Canceling the Keystone XL pipeline caused gas prices to rise?

That has been said. Well, it is wrong.

It was only 10 percent [finished] when Biden canceled it, and its owners didn't expect to open it until 2023 at the earliest.

It had no measurable impact—maybe no impact—on current oil prices.

[The assertion that] Biden halted new drilling on Federal lands? Wrong. After a temporary halt in new leases, Biden has outpaced Trump in new drilling permits for public lands.

The Post has reported that publicly.

As for Biden's ''shutdown of American energy,'' U.S. production has increased under Biden from 9.7 million barrels a day to 11.6 million barrels. The number of oil rigs operating was at 172 in July 2020, E&E News reports. Now, 519 are in operation. U.S. production is forecast to set a record next year.

What's holding back oil production—

according to Mr. Milbank—

isn't government policy. U.S. producers still have 4,400 wells already approved and drilled that are not yet producing. They aren't drilling more because of a shortage of workers and equipment and, particularly, investors' greed—

which, I think, the Senator from Maine was alluding to.

So some of the many things that have been said on the floor here as gospel have turned out to be somewhat short of factual.

I would concede that I listened to the Senator's statement earlier that this is a supply and demand issue at its heart. I do think there is some gouging going on. Maybe I am wrong. The fact of the matter is we are coming out of a recession—or at least out of a downturn in the economy—from COVID–19, and there is an exceeding demand and not much supply. The net result is inflationary, and prices have gone up at the pump. In terms of this administration's being at war with the production of oil in America, I don't think that case can be made.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I certainly agree with the comments of the majority whip.

My friend from Wyoming will be surprised that I think we have some agreement on the issue of infrastructure.

When I was the Governor of Maine, we—we, the pipeline company but under the auspices of the environmental regulatory policies in Maine—constructed a brand new pipeline for natural gas from Nova Scotia through New Brunswick and through Maine into Massachusetts. I believe one of the problems we have is a lack of gas pipeline infrastructure, and that causes higher prices than there should be in New England.

I think the Senator and I agree on that. Where we disagree is on the extent to which any policies of this administration have affected the price.

As the Senator just pointed out, the Keystone Pipeline wasn't expected to deliver for another year or 2, and the express purpose of the Keystone Pipeline was to take oil from Canada to the Gulf Coast for export. It wasn't designed to service production in the United States.

As I say, the problem right now is that the high price of gasoline is the result of the rapidity of the economic recovery, which is a good thing. What is not a good thing is that the oil companies made a choice last year to invest in their shareholders and their stock prices rather than in producing oil.

I understand that to some extent because they took such a beating during the pandemic. It dropped so fast that oil was actually trading in negative territory for a period of time. Yet, once it became clear that the economic recovery was on track and that demand was solid and likely to remain so, that is when, I believe, those decisions about buybacks and stock dividends should have been reexamined in light of the need—the obvious need—for additional resources in this country.

So I appreciate this discussion. It is a rare day when actual debate breaks out on the Senate floor. I am delighted to have been able to have participated in it, but I think we ought to continue to remember that the issue here is supply and demand. Politics can affect these things on the margins, but the decisions of the producers are what really determine whether supply will match demand. If it doesn't, prices are going to go up, and the question then is, What do you do with the profits? That is the decision that was made last year.

I deeply hope that the industry is reexamining that decision, particularly in light of current prices and the situation in Ukraine, and will ramp up production in a way that will bring prices down and allow us to enjoy the full fruits of the recovery that we have seen, not undermined by inflation, which has been led by the cost of fuel.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know Senators are waiting on movements on both sides, but I just want to reiterate what I said earlier this afternoon. We have before us a message from the House—the omnibus. I would point out that both Republicans and Democrats have had an enormous amount of input into this for over the past several months. I know that because the Appropriations Committee staff has worked so hard on it—again, both sides of the aisle.

Earlier today, I put into the RECORD the names of members of my staff who have worked on this. I would just mention to other Senators, there are many times I would be on phone calls with them and conference calls at 10 and 11 at night. I can then go to bed. They were still there at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. I know that a number of them have given up time with their families over the weekend. I would be checking in with them or come down and meet with them, but I could go home. They kept on working. I think we have to understand, if it were not for such dedicated staff members, this Senate could not exist.

We have a complex package before us, but in a way, what we have here is a simple matter. Everybody has had input into it. As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I tried to make it open to everybody. The vice chairman, Senator SHELBY, a close friend of mine, has done the same on his side. People have been heard.

Now comes the time when we have to vote. The government runs out of money at midnight tomorrow. Look what faces our country. We, as the leading democracy in the world, are trying to stand up for Ukraine.

I applaud President Biden. He and I sometimes joke that when I came here, I was accused because I was 34 years old—the Presiding Officer can understand this feeling—I was accused by very senior Senators of being too young to be in the U.S. Senate. Fortunately, I was not the youngest. The youngest was Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware. We formed a bond over that. We worked together on so many things. I watched him in the Foreign Relations Committee; I watched him in the Judiciary; and I watched him as Vice President and now as President.

I have seen him tirelessly, quietly, a lot of it not in the full light of the press but just doing what he has to do, calling leaders who respect him around the world, forming a coalition in Ukraine, to say: Here is how we will stand up against Russia.

I know so many of the Russian people are good people but being led by a person who has demonstrated activities which make him a war criminal. What has happened when mothers, fathers, and their children are machine-gunned to death on the streets of the city they grew up in by Russian invaders? This is a war crime when Vladimir Putin sends them there.

In this omnibus, we have support for the Ukrainian people. Let's stand up. Let's deliver this support. Let's do what we should do. Let the Senate be the conscience of the Nation. Let's not have a dozen or more amendments that are designed more for ''Here is how I can get 30 seconds on the news'' or in a Twitter account or somewhere. Let's do what is best for this country. Let's do what is best for the people in Ukraine.

Look at the lies—look at the lies that have come out of Russia. I don't say it lightly after 48 years here to call the leader of a country a war criminal, but Vladimir Putin has been a war criminal. He has been a war criminal in having people go in and do the horrible crimes—blowing up maternity hospitals where women are giving birth,

killing children, bombing schools, destroying families, innocent civilians—for what? To return a dream of a Soviet Union that never existed; to return a dream of being a modern-day czar when that is not something you really want to be? No.

Let us Senators—Republicans and Democrats—stand up and say: OK. We are going to do our job. We are going to vote for our legislation. We are going to vote for appropriations to help the President of the United States stand up and help the people of Ukraine. We all know what we are going to do. We all know what the stakes are. We all know what is here. Let's stop the press releases. Let's stop the grandstanding. Let's stand up and vote. Vote yes or vote no. Don't stand behind something where you say: Well, I might be judged this way or I might be judged that way on a vote.

Just as the Presiding Officer has cast tough votes, we all do. I voted 17,000 times on this floor. I was proud to do it. Was I right on every single vote? I am sure I can go back over those and say: What was I thinking? But I tried to do what is best.

We know what is best now: fund our government, pay for our young people, pay for our schools, pay for our nutrition, pay for feeding Americans but also pay for helping Ukrainians who are standing up against a war criminal.

We all proudly say we stand for democracy and the ideals of democracy. Let's do it. The people of Ukraine are.

When I think of the malignant lie—terrorist things that come from Russia against the proud people of Ukraine—I think of the Putin group calling President Zelenskyy a Nazi. He is Jewish and proud of it. He couldn't be further away from being a Nazi. He is a man who could have fled his country as so many others have. He stayed there to protect his country, to stand with his country. Shouldn't we stand with him too? I think we should.

I urge my Senate colleagues, come in here. You go home and talk about how I voted for this; I voted for that. Well, come and vote. Come and vote. Let's get this bill passed.

I will probably say more as we go forward in this. I know there are other Senators—like the distinguished senior Senator of Michigan who is about to speak.

I will yield the floor on this. I have been here and had to vote over and over. As I said, I voted 17,000 times. I think there is only one person in history who has voted more than that. These haven't all been easy votes. I have had to wrestle with my conscience.

I go back to one of the first critical votes I cast as the newest, most junior Member of the Senate—a 34-year-old Member of the Senate—the junior-most member of the Armed Services Committee. We were asked to vote to continue the war in Vietnam. I campaigned against the war in Vietnam, and, ironically enough, at that time, the majority in Vermont supported the war. I did not. In my own conscience, I did not. So we had five votes in committee to continue. Each time, the vote to continue failed by one vote. I was the newest and youngest member of that committee, and I voted no. I became the only Vermonter ever to vote to end the war in Vietnam, and I was told that would end my Senate career; I was done. I think back 48 years to that time, and I know at the end of this term, I will leave, but I will leave on my own accord, not because of a vote I cast.

Every one of us should know, cast what is right in your conscience. Cast what is right in your conscience. That is worth more than an election.

Vote for this. Get it done. Show Ukraine that the greatest democracy and the longest lasting democracy currently in the world—the United States—stands with you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to call up the following amendments to the motion to concur with an amendment: Lee No. 4989, Braun No. 4990, Kennedy No. 4983; that they be the only remaining amendments in order to the House message on H.R. 2471; that at 8:30 p.m. today, the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed; that upon disposition of the amendments, the motion to refer and the motion to concur with an amendment be withdrawn and the Senate vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2471, and with 60 affirmative votes required for adoption of Kennedy No. 4983 and the motion to concur, with 2 minutes for debate equally divided between each vote, and all votes after the first vote be 10 minutes; finally, that if the motion to concur is agreed to, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, across America, our schools are open and our children are back in the classroom, and that is great news for everyone.

Unfortunately, providing our children healthy food has been a real challenge for schools thanks to supply chain challenges that are happening in many places and almost in every State.

This chart shows the supply chain disruptions across the country, with the red being almost 100 percent of the schools having supply chain challenges and disruptions.

Over 90 percent of the schools in the majority of the country are having challenges just buying the food they need for the children. That is why, during the pandemic, Congress made sure schools and meal providers had flexibility to continue to feed hungry children.

Ninety percent of our schools, from rural Alaska to downtown Louisville, are still relying on these flexibilities to keep their children fed. Extending these bipartisan tools in the omnibus package is essential to helping schools ease back into regular operations for our children.

Nutrition operations at schools are working hard. They are working as hard as they can to get back to normal, but it takes time, and the waivers help. When basic staples like chicken and whole grains cost double, waivers help schools in Caribou, MN, for instance, keep feeding kids. When supply chain limits available food options like ground beef or fruit, schools in Bismarck, ND, for instance, can use substitutions to put together healthy lunches.

Hunger doesn't go away just because school is out. Thanks to these waivers, communities from Michigan, to Kentucky, to Utah were able to feed more children over the summer, particularly in rural communities.

If schools or meal providers are unable to serve meals because of ongoing challenges, that hurts all of our children. Over 2,000 groups, from the School Nutrition Association, to Feeding America, to local school boards and superintendents and administrators, have all called on Congress to do what is right and extend these waivers.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have these letters printed in the RECORD.

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

NOVEMBER 10, 2021.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN DELAURO, RANKING MEMBER GRANGER, CHAIRMAN LEAHY, VICE CHAIRMAN SHELBY, CHAIRMAN BISHOP, RANKING MEMBER HARRIS, CHAIRWOMAN BALDWIN, RANKING MEMBER HOEVEN: At the start of the COVID–19 pandemic, Congress gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) the authority to issue nationwide child nutrition waivers to address access and operational challenges created by the pandemic, allowing school nutrition programs, local government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to adapt as necessary to changes such as school closures and virtual learning. This authority was established through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116–127), extended for Fiscal Year 2021 through the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 116–159) and again extended to June 30, 2022 through the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 117–43). Without these waivers, the child nutrition programs would not have been able to adequately respond to the fallout from COVID–19. The meals provided through the child nutrition programs have been critical to our nation's pandemic response to childhood hunger.

Unfortunately, the COVID–19 pandemic is far from over. Families continue to need support, and school nutrition departments and community sponsors still struggle to operate under the unique circumstances created by

the pandemic. Contrary to where many people thought and hoped we would be at this point in the pandemic, COVID–19 continues to be a threat causing school closures and requiring students to stay home in quarantine. It is unclear when schools and community organizations will be able to fully return to normal operations, particularly in light of future variants of COVID–19 that may develop.

When the Public Health Emergency does finally end, it will take time for nutrition operations to recover from the challenges created during the pandemic: to rebuild their programs and overcome the significant financial impact. USDA will need waiver authority to support schools and program operators through the summer and as the school year begins.

The authority to provide a nationwide waiver in response to the pandemic, even if it increases program costs, has only been extended to June 30, 2022 and waivers cannot be provided beyond the 2021–2022 school year (which the statute defines as ending each year on June 30). This arbitrary deadline means that summer meal programs will not be able to operate under the same program rules through the entire summer. It also takes away USDA's ability to respond to the operational and access challenges that are likely at the start of the new school year in what will hopefully be the first year back to normal school nutrition operations.

We, the undersigned organizations, ask Congress to further extend USDA's nationwide waiver authority to September 30, 2022 to give USDA the flexibility needed to respond to the pandemic as well as its aftermath, and to ensure that the federal child nutrition programs continue to operate and provide healthy snacks and meals to students.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association; Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; Afterschool Alliance; American Commodity Distribution Association; American Heart Association; Boys & Girls Clubs of America; Bread for the World; Center for Biological Diversity; Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI); Children's Defense Fund; Feeding America; First Focus Campaign for Children.

FoodCorps; Food Research & Action Center; MomsRising; National Education Association; National Farm to School Network; National PTA; National Recreation and Park Association; School Nutrition Association; Share Our Strength; Urban School Food Alliance; YMCA of the USA.

FEBRUARY 4, 2022.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN DELAURO, RANKING MEMBER GRANGER, CHAIRMAN LEAHY, VICE CHAIRMAN SHELBY: We are members of the Mayors Alliance to End Childhood Hunger, a nonpartisan coalition representing more than 65 mayors across the nation working in partnership with Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign to ensure that every child has the healthy food they need to thrive. We appreciate Congress' ongoing efforts to help the millions of children who rely on federal child nutrition programs as a daily source of nutrition. At the start of the pandemic, Congress provided the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) with the authority to issue nationwide child nutrition waivers to ensure that children would continue to have access to healthy meals despite COVID–19 related disruptions and safety precautions.

With the pandemic continuing, we urge Congress to extend USDA's waiver authority through the 2022–2023 school year, giving USDA the authority to provide community organizations and school nutrition providers with the critical flexibilities needed to respond to public health requirements and supply chain disruptions. This is necessary to ensure that the federal child nutrition programs continue to operate and provide healthy meals and snacks for vulnerable children.

Our cities are on the frontline of responding to challenges in our communities, and as mayors, we need every option available to fight childhood hunger. Waivers for child nutrition program requirements have allowed schools, community partners, and other organizations in our cities to operate with the flexibility to meet the growing need while protecting the health and safety of kids during the pandemic. However, these critical waivers are currently set to expire at the end of the 2021–2022 school year, and the USDA does not have the authority to issue or extend waivers beyond that point unless Congress acts. The uncertainty about the extension of USDA's waiver authority is a significant barrier to schools and community organizations trying to make plans to feed children this summer and next school year since the requirements affect budgets, staffing, and vendors. Furthermore, the expiration of USDA's waiver authority at the end of the 2021–2022 school year further limits summer meal programs by not operating under the same programs by not operating under the same program rules across the entire summer. With deadlines looming, especially for summer operations, organizations must have the reassurance they need that they will be able to safely run programs despite ongoing challenges. This hits our communities particularly hard because summer is the hungriest time for children. Summer hunger should not be intensified because meal programs lack the flexibility they need to reach kids.

The suite of child nutrition waivers has given community organizations and school nutrition providers critical flexibilities that have:

Supported families who needed to pick up multiple meals at a time in one location as they returned to work or faced transportation challenges.

Allowed for social distancing protocols through grab-and-go meal distribution or delivery.

Ensured that children who need meals are getting nutritious food as families continue to struggle economically through the pandemic.

Helped school nutrition providers support a return to ''normal'' in-person learning with the flexibility to implement safety precautions and overcome supply chain and labor disruptions.

Child nutrition programs play a critical role in helping kids learn, stay healthy, and thrive.

Again, we urge Congress to act now by extending USDA's waiver authority so that schools and community organizations have ample time to ensure that no child struggles to find their next meal.

Sincerely,

Levar Stoney, Chair, Mayors Alliance, Mayor of Richmond, VA; John Giles, Vice Chair, Mayors Alliance, Mayor of Mesa, AZ; Timothy L. Ragland, Mayor of Talladega, AL; Randall Woodfin, Mayor of Birmingham, AL; Hillrey Adams, Mayor of Mountain Home, AR; Lioneld Jordan, Mayor of Fayetteville, AR; Regina Romero, Mayor of Tucson, AZ.

London Breed, Mayor of San Francisco, CA; Martha Guerrero, Mayor of West Sacramento, CA; Darrell Steinberg, Mayor of Sacramento, CA; Michael B. Hancock, Mayor of Denver, CO; Luke Bronin, Mayor of Hartford, CT; Muriel Bowser, Mayor of Washington, DC; John E. Dailey, Mayor of Tallahassee, FL; Lori Lightfoot, Mayor of Chicago, IL.

Sharon Weston Broome, Mayor of Baton Rouge, LA; Kim Driscoll, Mayor of Salem, MA; Jake Day, Mayor of Salisbury, MD; Michael Foley, Mayor of Westbrook, ME: Andy Schor, Mayor of Lansing, MI; Chokwe A. Lumumba, Mayor of Jackson, MS; Pam Hemminger, Mayor of Chapel Hill, NC; Elaine O'Neal, Mayor of Durham, NC.

Sandy Roberson, Mayor of Rocky Mount, NC; Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor of Lincoln, NE; Dave Fried, Mayor of Robbinsville, NJ; Jeff Martin, Mayor of Hamilton, NJ; Kenneth Miyagishima, Mayor of Las Cruces, NM; Alan Webber, Mayor of Santa Fe, NM; Hillary Schieve, Mayor of Reno, NV; Malik Evans, Mayor of Rochester NY.

Kathy Sheehan, Mayor of Albany, NY; Justin M. Bibb, Mayor of Cleveland, OH; Tito Brown, Mayor of Youngstown, OH; Andrew J. Ginther, Mayor of Columbus, OH; Ted Wheeler, Mayor of Portland, OR; James Kenney, Mayor of Philadelphia, PA; Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor of Providence, RI; Brandon L. Weatherford, Mayor of Eutawville, SC.

Eric Johnson, Mayor of Dallas, TX; Trey Mendez, Mayor of Brownsville, TX; Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of San Antonio, TX; Mattie Parker, Mayor of Fort Worth, TX; Sylvester Turner, Mayor of Houston, TX; Barbara Tolbert, Mayor of Arlington, WA; Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor of Madison, WI; Steve Williams, Mayor of Huntington, WV.

FEBRUARY 4, 2022.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN DELAURO, RANKING MEMBER GRANGER, CHAIRMAN LEAHY, VICE CHAIRMAN SHELBY, CHAIRMAN BISHOP, RANKING MEMBER HARRIS, CHAIRWOMAN BALDWIN, RANKING MEMBER HOEVEN: We, the undersigned national, state, and local organizations, ask you to further extend USDA's nationwide waiver authority through School Year 2022–2023 in recognition of the ongoing pandemic, the continuing school closures, and the need for flexibility to meet the needs of students.

At the start of the COVID–19 pandemic, Congress gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) the authority to issue nationwide child nutrition waivers to address access and operational challenges created by the pandemic, allowing school nutrition programs, local government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to adapt as necessary to changes such as school closures and virtual learning. This authority was established through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116–127), extended for Fiscal Year 2021 through the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 116–159) and again extended to June 30, 2022 through the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 117–43). Without these waivers, the child nutrition programs would not have been able to adequately respond to the fallout from COVID–19. Throughout the pandemic schools and community meal sponsors have relied on these waivers to keep children fed during short- and long-term closures, alleviate child hunger, and advance racial equity and child well-being.

Unfortunately, the COVID–19 pandemic is far from over. Families continue to need support, particularly Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous families who disproportionately lack reliable access to healthy meals, and school nutrition departments and community sponsors still struggle to operate under the unique circumstances created by the pandemic. Contrary to where many people thought and hoped we would be at this point in the pandemic, COVID–19 continues to be a threat causing frequent school closures and

requiring students to stay home in quarantine and miss meals. Currently short and long-term school closures are occurring constantly across the country. They are due not only to COVID exposures and the need to quarantine but to staffing shortages and teacher burnout. It is unclear when schools and community organizations will be able to fully return to normal operations, particularly in light of omicron and future variants of COVID–19 that may develop.

The authority to provide a nationwide waiver in response to the pandemic, even if it increases program costs, has only been extended to June 30, 2022 and waivers cannot be provided beyond the 2021–2022 school year (which the statute defines as ending each year on June 30). This arbitrary deadline means that summer meal programs will not be able to operate Under the same program rules through the entire summer, forcing many providers to stop serving 'meals or shut down altogether and leaving millions of children without access to healthy meals. The June 30th expiration also takes away USDA's ability to respond to the supply chain, operational, and access challenges that are likely despite what will hopefully be the first year back to normal school operations. Moreover, it denies schools and other sponsors the tools and flexibilities they need to recover from the impacts of the pandemic and resume normal operations.

We, the undersigned national, state and local organizations, ask Congress to further extend USDA's nationwide waiver authority through School Year 2022–2023 to ensure USDA has continued flexibility to respond to the ongoing and evolving impacts of the pandemic as well as its aftermath, and to ensure that the federal child nutrition programs continue to operate and provide healthy snacks and meals to students.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AASA, The School Superintendents Association; Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; Advocates for Better Children's Diets; Affinity Group; Afterschool Alliance; Agudath Israel of America; All Our Kin; Alliance for a Healthier Generation; Alliance to End Hunger; American Academy of Pediatrics; American Commodity Distribution Association; American Diabetes Association; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); American Federation of Teachers; American Heart Association.

American Public Health Association; American Society for Nutrition; AMIkids, Inc; Aramak; Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO); Association of SNAP Nutrition; Education Administrators (ASNNA); Association of State Public Health Nutritionists; Autistic People of Color Fund; Azimuth Trust; Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty; Better Tomorrows; Black Men's Health Initiative; Boys & Girls Clubs of America; Bread for the World; Buena Vista Foods; BUILD Initiative; CACFP Roundtable.

Center for American Progress; Center for Biological Diversity; Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Center for Science in the Public Interest; Chef Ann Foundation; Child Care Aware of America; Child Care Resources, Inc. of VA, DC, MD, OH, PA, TX; Children's Defense Fund; Children's HealthWatch; Chilis on Wheels; Church World Service; Coalition for Healthy School Food; Coalition on Human Needs; Common Threads; Commonwealth Care Alliance; Compass Group USA; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces; Congressional Hunger Center; Council of Chief State School Officers; DataHash LLC.

Disciples Center for Public Witness; Deliverance Children's Ministry; Don Lee Farms; E S Foods; Eat REAL; Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC); Equal Heart; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; F.I.S.H.; Fair Food Network; Feeding America; First Children's Finance; First Focus Campaign for Children; Food for Good; Food insight Group; Food Research & Action Center.

FoodCorps; Fork Farms Foundation; Friends of the Earth; GIVN; Gold Kist Farms; Healthy Food America; HEAR US Inc.; Hip Hop is Green; Hispanic Federation; Hunger Free America; Institute For Child Success; International Dairy Foods Association; International Fresh Produce Association; Islamic Relief USA; Jack Link's Protein Snacks; John F. Kennedy Family Service Center; Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future; KidKare by Minute Menu; Kitchen Sync Strategies.

Laurie M. Tisch Center for Food, Education & Policy; Leonetti's Frozen Foods Inc; Love Little Children, Inc.; LunchAssist; M.C.I. Foods, Inc.; MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger; Migrant Legal Action Program; MomsRising; National Association of Elementary School Principals; National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; National Association for Family Child Care; National Association for the Education of Young Children; National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities; National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners.

National Association of Social Workers; National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education; National CACFP Sponsors Association; National Community Action Partnership; National Council of Jewish Women; National Education Association; National Farm to School Network; National Food Group; National Immigration Law Center; National Indian child Care Association; National Life Group Foundation; National Milk Producers Federation; National PTA; National Recreation and Park Association; National School Boards Association; National WIC Association; National Women's Law Center.

Native Farm Bill Coalition; Norris Products Corporation; Northwest Nutrition Service; Olsson Frank Weeda Partnership for America's Children; Poetry X Hunger; Porter-Leath; Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK); Public Health Institute; RESULTS; Revolution English/Noticias para Inmigrantes; Revolution Foods; Save the Children; Save the Children Action Network (SCAN); School Nutrition Association; SchoolHouse Connection; Share Our Strength; Shriver Center on Poverty Law; Slow Food USA.

FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

DEAR SENATOR STABENOW: On behalf of the Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators, I am writing to urge you to extend the U.S. Department of Agriculture's nationwide waiver authority to September 30, 2022 to give USDA the flexibility needed to respond to the pandemic and to ensure that the districts operating federal child nutrition programs continue to operate and provide healthy snacks and meals to the students.

At the start of the COVID–19 pandemic, Congress gave the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) the authority to issue nationwide child nutrition waivers to address access and operational challenges created by the pandemic, allowing school nutrition programs and local government agencies to adapt as necessary to changes such as school closures and virtual learning. These waivers have been critical in ensuring that child nutrition programs can adequately respond to the fallout from COVID–19 and continue to provide meals to children.

Unfortunately, the COVID–19 pandemic is far from over. Families continue to need support, and school nutrition departments and community sponsors still struggle to operate under the unique circumstances created by the pandemic. When the Public Health Emergency does finally end, it will take time for nutrition operations to recover from the challenges created during the pandemic: to rebuild their programs and overcome the significant financial impact. USDA will need waiver authority to support schools and program operators through the summer and as the school year begins.

The authority to provide a nationwide waiver in response to the pandemic, even if it increases program costs, has only been extended to June 30, 2022 and waivers cannot be provided beyond the 2021–2022 school year (which the statute defines as ending each year on June 30). This arbitrary deadline means that summer meal programs will not be able to operate under the same program rules through the entire summer. It also takes away USDA's ability to respond to the operational and access challenges that are likely at the start of the new school year in what will hopefully be the first year back to normal school nutrition operations.

Additionally, districts need stability and clarity as they prepare for the 2022–2023 school year and should know whether the waivers will be available.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter,

MATT SCHUELLER,
Director of Government Relations, Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators.

Ms. STABENOW. We all want life to get back to normal. Right now, we need our Republican colleagues to support the bipartisan tools that will help get us there.

This amendment is a short extension. There is a clear end date when schools will be back to normal operations, but in the meantime, these waivers are key to helping schools stay open and operate in person for our children.

Taking these waivers away would leave schools and summer meal programs scrambling, and that hurts up to 30 million kids who eat school meals—30 million kids. Smaller rural schools and their students would undoubtedly be hurt the worst.

It is time for Congress to stand with our schools and with our children. So would the Senator agree to modify his request to include a vote in relation to Stabenow amendment No. 2994?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modification?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, speaking on behalf of Leader MCCONNELL and with all due respect to my friend from Michigan, this is a COVID-related provision which the Biden administration never requested. It is not in the President's budget. It is not even in the supplemental budget. The administration asked for everything under the Sun, but they never asked for this.

This is another example of my colleagues trying to take an emergency pandemic, the exemptions, and turn

them into permanent changes that last forever. Families don't want schools to be permanently stuck in a pandemic posture. Families want schools to move past COVID and get back to normal. Yet this amendment would continue policies that were explicitly designed to help schools close and go virtual. That is exactly what families don't want. Parents and kids want schools open.

Finally, this amendment costs $11 billion, and it is not offset. For the people watching this tonight, that means it is not paid for. It is $11 billion more that we can't afford.

We had a fully-paid-for COVID package ready to go until the House Democrats blew it up. We will not be going around the backs of our own Senate committees of jurisdiction because House Democrats killed a bipartisan COVID package.

So I respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the modification.

Is there objection to the original request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, in the last 4 days alone, the U.S. Senate has passed a sweeping postal reform bill, unanimously approved anti-lynching legislation, approved emergency aid to Ukraine, and now we are about to fully fund the government. From start to finish, it has been a very productive and very bipartisan week in the Senate. If we cold boil down this week to three words in the Senate, they would be ''productive,'' ''bipartisan,'' and ''successful.''

In a few moments, the Senate will pass the strongest, boldest, and most significant government funding package we have seen in a long time. This bipartisan funding package is a significant and far-reaching win for the American people, and I am glad the Senate moved as quickly today as I hoped we would.

To my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I say: Bravo. A job well done.

We are keeping our promise to support Ukraine as they fight for their lives against the evil Vladimir Putin. With nearly $14 billion in emergency aid, Congress will approve more than double what the administration originally requested. We took the President's original request for Ukraine aid, examined it, and added to it, and every last penny of the money will be well spent. We are giving the Ukrainians billions for food, medicine, shelter, and support for the over 2 million refugees who have had to leave Ukraine, as well as funding for weapons transfers like Javelins and Stingers.

We are going to reassure and strengthen NATO and add teeth to our defenses against Russia's malicious cyber warfare.

We promised the Ukrainian people they would not go at it alone in their fight against Putin, and once we pass this funding in a short while, we will keep that promise.

On the domestic front, this funding bill is awash with good news for our country. We are about to give our troops a pay raise. We are increasing funding for our schools and Head Start Programs and Pell grants. We are reviving at last the Violence Against Women Act. We are kick-starting the President's Cancer Moonshot. And with this package, we will unlock billions upon billions to fully fund the bipartisan infrastructure law.

Of course, we didn't get everything we hoped for. In the weeks ahead, we must—we absolutely must—work to secure more COVID money. COVID funding is about being prepared. By funding vaccines and therapeutics and testing, we will be ready for the next variant and stand a better chance of keeping schools open and preserving normality in our daily lives. We are going to keep working on this. It is too important to ignore.

Now, as we reach the finish line, I want to sincerely thank Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member SHELBY. What a fitting and worthy accomplishment as they near the end of their tenures in office.

I have always said from my first day as majority leader that Democrats would be willing to work in a bipartisan way to get things done whenever we could. Once the omnibus passes, the Senate will have sealed the deal on three major, bipartisan accomplishments this week alone.

Of course, when we are unable to find common ground, Democrats will hold firm in defense of our values and be willing to work alone if needed, but this week, bipartisanship has propelled us over the finish line. It has not been easy to put this package together, but we are moments away from getting it done, and I thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, the majority leader referred to what we are doing this evening as ''awash with good news.'' Well, it is also awash with earmarks. They have not been around for over 10 years, and we are bringing them back.

I am going to call up an amendment here in a bit that is going to talk about what to do about them, but I think you need to have a backdrop of what we are doing here this evening.

I am on the Budget Committee, and we didn't report out a budget resolution, and I don't think we have done a budget consistently for over 10 years.

This is the biggest business in the world that now is spending close to $5 trillion—only $1.5 trillion of it that is even subject to review because the one ingenious thing that we have done here is put most of our spending on autopilot. That is what drives the government currently, and that means that the Budget Committee is a useless appendage because we don't use it anymore.

I got here a little over 3 years ago. We were $18 trillion in debt. Now we are over $30 trillion in debt, and everyone seems to shrug their shoulders. That is not a good business plan, for Americans to be borrowing money, even if it has good stuff in it, when it is for consumption. It will only end up in a hard reconciliation down the road.

Now, let's talk about earmarks. It is kind of a gateway drug to more spending. There are 367 pages of earmarks. I just took a quick poll how much it weighs in paper—4 to 5 pounds. We haven't had them for over 10 years, and now they are back.

In the House, they said they are OK with it. In the Senate, the other side of the aisle said they are OK with it. We said we are not OK with it in our Republican conference, but any Senator can do it anyway.

Those are called gimmicks and loopholes, and that is the way the place works. None of us here are sure how much money is actually being devoted to these. It is a wasteful tool that was away for a long time, and it is on top of a budget that was never done, and what we are doing this evening was supposed to have been done by September 30 of last year. Too many people depend on this place to have a system that is run by the seat of its pants.

You bring the earmarks back—well, there are supposed to be a few rules that go with them.

You are supposed to make them public 2 days before you actually have to vote on them. Well, that didn't happen. The text was released at 1:30 a.m. yesterday—2,700 pages. The House passed it only after 20 hours of review. That is at the rate of about having to come up with finding out a billion dollars a minute of what is in it.

Members are supposed to have a financial disclosure attached to any earmark. That hasn't happened either. It is just one of those simple details that seem to never get attended to in this place.

Let's look at a few of the doozies.

One earmark spends half a million dollars to promote health equity in Yonkers in New York.

One spends $1.6 million for university research into equitable shellfish aquaculture. I don't know what that is, but it is in Rhode Island.

One earmark spends $300,000 on the Alliance for Gun Responsibility Foundation, a leftwing lobbying group that claims that the Second Amendment has a history of being used as a tool of White supremacy.

These are three samples of hundreds and hundreds of earmarks. It is not what the American public deserves. They expect more out of us. It should be a merit-based system on what we spend here. It should be going through regular order on the Budget Committee I am on, where you bring people in to testify. Do you actually need more money? What you did spend the year before, was it spent well? That is the way all other places in this country do

it because it is the only thing that works. Here, the system has been so degraded, this is what we end up with.

I will end with this: Most of my colleagues here, I think, view this place as a growth business, but a growth business is based on a few things. You generally make a profit. That is not what this is about. But you balance your budget, you do things that make sense year after year. And when you are spending money that constitutes almost 20 percent of our GDP, you would think you would put more into it than dropping 2,700 pages in our lap and thinking that you can get through it.

For those who want more of this, for the sake of the institution, you ought to be concerned about what it is going to look like down the road when we add another $1.5 trillion in debt to our current $30 trillion, and there is no end in sight. A lot of stories have been written throughout history on where that ends up, and it is in the ditch.

The Medicare trust fund will be completely exhausted in about 4½ years; 18 percent benefit cuts when that happens.

Actuarially, we have known the Social Security fund is going to go broke in about 10 or 11 years. What will we do? We will probably wait until the year before it happens, not make any other reforms, and then borrow the money to backfill it and put more and more obligation on our kids and our grandkids.

I am going to call up my amendment in a bit.

I will yield the floor at this time.

EB–5 REFORM AND INTEGRITY ACT OF 2022

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator LEAHY for joining me to discuss the EB–5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022. He and I have worked together on the issue of EB–5 reform for many years.

Because of that, we are proud that the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2022 includes the provisions of the EB–5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022, of which we are the primary authors.

Congress originally authorized the EB–5 Regional Center program in 1993 as a pilot program, and, in recent years, its reauthorization was often included in appropriations bills. However, due to lack of an agreement to reauthorize and reform the program last year, it lapsed on June 30 and has remained lapsed since that time.

This legislation formally repeals the pilot program created by Congress in 1993 and codifies in its place a new regional center program reflecting a number of reforms that we have pursued for many years.

All regional centers which operated under the lapsed and repealed pilot program will be expected to seek a new regional center designation in compliance with the new requirements and reforms laid out in our bill. However, the bill allows petitions filed by immigrant investors under the old pilot program to continue to be adjudicated under the law as it existed when they were filed.

The EB–5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022 codifies a number of our long-sought reforms designed to enhance the integrity of the regional center program and prevent fraud and abuse that have plagued it for far too long.

The bill also requires that DHS issue regulations regarding the redeployment of investor funds if certain conditions are met. We expect USCIS to oversee redeployments and take action as necessary. Investors should not be left vulnerable and regional centers cannot be allowed to deploy funds in any way they please. We expect capital to remain at risk, as required by the law, and the redeployment of funds to be in projects that are preapproved.

The legislation codifies the definition of and the designation process for a ''high unemployment'' targeted employment area that was found in the 2019 EB–5 Immigrant Investor Program Modernization Rule. As under the 2019 rule, the bill allows only DHS to make such designations.

The codification of the so-called donut model from the 2019 rule will significantly limit the number of census tracts that may be used to seek a designation as a ''high unemployment'' TEA.

This limitation, combined with the exclusive authority of DHS to make high unemployment TEA designations, will crack down on the notorious practice of TEA gerrymandering, the practice of creating elaborate configurations of multiple census tracts strung together so that a census tract with high unemployment at one end can be used in order to obtain a TEA designation for a building project within an affluent census tract at the other end, perhaps many miles away.

It is also our expectation that ''high unemployment'' TEA designations will be reserved for census tracts that have experienced persistently high unemployment for a number of years and not because of temporary anomalous circumstances such as local unemployment caused by the COVID–19 pandemic.

Finally, the legislation puts in place specific visa set-asides for rural area projects, high unemployment area projects, and infrastructure projects. The visa set-aside for infrastructure projects is limited to true public infrastructure projects—that is, those that benefit the public and the American people—not public-private partnerships or projects for a private business.

The EB–5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022 is the result of years of hard work and negotiation, and it is our hope that it brings meaningful reform to a program badly in need of it and, most importantly, much-needed investment capital and the permanent jobs that can come with it, to inner city and rural areas where it is normally difficult, if not impossible, to attract investment capital. We are grateful that it was included in the Omnibus bill and look forward to seeing it signed into law.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022. This bill would reauthorize our Nation's critical law to respond to domestic violence. It is long overdue.

Last month, I introduced the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act alongside Senators Ernst, Durbin, Murkowski, and others. A number of advocates joined us, including Angelina Jolie, to speak about the importance of this bill.

This bill has received strong bipartisan support, including from 11 Republican cosponsors. And it has now been included in the Federal Omnibus spending bill we are set to vote on this week.

This bipartisan bill would reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act through 2027. And the bill includes important updates to modernize the Violence Against Women Act to do an even better job of protecting and supporting the survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

I was proud to support the original Violence Against Women Act in 1994. And I have supported each reauthorization of the law since then.

This includes the most recent reauthorization in 2013, which passed the Senate by a strong bipartisan vote of 78–22.

I was honored to be able to sponsor this new reauthorization, which expands protections for survivors.

This bill is the result of a truly bipartisan effort. I would like to thank Senators Ernst, Durbin, and Murkowski for working with me to prepare this important piece of legislation.

We have also had help from a number of our Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have made important contributions to this effort.

I would also like to thank the many advocates who provided valuable input and support for this effort. This bill was written in close consultation with the people who are on the frontlines helping survivors of domestic violence every day.

Together, we drafted a bill that preserves the good work of the last Violence Against Women Act reauthorization and strengthens existing programs.

For nearly 30 years, the Violence Against Women Act has played a vital role in the Federal response to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. I hope that this bill will be an effective tool to build on those efforts.

The need to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act is clear. These programs are vital tools that provide thousands of domestic violence survivors with the resources they need.

For instance, according to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, in a single day in 2020 there were

76,525 survivors of domestic violence who received assistance thanks to programs funded and supported by the Violence Against Women Act.

Despite the progress made over the last three decades, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse are still painful realities for far too many Americans.

More than one in three women and more than one in four men will experience rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, in my home State of California, approximately 35 percent of California women and 31 percent of California men will experience violence from intimate partners in their lifetimes.

All too often, these instances of domestic violence have fatal consequences. Nationwide, an average of three women each day are killed by a current or former intimate partner.

Based on a recent study of domestic violence occurring in Orange County, CA, just under half of domestic violence-related homicides involved an individual with a known history of violence.

The Violence Against Women Act plays a critical role supporting law enforcement in their efforts to stop these perpetrators before it is too late.

It is clear that the programs created by the Violence Against Women Act are necessary. And they need to be continually updated to meet the needs of survivors.

The bipartisan reauthorization bill that will soon be considered by the full Senate would reauthorize these important programs and provide the necessary updates to strengthen them.

This bill enhances and expands services for survivors of domestic violence, including survivors in rural communities, LGBT survivors, survivors with disabilities, and survivors who experience abuse later in life.

This bill reauthorizes and strengthens the criminal justice response to domestic violence, including by improving the Justice Department's STOP grant program and strengthening the ability of Tribal courts to address instances of domestic violence on Tribal lands.

This bill establishes a pilot program on restorative practices that focuses on addressing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking through community-based, victim-initiated efforts to seek accountability.

This bill invests in prevention education efforts and improves the healthcare system's response to sexual violence across the country.

These updates can have a real impact. According to analysis by the International Association of Forensic Nurses, only one in four hospitals throughout the country currently has a sexual assault forensic nurse on staff. These gaps in our healthcare system have critical impacts on a survivor's ability to seek necessary medical attention after they experience sexual violence.

Our bipartisan bill seeks to remedy this problem by providing additional funding and training to increase access to forensic nurses, particularly in rural areas.

Though this bipartisan bill makes significant improvements to our Nation's response to domestic violence, it is not a perfect bill. I regret that certain provisions were unable to be included in this bill.

In particular, I wish that we had been able to include a provision in this bill closing the ''boyfriend loophole.'' This provision would have ensured that individuals convicted of domestic abuse against a dating partner could not purchase firearms.

Individuals who are convicted of domestic violence against a spouse are already prevented from purchasing a firearm. It is deeply disappointing that there is not sufficient bipartisan support for this commonsense provision to close this dangerous loophole.

Though we still have work to do, this bipartisan bill represents a strong step forward in protecting and supporting the survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

It is time for the Senate to pass this long-overdue reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bipartisan legislation as it is considered on the floor. This bill is not for us; it is for the millions of brave survivors that deserve action from Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

AMENDMENT NO. 4989

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 4989 and ask that it be reported by number.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Utah [Mr. LEE] proposes an amendment numbered 4989.

The amendment is as follows:

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

At the end of division HH, add the following:

TITLE VII—PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR COVID–19 VACCINE MANDATES

SEC. 701. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR COVID–19 VACCINE MANDATES.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under any division of this Act (notwithstanding section 3) 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, a few short months ago, President Biden issued a series of Executive orders. These Executive orders issued by the Biden administration proposed some pretty sweeping mandates on the American people, mandates insisting that covered persons, including for our purposes today military employees, Federal workers, employees of businesses with government contracts with the Federal Government, and medical professionals who contract with CMS—basically anyone involved with the provision of services through Medicare or Medicaid must get the COVID–19 vaccine on condition of termination.

The way these mandates work is particularly nasty, especially if they work for one of the private companies, as is the case with CMS and independent contractor mandates. If they don't fire all their workers who don't get vaccinated, then they basically are rendered out of business.

Yes, the Federal Government was going to just impose these crippling costs that no corporation could afford to carry. They knew that this was creating a big issue and that this would force people into getting vaccinated.

Here is the problem with that. Now, I want to be clear. I have been vaccinated. My family has been vaccinated. I believe that vaccines have made things safer and healthier for hundreds of millions of people. I also believe that, like any medical procedure, it is not without risk, particularly to some people who might have extreme sensitivities, who might have an idiosyncratic response to the vaccine. So it is not right to force this on everyone and to render those who refuse to get it not only unemployed but unemployable.

I have received communications from countless people—for example, military professionals, military officers, and enlisted personnel who have worked for the U.S. military for nearly two decades, who are actually coming up on retirement, who are saying that, for one reason or another, they don't want to get the vaccine. Sometimes, it is religious; other times, it is based on a history of poor reactions to other vaccines or a prior medical condition that they believe would cause them to respond poorly or based on natural immunity.

They don't want to get the vaccine, and they are being told that, in the case of military personnel, if they don't get it, then they will not receive

an honorable discharge. This could render them not only unemployed but unemployable, and that is the case for many, many others subject to these overreaching mandates.

Look, if we decided as a country that this was good policy, good policy, like all good policy, should be embodied in law. In my copy of the Constitution, the very first clause of the very first section of the very first article says that ''all legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.'' Article I, section 7 makes the point even clearer. It says that in order to pass a law within the Federal system and have it be a Federal law, it has to be proposed in one body or the other, but it has to be the same legislation passed by both Houses prior to its presentment to the President for signature, veto, or acquiescence.

In this case, we have had none of those things. No, instead, you have unilateral Executive action taken by the President and those working within his administration. In the process, they have bypassed that this set of mandates is largely unnecessary, dramatically overreaching, not within the executive power granted to the executive branch of government by the U.S. Congress, and is fundamentally immoral, in addition to being wildly and increasingly unpopular.

You see, the little secret is, people don't like the government doing things that are immoral. And all of us understand that you don't render someone unemployed, unable to put bread on the table for their children, simply because they won't bow to Presidential medical orthodoxy. That is not right, it is not American, and it is not constitutional, but more than anything, it is not moral.

We all know deep down that this is not right. This is not something any of us would want to do. Not one of us would want to show up and tell our own employees: You know, if you don't do what I say with regard to a medical procedure you may not want and as to which you might have legitimate, sincere religious objections or that might be unnecessary because you have natural immunity, which, by the way—recent studies have confirmed natural immunity is at least as good as and, according to many studies released by many countries and studies in possession of our own government, is indicated to be at least as powerful as and in many cases more powerful than the immunity achieved through the vaccine. None of us would do that to a friend, a neighbor, or our own employee because we know it would be wrong; it would be mean; it would be unkind.

You can't atone for the unkindness and the immorality in that by claiming it is OK because it is through the government, especially not when the President of the United States is flouting circumventing the Constitution of the United States.

We have a chance to make this right. Yes, over time, sadly, Senates and Houses of Representatives and White Houses of every conceivable partisan combination have contributed to this because, yes, we have given Executives too much power. I complained about it during the previous administration in response to specific actions taken by the previous President—who was a Member of my own party—sometimes at great personal expense because I believe Congress has given the Executive too much power. It is bad. It is harmful. It is dangerous. We have to stop it somewhere.

We have a chance right now. We have a shot with something that is wildly unpopular and inherently immoral, and that shot exists with not funding it. We don't have to fund that part of government that goes to fund these dangerous, immoral, unconstitutional vaccine mandates. We shouldn't do it. I encourage all of my colleagues, all within the sound of my voice, please end this madness now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I will be very brief. There are two reasons why Senators should vote against the Lee anti-vaccination amendment that affects our dedicated healthcare workers and our superlative military.

First, vaccines for healthcare workers protects the most vulnerable, particularly seniors and those with chronic illness. Three in four COVID deaths in America were seniors. Two hundred thousand were people living in long-term care. Vulnerable people are safer when their homes, hospitals, and doctors' offices are safe. Furthermore, flu shot requirements for healthcare workers were already common. Health workers know vaccinations are part of the job.

Turning to the Armed Forces, I am simply going to quote the letter General Milley wrote with respect to the vaccination requirement. Here is General Milley:

> We need each and every Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, Marine and Guardian healthy and capable of performing our duties. COVID–19 is a threat to force protection and readiness.

General Milley went on to say:

> With this in mind, the Secretary of Defense intends to mandate vaccinations for all Servicemembers.

And then he makes it clear:

> The Joint Force medical professionals recommended this as a necessary step to sustain our readiness and protect our force, our coworkers, our families, and our communities.

For these reasons, when we get a chance to vote on the Lee anti-vaccination amendment affecting healthcare workers in the military, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Lee amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 4983

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I am rising to support the amendment that my colleague Senator JOHN KENNEDY will introduce. So I will speak before he introduces it, but I speak in support thereof.

Senator KENNEDY is going to introduce an amendment that would increase and that would grant disaster relief in several regions of the country, but I speak on behalf of those in Southwest Louisiana.

A picture tells a thousand words. If you recall back 3 years ago, Hurricane Laura hit Southwest Louisiana. Two weeks later, almost on the exact same track, Hurricane Delta followed up, destroying that which had not already been destroyed by Hurricane Laura.

The devastation of these storms was dramatic. Now I thank the American people. There has been aid that has been given by fellow Americans to these communities, but it has been less than what is required. And flying over, the picture tells a thousand words. There are still blue tarps on top of roofs years after the storm has hit. And for those who are unfamiliar with it, blue tarps are when the roof has been destroyed, you place the tarp so that it hopefully provides protection that shingles otherwise would.

When you are on the ground and you go through the neighborhood, there are homes that are blighted, boarded up, and as they have been boarded up, criminals have come in and businesses have closed. This particularly affects lower income communities. Those who have more resources, they will recover, but those folks who need a little extra help, they are not.

And so, as we think about the aid that my fellow Americans are asked to give to their fellow Americans, I just will give some statistics. Hurricane Laura cost $19 billion in damages; Hurricane Delta another $3 billion; and Ida, of course, not only hit Southwest Louisiana, but cost $75 billion in damages from Louisiana to New York.

There is a lot that has happened. I ask for additional support as outlined in my colleague JOHN KENNEDY's amendment to finish the recovery for these folks who have endured so much.

I humbly ask my colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise tonight to urge my colleagues to support the Omnibus appropriations bill before us.

The bill represents a massive bipartisan effort that rests upon a framework that preserves all legacy riders, rejects poison pill policy provisions from both sides, and achieves dollar-for-dollar funding parity for defense and nondefense increases.

As political compromise has become more and more difficult here, great credit, I believe, belongs to Chairman LEAHY for making the tough choices that needed to be made and showing leadership to reach this agreement tonight.

The senior Senator from Vermont, who also serves this body as the President pro tempore, has accomplished many things in his long and his distinguished career. Each and every one of these accomplishments were made possible by his unparalleled ability to get things done, and this bill needed to get done.

Because the international security situation demands a greater emphasis on and investment in our national defense, this omnibus bill provides $782 billion for the Department of Defense and for other defense functions; $4 billion more than the level authorized by the National Defense Authorization Act; $30 billion more than President Biden's budget request; and nearly $42 billion more than 2021.

The bill also provides an 11-percent increase over fiscal year 2021 for the Department of Homeland Security, including $6.5 billion for much needed investments in border security resources and a 7-percent increase for ICE operations. Critically, the package restores $2 billion in funding for wall construction on the southwest border.

The bill also cuts nearly $65 billion in wasteful nondefense spending proposed in the Biden administration's budget—a nearly 10-percent decrease from the requested level.

Finally, the package also provides critical emergency assistance to our military, to Ukraine, and to our European allies, without reducing base defense spending by a single dollar.

Is an omnibus appropriations bill ideal? I will tell you tonight, the answer is, no, it is not, but at this critical time and this late date, it is necessary.

My hope is that we can pass this bill and use the same framework that made this bill possible as we begin the 2023 appropriations process.

I have no illusions that once again it will not be a difficult process. It will be. I know that our chairman can get it done, and I look forward to continuing to work with Senator LEAHY and the Appropriations staff—and with him one last time for both of us.

Before I complete my remarks, I would also like to recognize the incredible—and it is incredible—effort put forward by the staff members of both the Senate and House Appropriations Committees, as well as the staff of the respective leaders' offices. Without them we couldn't be where we are tonight. We asked them to do the impossible, and they delivered as they always do. And on behalf of the entire Senate, I want to thank them very, very much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be given a minute to describe my amendment and a minute be given to the Senator from Washington.

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

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, it is unkind for us to tell Americans—just moms and dads, ordinary people who are trying to live their lives and put food on the table—that they can't put food on the table and that they are going to be rendered unemployed and unemployable unless they defer to Presidential medical orthodoxy. It is not who we are as Americans. It is especially not who we are as is the case with these mandates. There are not adequate provisions made for those with preexisting medical conditions, for those with religious objections, and for those with natural immunity. That is what we are dealing with here. It is illegal; it is immoral; it is unkind; and we should not fund its enforcement.

I plead with my colleagues to support my amendment to defund the enforcement of these mandates.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, we have had this debate before many, many times.

Vaccines are safe; they are effective; and they are lifesaving. Because of our ability to get safe and effective vaccines out to Americans, nearly 100 percent of our schools are open again. More than 90 percent of people are in communities with low or medium levels of COVID, and people are finally getting back to a sense of normal in their everyday lives. Vaccines have helped to make that happen.

Here we are once again. It is hard to believe this isn't the first or even the second time that a few Senate Republicans have decided they want to risk a damaging government shutdown in order to oppose steps that save lives. I hope, for the sake of the people of this country, it is the last time this happens.

There are problems real families want us to solve. They want us to bring down costs with steps like the Democrats have proposed. They want us to stand up for democracy and the people of Ukraine, who are facing a war and a humanitarian crisis. They want us to learn from this pandemic so we are better prepared for whatever is next. I am going to focus on finding steps that we can actually take to help families, and I believe that is what most of us want too.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment, which risks derailing this important bipartisan bill, delaying needed aid to Ukraine, and causing a dangerous government shutdown.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 20 seconds to respond.

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

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, it is not helpful to American families to threaten the breadwinner—the mom or the dad or, maybe, both of them in some cases—with being rendered unemployed and unemployable and unable to put bread on the table.

This is not about being anti-vaccine. I am not that, and neither are any of the Senators who are supporting this effort. This is about supporting American families. It is not supporting them to order them fired.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 4989

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 4989, offered by the Senator from Utah, Mr. LEE.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 75 Leg.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—50

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

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The amendment (No. 4989) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if we want to hasten the evening, I would suggest everybody stay around. Try to sit in your seats. We are going to try to limit the rest of the votes to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote in relation to the Braun amendment, No. 4990.

The Senator from Indiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 4990

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I call up my amendment, No. 4990, 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 Indiana [Mr. BRAUN], for himself and others, proposes an amendment numbered 4990.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit funds from being used for earmarks)

At the end of the matter preceding division A, add the following:

SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON EARMARKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of any division of this Act, none of the funds made available under any division of this Act may be used to implement any earmark, Community Project Funding, or Congressionally Directed Spending specified in any provision of any division of this Act or in the explanatory statement described in section 4.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall prevent funds allocated for any earmark, Community Project Funding, or Congressionally Directed Spending included in any division of this Act or in the tables contained in the explanatory statement described in section 4 from being awarded under a merit-based process under existing law.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, this bill has 367 pages worth of earmarks, roughly 5 pounds of paper. Before it came to the Senate, dozens of House offices deleted their public disclosures. I think the swamp is rising again.

Dr. Tom Coburn, he would be appalled by this. He called earmarks—Madam President, I think it is clear that most aren't interested in talking about earmarks—something else. I believe they lead to waste and abuse. That is why Congress got rid of them 10 years ago. They should have never been allowed back.

My amendment would cut every one of them from this bill that should have been run through regular process, through the Budget Committee, to where appropriators should have known what was in it until it landed in our laps last night.

For anyone here that loves the institution, you ought to have enough common sense that $1.5 trillion deficits that are embedded in this bill aren't a good business plan for the institution. I ask you all here this evening: Make a statement—a symbolic one—to get rid of these earmarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. BRAUN. And let's quit shoving all this debt onto the next generation and on our kids.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the Senator asked those who love this institution to speak up. I am the Dean of the U.S. Senate. I have served here for 48 years. I love this institution.

I know the Constitution vests the power of the purse in the Congress. Certifications of these earmarks have been available to the public on our committee website at my request and Senator SHELBY's request for 8 months. Everybody knows what is here.

Vote for them or not; but, frankly, if I have to speak of what is needed for my State of Vermont, I want to be the one speaking for it—not somebody downtown. I would hope every Senator feels the same way.

I yield back the rest of my time. I oppose the amendment.

(Applause.)

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 4990

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. BRAUN. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 35, nays 64, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 76 Leg.]

YEAS—35

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Tester
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Toomey
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	Paul	Young
Fischer	Portman	

NAYS—64

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

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The amendment (No. 4990) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be two minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to Kennedy amendment No. 4983.

The Senator from Louisiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 4983

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I call up my amendment number—and Senator CASSIDY's amendment No. 4983 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 Louisiana [Mr. KENNEDY], for himself and Mr. CASSIDY, proposes an amendment numbered 4983.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide emergency assistance for disaster response and recovery, and for other expenses, directly related to Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Ida and to provide assistance for the Port Infrastructure Development Program)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the ''Community Development Fund'', for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure, housing, and economic revitalization in areas in States for which the President declared a major disaster under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) related to Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Ida, $2,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, for activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), of which—

(1) $600,000,000 shall be for activities related to Hurricanes Laura and Delta; and

(2) $1,400,000,000 shall be for activities related to Hurricane Ida.

(b) DEPOSIT OF C-BAND SPECTRUM AUCTION PROCEEDS IN TREASURY.—Section 309(j)(8) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(8)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and (G)'' and inserting ''(G), and (H)'';

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking ''and (G)'' and inserting ''(G), and (H)''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) C-BAND AUCTION PROCEEDS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), and except as provided in subparagraph (B), of the proceeds (including deposits and upfront payments from successful bidders) from the use of a system of competitive bidding under this subsection to award licenses in the band of frequencies between 3700 megahertz and 3980 megahertz (designated by the Commission as 'Auction 107'), $2,500,000,000 shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury and used for emergency assistance under section 240(a) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.''.

SEC. _____. ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated $500,000,000 for the Port Infrastructure Development Program within the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration, to equitably administer grant awards to ports that incurred damages from Hurricanes Laura, Delta, Zeta, and Ida and Tropical Storm Cristobal.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for up to 2 minutes of debate; Senator CASSIDY for 1 minute of debate; and Senator SCHATZ for 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, in 2020, Hurricane Laura hit Louisiana,

then Hurricane Marco hit us, then Hurricane Delta hit us, then Hurricane Zeta, then Hurricane Ida—all in a period of 2 years.

Those storms caused $150 billion in damage. My amendment and Senator CASSIDY's amendment will appropriate $2.5 billion in disaster aid to Louisiana. That would include $600 million for housing aid for Hurricanes Laura and Delta and $1.4 billion in housing aid for Hurricane Ida. The amendment would also provide for $500 million in funding to rebuild Louisiana ports.

I am mindful of the fact that we should make sure this aid is paid for. I would remind everyone that through the heroic efforts of Senator SCHATZ and Senator CANTWELL, in which I played a small part, that we forced our FCC not to give away the C-band to our telecommunications industry and, instead, auctioned it out, in which case it brought in $81 billion.

And I think we can spare a little bit of that for people who lost their homes and businesses through no fault of their own.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I'll add to what my colleague, JOHN KENNEDY, said.

If you fly over southwest Louisiana, you see blue tarps. Those tarps are there because the families have not had the money to replace their roofs. If you get on the ground, you see blighted neighborhoods. Those blighted neighborhoods are where people have moved, the rooms are boarded up, criminals have entered, and those who have left are now prey to criminals. And as they have left, the businesses have closed.

We do so much in this country for those who have been injured, and we appreciate in South Louisiana all that has already been done. But there is a little bit more needed to particularly benefit those who are less well-off.

So I join my colleague, Senator KENNEDY, in requesting that additional funding to complete the job started so Southwest Louisiana can become whole once more.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I respect my colleagues' desires to take care of the people and the needs of their State, and I agree there is a need—not just in this State but for a number of States that have been impacted by disasters in recent years.

We must pass a disaster supplemental to provide funding for States fairly and based on need. We wish that the supplemental were in this bill, but it was not agreed to by Republicans in the House and the Senate. Looking ahead, we ought to pass a bill to provide $2 billion and permanently authorize the CDBG-DR program.

As for pay-fors—this is an important point—the spectrum sale funds that my colleagues suggested as a pay-for are already spoken for. That has already been used as a pay-for in previous bills, so we can't double count; and so, unfortunately, I urge my colleagues to vote no. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 4983

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 4983.

Mr. KENNEDY. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 35, nays 64, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 77 Leg.]

YEAS—35

Blumenthal	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Romney
Booker	Hagerty	Rubio
Burr	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Sullivan
Coons	Kennedy	Thune
Cornyn	Marshall	Tuberville
Cramer	McConnell	Whitehouse
Cruz	Menendez	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NAYS—64

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Risch
Barrasso	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Johnson	Rounds
Blackburn	Kaine	Sanders
Boozman	Kelly	Sasse
Braun	King	Schatz
Brown	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Lankford	Shaheen
Capito	Leahy	Shelby
Cardin	Lee	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Lummis	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tester
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Crapo	Merkley	Toomey
Daines	Murphy	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murray	Warner
Durbin	Ossoff	Warnock
Feinstein	Padilla	Warren
Gillibrand	Paul	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 35, the nays are 64.

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

The amendment (No. 4983) was rejected.

MOTIONS WITHDRAWN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to refer and the motion to concur with amendment No. 4984 are withdrawn.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I have been impressed that our Eastern European allies have been able to act so quickly in providing aid of all kinds to Ukraine, including weapons these countries need for their own defense to deter Putin.

Even the notoriously bureaucratic European Union has acted with unprecedented speed.

When asked by Eastern European diplomats why Congress is taking so long to pass aid for Ukraine, I do not have a good answer.

It always takes time to negotiate and draft an appropriations package to get it just right. But the Ukrainians do not have the luxury of time.

We should have passed a Ukraine supplemental last week, even if imperfect. It would have passed overwhelmingly, sending a strong message to Ukraine, our eastern flank allies, and the aggressor Putin.

Now, the much needed Ukraine supplemental has been rolled into a giant Omnibus bill.

This package has some things I strongly support, or even helped write. But these provisions are riding along with a big growth in spending, which I do not support.

I typically vote against giant take-it-or-leave it omnibus bills. They are no way to legislate.

Senators who are not on the Appropriations Committee never see the contents of an Omnibus spending bill until we face a deadline for government funding running out—and an up-or-down vote; with no amendments.

I urged my party's leadership to insist on a separate vote on the Ukraine funding package in their negotiations with Democrat leaders, but here we are, nevertheless.

Urgent aid for Ukraine shouldn't be wrapped up in an Omnibus full of unrelated spending.

A cynic would say Ukraine aid was added to the Omnibus intentionally to help it pass. Well, this is a town where cynicism is often well-deserved.

Senators who support helping heroic Ukrainians defend themselves from a barbaric onslaught, as I do, are being forced to swallow a giant, bitter pill.

So, for the record, I oppose the spending level in this Omnibus bill and the broken process by which it was cobbled together. I am not happy about being pushed into a corner yet again. Be advised—I will not roll over and play nice going forward.

But I cannot in good conscience vote in a way that would further delay urgently needed support for Ukrainians fighting for their freedom on the front lines against tyranny.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 2471.

There are 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, I have got a minute here, and I hope I won't use it all. Everybody wants to leave, and I understand.

But this has been a lot of work to put this omnibus together. I want to thank

Senator LEAHY, his staff, the Republican staff, and everything else.

This is a big improvement for defense. It is a big improvement for homeland security. And I think we have talked about what is in it and what is not, but I think overall it is something we should have done 6 months ago.

I urge my colleagues to support the omnibus.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the distinguished Senator from Alabama, Senator SHELBY, and I have been friends for decades. I applaud his work on this. I applaud his staff. I applaud our staff and the Appropriations Committee.

I thank those Senators of both parties who came together to come here. We stand up for America. We stand up for the needs of America. But we also stand up for Ukraine, which is being attacked by a war criminal, Putin of Russia.

I yield back my time.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion to concur.

The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 78 Leg.]

YEAS—68

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

NAYS—31

Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Johnson	Sasse
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Toomey
Daines	Paul	
Fischer	Risch	

NOT VOTING—1

Inhofe

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 31.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this motion, the motion to concur is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I am delighted to see the vote, and I thank the Senators who voted with us.

I would note that a lot of Senators, along with Senator SHELBY and me, on both sides of the aisle worked so hard on this.

I especially want to say again that I don't know how many times on weekends and in the evenings I could leave and go home at 10 or 11 o'clock at night, but our staffs were still there at 2, 3, and 4 o'clock in the morning, doing this. They are the ones who deserve so much credit in doing this.

This is the reality. This is our government. This is how we protect our country. It is also how we show our responsibility to a country—in this case, Ukraine—that is being attacked by a war criminal, Vladimir Putin.

So I thank every Senator who voted this way. I thank the distinguished majority leader, who worked with us every step of the way to make sure we had the schedule so we could do this. I thank the Republicans and Democrats who worked with us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before I do all of these things, let me just thank Senator LEAHY, who was so diligent and so relentless from 3, 4, 5 months ago in warning our caucus of the dangers—of the very real dangers—of a CR, which wouldn't have been able to move the government forward. His hard work, his diligence, and his dedication has been amazing.

I join him in thanking the great staffs of the Appropriations Committee, who are second to none, as well as my staff, who worked very hard with them. Meghan Taira is another person of whom I might be able to say it wouldn't have happened without her.

It is a very good night for this country, a good bipartisan night, and I thank our Senator from Vermont—and our President pro tempore, of course.

(Laughter.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

STATE OPIOID RESPONSE GRANT FUNDING

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, the State Opioid Response grant program has been critically important to communities that have been affected by the ongoing opioid epidemic.

Rates of substance use disorders have grown exponentially, particularly during the pandemic, taking lives across the country, and opioids are the main driver of drug overdose deaths. Congress developed the State Opioid Response grant program to enhance our response to the opioid epidemic. As a result of this funding, States have been able to expand access to lifesaving prevention, treatment, and recovery services to frontline communities

I know this funding has been important to Vermont in addressing the opioid crisis, and I ask the senior Senator from Washington if this has been her experience with the program as well.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I would like to thank the Senator from Vermont, who has been such a leader in addressing the substance use disorder crisis and who I have been proud to work with on this issue. The Senator is correct. The State Opioid Response funding has been important to all States, particularly those hardest hit by drug overdose deaths.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to ask the junior Senator from New Hampshire about her experience with this program.

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I would also like to thank my friend, the Senator from Vermont, who has been a champion for helping address substance use disorders in New England and around the country. I agree that this program has provided essential support to States and communities across the country.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I would like to ask, given this context, if the Senator from New Hampshire agrees that both the House and the Senate have made clear that funding cliffs for this program will hamper States' ability to effectively address the opioid epidemic?

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I do. The fiscal year 2021 joint explanatory statement accompanying the omnibus appropriations bill directed the Secretary to avoid significant funding cliffs between States with similar opioid mortality rates. For fiscal year 2022, the joint explanatory statement ''notes that large swings in funding between grant cycles can pose a significant challenge for States seeking to maintain programs that were instrumental in reducing drug overdose fatalities'' and directs the Assistant Secretary to award funds in a manner that avoids funding cliffs.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I thank the Senator for clearly laying out the Senate's intent for the ongoing administration of this program—I agree. I would like to ask the Senator from Washington if she agrees as well?

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I do. Funding cliffs undermine efforts to address the opioid crisis. Without consistent and reliable funding, States cannot invest in or maintain programs that will reduce drug overdose fatalities. Dramatic cuts can lead to the cancellation of programs, firing of staff, and denial of care.

The Department of Health and Human Services and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration should prevent significant reductions in a State's SOR allocation in a single year. In other words, funding should be allocated in a way that does not result in unusually large funding reductions between years.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I thank the senior Senator from Washington, and I echo the call for HHS and SAMHSA to prevent significant funding cliffs.

The State Opioid Response grant program must facilitate the ongoing work States are performing to preserve communities and save lives. Now is not the time to be cutting funding from communities that are just barely beginning to heal from the opioid epidemic.

Madam President, I would like to thank the Senators from Washington and New Hampshire for coming to the floor to discuss this important program.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1480, the nomination of Kenly Kiya Kato, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

DICK DURBIN.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, on April 1, 2022, the Illinois State Police—ISP—will mark 100 years since its founding. Its work and dedication to making a safer Illinois is one of pride and integrity. I want to take a moment to reflect on the ISP's century of service.

A little more than a century ago, Illinoisans no longer wanted to be stuck in the mud. The year was 1921. The Department of Public Works and Buildings reported nearly 1,100 miles of paved road in service, and that number was growing. But the State was still filled with dirt roads, and Illinois voters approved a new road system. The Age of the Automobile led the State of Illinois to undertake one of the largest building programs in the country. It also meant these roads and drivers needed to be protected.

On April 1, 1922, the 52nd General Assembly approved the creation of the Illinois Highway Maintenance Police to do just that. Today, they are known as the Illinois State Police. The name has changed. The mission has expanded. But the dedication of the ISP has not.

The ISP started out with just eight officers. Equipped with mismatched and self-constructed World War I surplus uniforms and motorcycles, they set out to enforce the weight laws of the State and protect the growing highway system. The first headquarters was at the residence of John J. Stack, the ISP's first director. The building also was its first mechanic garage.

From these modest beginnings, the ISP would grow and evolve every year. A year after its founding, the ISP increased to 100 officers. By the end of the decade, it grew to 300. The ISP moved under different departments and continued to take on new responsibilities and add to its roster. And by the 1950s, more than 1,000 members were authorized to conduct a variety of law enforcement activities, confronting a rising tide of crime and controlled substance abuse. The ISP's duties and size continued to advance through several reorganizations.

The ISP has become a nationally renowned law enforcement, public safety, and criminal justice agency. Its responsibilities have only grown with the challenges of times. Today, there are more than 1,800 sworn officers and more than 1,000 civilian employees. They protect people on more than 2,100 interstate miles, nearly 16,000 miles of State highways, and nearly 8,000 bridges.

These dedicated officers no longer focus on just the hard roads. From aircraft support to helping with high-profile investigations, the ISP is on the frontlines of law enforcement. In addition, it provides oversight of the 9–1–1 systems and support for the statewide 9–1–1 advisory board. The ISP also is an important part of fighting the opioid crisis.

Through all of this, the ISP has kept its focus on the mission of promoting public safety and justice for every Illinois citizen. Its officers and employees do this every day and with great sacrifice. Dozens have given their lives for their fellow citizens. Thousands of ISP recruits and cadets pursuing law enforcement careers throughout Illinois have followed in their honorable footsteps at the Illinois State Police Academy.

I want to congratulate the ISP on an incredible century of integrity, service, and pride, and I thank the brave men and women of the ISP for their unwavering service to Illinois. The second century of the ISP has unlimited potential.

NOMINATION OF ERIC GARCETTI

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent request at the present time relating to the nomination of Mayor Eric Garcetti, of California, to be the U.S. Ambassador to India.

I will object because I have received numerous credible allegations from multiple whistleblowers alleging that Mr. Garcetti, while mayor of Los Angeles, had knowledge of sexual harassment and assaults allegedly committed against multiple city employees and their associates by his close adviser and that he ignored the misconduct. The allegations involving the mayor's office have been the subject of public reporting and a purportedly independent investigation. However, serious questions remain regarding the alleged misconduct, as well as the mayor's knowledge of that misconduct.

First, whistleblowers who have spoken with my office have not previously spoken to the Foreign Relations Committee and are presenting new allegations that must be fully investigated. Second, the investigation of the Los Angeles mayor's office reportedly found no wrongdoing by the mayor or his staff.

However, information provided by multiple whistleblowers strongly suggests that this investigation was incomplete at best. The extent to which the investigation was truly independent is also not clear, and the report has not been made public.

The United States owes it to the Republic of India to send them a qualified Ambassador that will represent the values of the United States. Mayor Garcetti may very well be fully qualified, but at this time, the Senate needs to look into these allegations further.

So until my staff and I have conducted a thorough investigation and are able to speak with everyone involved, I cannot vote to confirm Mr. Garcetti.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
Washington, DC, March 10, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1034, the nomination of Sarah H. Cleveland, of New York, to be Legal Adviser of the

Department of State, having been referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

1.) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes; and

2.) In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

ROBERT MENENDEZ.

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)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 22–0D. 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 14–59 of December 11, 2014.

Sincerely,

JED ROYAL,
(For James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22–0D

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

(i) Purchaser: Government of Greece.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 14–59; Date: December 11, 2014; Implementing Agency: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On December 11, 2014, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 14–59 of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) of ten (10) CH–47D Model Chinook Helicopters to include twenty-three (23) T55–GA–714A Engines (20 installed and 3 spares), twelve (12) AN/AAR–57 Common Missile Warning System (10 installed and 2 spares), twelve (12) AN/ARC–220 High Frequency (HF) Radios, twelve (12) AN/ARC–186 Very High Frequency (VHF) AM/FM Radios, twelve (12) AN/ARC–164 Ultra High Frequency (UHF)–AM, twelve (12) AN/ARN 123 VOR ILS Marker Beacons, twelve (12) AN/ARN–89 or AN/ARN–149 Direction Finder Sets, twelve (12) AN/ASN–128 Doppler/Global Positioning System Navigation Sets, twelve (12) AN/ARC–201D or AN/ARC–201E VHF FM Homing Radios, twelve (12) AN/APX–118 Transponders, three (3) AN/APX–118A Transponders, twelve (12) AN/APR–39A(V)1 Radar Signal Detecting Sets, mission equipment, communication and navigation equipment, Maintenance Work Orders/Engineering Change Proposals (MWO/ECPs), aircraft hardware and software support, repair and return, spare and repair parts, publications and technical documentation, support equipment, minor modifications, personnel training and training equipment, U.S. government and contractor technical and engineering support services, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated cost was $150 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted $57.2 million of this total.

On February 5, 2021, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 0D–21, of the possible sale of an additional eight (8) T55–GA–714A engines in support of Greece's CH–47D helicopter fleet. This addition resulted in an increase in MDE by $14 million to $71.2 million. The total estimated case value increased to $164 million.

This transmittal notifies the addition of a phased maintenance program and follow-on support services for the Hellenic Army's CH–47 helicopter fleet (non-MDE).

The total MDE value will remain $71.2 million. The total estimated program value will increase by $120 million to $284 million.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will provide continued maintenance and support to the Hellenic Army's CH–47 helicopters, which are used for firefighting, search and rescue, disaster relief, humanitarian support, counter-terrorism, and combat operations.

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

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to articles and services reported here.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 8, 2022.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, on vote No. 72, the motion to invoke cloture on Maria Pagan to be a Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, it was my intent to vote yea.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, on March 3, 2022, I missed vote No. 68, on S.J. Res. 38, a joint resolution relating to a national emergency declared by the President on March 13, 2020. Had I been in attendance, I would have voted no.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, I have a profound reverence for life and an abiding respect for choice. I believe a patient's room is too small a place for a patient, her doctor, and the Federal Government. Healthcare decisions should be made by a patient in consultation with their doctor. It is important to me that every person, no matter race, gender, creed, or socioeconomic status, has access to affordable healthcare. This includes family planning and reproductive services. Regretfully, I was unable to cast my vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 139, H.R. 3755, Women's Health Protection Act, on February 28, 2022. Had I been present, however, I would have proudly voted yes to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3755.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DR. STEPHEN J. SIMPSON

• Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a wonderful professor and man, Dr. Stephen—''Steve''—J. Simpson, of Frostburg, who died on February 21, 2022, of pancreatic cancer. Dr. Simpson taught and inspired generations of students at Frostburg State University—FSU—in a career there that spanned four decades. He was a widely respected scholar of the American Presidency and the intersection of media and politics.

Steve Simpson was born on October 10, 1951, in Abington, PA. He received his undergraduate degree from Dickinson College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Princeton University. Steve spent many years as FSU's dean of the college of sciences and provost and chief academic officer. While he excelled in these roles, his greatest enthusiasm was for being a professor of political science. He wasn't just an academic mentor to scores of students over the years; he was a life mentor who encouraged them to aim high in life as well as in school.

Steve was cheerful, kind, generous, and respectful to everyone whom he met and knew. He was a devoted son, brother, husband, uncle, and in-law to many members of an extended second family. He loved to discuss politics and play card games, especially pinochle with his mother-in-law Mary Morshead as his partner. He instilled in his nephews, John and David Simpson, a love of history and politics, which they have since passed on to their children. Steve loved to travel with his wife of nearly 30 years, Lisa Morshead. They traveled to Colonial Williamsburg, Sanibel Island, and Fort Myers for spring training. He could not shake his Pennsylvania roots entirely, so he was an avid Phillies, not Orioles, fan—but we won't hold that against him. His love of baseball extended to participating in fantasy leagues. He claimed he disliked pets but he loved and cared for three rescue cats and a dog. Steve had a big heart.

On behalf of the Senate, I would like to extend heartfelt condolences to

Steve's wife Lisa; his brothers William and Robert and their wives Brenda and Carolyn; his nephews John and David and their wives Laurie and Alison; the rest of his extended family and friends; and the FSU community. Henry B. Adams wrote, ''A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.'' I hope that the family and friends who mourn Dr. Stephen Simpson's passing can find solace in the knowledge that he surely has affected eternity and his influence will continue to ripple far and wide among the students he so ably taught and inspired.●

RECOGNIZING THE NORTH DAKOTA GIRLS CLASS B BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS FROM KINDRED HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, last year I had the honor of congratulating two State championship teams from my alma mater, Kindred High School, in boys basketball in March and boys football in November.

Last week, it was the Kindred Vikings girls basketball team that took home the championship trophy at the North Dakota Class B State tournament, winning a third State title in just 6 years. These girls began their season with a win and kept on winning. They entered the tournament undefeated and after their last game were 23–0.

In their final game, the Vikings played last year's State champions, the Grafton Spoilers, dominating the game early and ending with a 64–40 win. This was the largest championship point margin of victory since 1991. Leading the team was senior guard Abby Duchscherer, who scored 25 points and 10 rebounds. She was also named Senior Athlete of the Year and Tournament MVP.

Having three State championship sports teams in a year, along with its overall general academic excellence, speaks highly of the quality of the Kindred Public School system. I commend all administrators, teachers, and staff, as well as the entire community for the role they play in supporting quality education.

For this basketball championship, however, it is the awesome young women on the team who deserve the greatest recognition. They are Charli McQuillan, Peyton Gette, Avery Bartels, Abigail Duchscherer, Kacie Burner, Lexi Ogren, Kristina Freier, Ana Freier, Laela Eisenschenk, McKenzie Schmitz, Avery Amerman, Terryn Johnson, Leah Rolland, Kennedy Bakko, and Tess Rohrbeck.

I congratulate the team, as well as Coach Sam Brandt, assistant coaches Tenille Bakko, Ashley Fahnhorst, Perry Piatz, and Danni Sanders and all the loyal fans on another Kindred Vikings State championship.

I join all North Dakotans in thanking each and every player on this team for inspiring us with your excellence. You continue to show us what can be achieved by combining faith and passion with determination and teamwork.●

REMEMBERING STEPHANIE DENISE SHANNON

● Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Ms. Stephanie Denise Shannon, who passed away on September 8, 2021.

Stephanie was born March 24, 1986, in Detroit, MI, to her late father, William Everett Shannon, Sr., and her mother, Toni Laverne Shannon. Upon completing high school, Stephanie attended Wayne State University, where she pursued her passion for helping animals by studying veterinary science. To her close friends, she will be remembered as a kind and gentle spirit that loved video games and enjoyed watching a variety of films. Stephanie was not only a dedicated and loyal friend, daughter, and sister, but she was also a devoted mother to her son, Cason, whom she referred to as her ''Prince'' and her daughter, Madison, whom she referred to as her ''Mini Me.'' The love and light that made so many love and appreciate Stephanie will be passed down and live through her incredible children. May her radiant and loving spirit be remembered by all those who knew her.●

TRIBUTE TO PYET DESPAIN

● Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the incredible performance and achievement from Kansas's own, Ms. Pyet DeSpain. Pyet took home the grand prize during FOX's inaugural ''Next Level Chef'' season and is officially the first Next Level Chef.

A native of Kansas City, KS, Pyet developed a passion for cooking while helping in the kitchens of her family's taquerias and restaurants. This passion for the kitchen led her to attend Le'Cole Culinaire to pursue a culinary education and career. A chef and an entrepreneur, Pyet started her own business, ''Pyet's Plates,'' back in 2016 to promote her passion for wellness, nutrition, and healthy lifestyle choices. A lifetime of hard work and dedication to her craft has culminated into Pyet earning her Next Level Chef title and a hefty cash prize as a nice bonus.

The skills that Pyet developed throughout her time spent in kitchens across the country allowed her to succeed on the inaugural season of ''Next Level Chef,'' and I am sure that the lessons learned from this season will help Pyet to develop into an even more talented chef, entrepreneur, and restaurant owner. I look forward to seeing how Pyet's passion for good food, healthy lifestyle choices, and respect for tradition will develop into future culinary endeavors.

I ask my colleagues now to join me in recognizing this outstanding achievement by Pyet DeSpain. She has made her family, friends, community, and State incredibly proud, and we are all rooting for continued success throughout her career.●

TRIBUTE TO BARRY FEAKER

● Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to honor and recognize Barry Feaker of Topeka, KS. Barry has served the homeless and impoverished since 1986 as executive director of the Topeka Rescue Mission, TRM. He plans to step down from this position but continue to serve as strategic adviser.

TRM is a Christian organization that works with community partners to give shelter, meals, clothing, and other needed items to homeless and impoverished individuals. They do this by sharing the love of Jesus Christ with every person they encounter. Barry has served the Topeka community for 36 years. In April 1986, 15–20 homeless individuals were staying at TRM per night. By 2019, that number has grown to an astounding 200–300 people per night, a true testament to Barry's work and determination over the years.

As he finishes out his time as executive director of TRM, I hope he is able to reflect on the impact he has had on the Topeka Community. He not only expanded the services they provide and number of people working at TRM, but also increased TRM's annual budget from $70,000 to $5.3 million. Along with that, he increased operating one singular men's shelter, to two shelters, a warehouse, a distribution center, and a Children's Palace. Barry offers his role with excitement for what is ahead at TRM. He believes it is time for the next generation to take control. He believes that the job is not done and there are more people in need than ever. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful career of Mr. Barry Feaker and wish him nothing but joy and happiness in his next chapter of life.●

RECOGNIZING BURCHETT'S HEATING AND COOLING

● 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 the small business, Burchett's Heating and Cooling of Paintsville, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Rogell Burchett had a keen eye for business opportunities, which is why he opened Burchett's Heating and Cooling in 1978. As a gas company employee, he could not ignore all the new homes being built in his area when he knew there was little market for natural gas and furnace installations. So he started what was then a side venture called Burchett's Heating and Cooling. Rogell's vision and dedication allowed

that side venture to grow into a family business, now entering into its third generation of management.

When the business was first founded, Burchett's operations mainly involved natural gas and furnace work. However, as Kentucky saw the coal industry abate, Burchett's Heating and Cooling adapted to include more geothermal work, as well as some light commercial work. Clearly, Rogell passed his sharp intuition for running a business along to his children and grandchildren, as this transition took place over multiple generations. Growing into what his father created, Neal Burchett took over the business when his father Rogell retired. Later on, Neal's son Ryan Burchett would also become part of the operation, serving as the management arm of this family-owned business. Together, these three generations of Burchett men have kept Paintsville warm during the cold Kentucky winters and cool in the summers, with the comfort of Paintsville citizens remaining their top priority.

With over 40 years of experience, Burchett's Heating and Cooling maintains close relationships with customers that count on them for quality, year after year. Of course, when the business stays in the family as it has with the Burchett men, it is easy to see how the community of Paintsville could place their trust in their services. That being said, Burchett's Heating and Cooling remains an active member of the Paintsville community outside of their normal business operations. Staying true to their family-owned nature, the business sponsors the local high school basketball and football teams, teams that both Neal and Ryan used to play for during their high school years. Burchett's Heating and Cooling also provides free services to their local church so that parishioners can worship comfortably.

Small businesses like Burchett's Heating and Cooling are the lifeblood of small towns across Kentucky, and they serve as an inspiring example of how the entrepreneurial spirit transcends multiple generations. Congratulations to Neal and Ryan and the entire Burchett's Heating and Cooling team. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL TYLER SMITH

● Mr. ROMNEY. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Utahn whose decades of uniformed service will soon conclude. BG Tyler Smith, currently assistant adjutant general of the Utah National Guard, will retire after 36 years of decorated service to Utah and the Nation.

Brigadier General Smith's military service began with his enlistment in the U.S. Army in 1986. Soon after, he deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm, earning liberation medals from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, respectively. Upon returning to Utah, he joined the National Guard, attended officer candidate school, and commissioned in the 1457th Engineer Battalion of the Engineer Branch, serving as a platoon leader and company commander. In 2008, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and earned the Bronze Star and Combat Action Badge for his efforts and outstanding leadership.

Given his depth of experience and impressive work ethic, the brigadier general earned multiple appointments throughout his career. He served as operations officer in the 115th Engineer Group, commander of the 85th Weapons of Mass Destruction-Civil Support Team, and range control officer at Camp Williams, UT, where he was also deputy commander of the Utah Training Center before his appointment as garrison commander in 2014. Brigadier General Smith served as director of the Utah Army National Guard's Construction and Facilities Management Office before his appointment as assistant adjutant general.

In addition to the aforementioned awards, he also earned the Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Bronze oakleaf clusters; Army Commendation Medal with 1 Bronze oakleaf cluster; Army Achievement Medal with 1 Bronze oakleaf cluster; Army Good Conduct Medal with 2 Bronze Loops; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with 2 oakleaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star; Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars; Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hourglass Device and M Device; Army Service Ribbon (ASR); Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral 3; Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon; and the NATO Medal (ISAF).

His professional success is also matched by impressive educational accolades. Before his tenure as assistant professor of military science, ROTC, at Utah Valley University, he earned several degrees himself, including a master of public administration from Brigham Young University and a master of strategic studies from the Army War College.

BG Tyler Smith has demonstrated remarkable character as an exemplary public servant and a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Thank you for your dedication to our great State of Utah and the United States of America. We wish you and your family all the best.●

TRIBUTE TO MEGAN NICK

● Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I join with Vermonters across our State to give a huge congratulations to Megan Nick for her incredible achievement in winning a bronze medal at the Winter Olympics in Beijing in women's aerials. Megan is an inspiration to so many Vermonters, and we are tremendously proud of her. Megan credits her parents, Jeff and Colleen Nick, for instilling in her the value of hard work, which certainly showed all throughout the 2022 Olympic Games.

Growing up in Shelburne, Megan was a competitive gymnast and spent more than 10 years training at the Green Mountain Training Center in Williston. The similarities between the two sports, along with her drive for perfection, drew Megan to skiing. Then ahead of her senior year at Champlain Valley Union High School, Megan was challenged to try aerial skiing and found a new passion. In talking about the transition to becoming an aerial skier, Megan gives credit to her gymnastics coach, Stefan Hruska, for teaching her the spatial awareness required to be successful in the sport.

While she learned key skills in the gym, it was at Cochran's Ski Area—a small, family-operated, nonprofit ski area in Richmond, VT, and home to another Beijing Olympian—that Megan learned to ski. That is what our small State is all about: communities coming together to help young people achieve their goals in a supportive, encouraging environment.

Like many Vermonters, Megan grew up loving the outdoors. As she said herself in a recent interview following her Olympic medal, her Vermont upbringing taught her ''the importance of sustainability and the role that we can play in helping our environment while also being able to play in it,'' something that she finds particularly important as an aerial skier.

This was Megan's first Olympic Games, and she took bronze in her first event. Megan showed everyone that with courage and hard work there is nothing you can't accomplish. I heartily applaud Megan for the positive impact she has had not only on Vermonters, but on young people all over the country who have a dream. Megan is an inspiration to us all and is a true testament of hard work leading to success.

Megan's level of commitment and accomplishments deserve all of our sincere admiration. Vermont is remarkably proud of Megan, and we know she is going to continue to be among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow—both on and off the slopes.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5681. An act 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, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 70. Concurrent resolution condemning threats of violence against historically Black colleges and universities (''HBCUs'') and reaffirming support for HBCUs and their students.

The message further announced that the pursuant to section 535(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2346d(e)), and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Minority Leader appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund Advisory Board: Mrs. Dina Powell McCormick of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3665. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Diego, California, as the Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and to support the designation of a component of such medical center in honor of Kathleen Bruyere.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

At 2:34 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2471) to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law and media freedoms in Haiti with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 79. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2471.

At 8:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 75. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 70. Concurrent resolution condemning threats of violence against historically Black colleges and universities (''HBCUs'') and reaffirming support for HBCUs and their students; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC–3366. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations and Standards Branch, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf—Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment'' (RIN1014–AA55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3367. A communication from the Departmental Privacy Officer, Office of Law Enforcement and Security, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Privacy Act Regulations; Exemptions for the Insider Threat Program'' (RIN1090–AB15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–3368. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Alaska; Removal of Excess Emissions Provision'' (FRL No. 9177–02–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3369. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia: Approval of Revisions to State Implementation Plan; Correction'' (FRL No. 9413–01–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3370. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; California; Ventura County Air Pollution Control District'' (FRL No. 9188–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3371. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; North Carolina: Mecklenburg Volatile Organic Compounds'' (FRL No. 8986–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3372. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Permit Streamlining Updates'' (FRL No. 9202–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3373. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Serious Plan Elements for the Wisconsin Portion of Chicago Nonattainment Area for the 2008 Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 9215–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3374. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Virginia; Revision to the Classification and Implementation of the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard for the Northern Virginia Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9176–02–R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3375. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Pennsylvania; Revision of the Maximum Allowable Sulfur Content Limit for Number 2 and Lighter Commercial Fuel Oil'' (FRL No. 9596–02–R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3376. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Update to Include New Jersey State Requirements'' (FRL No. 9241–02–R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3377. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reassessment of NRC's Dollar Per Person-Rem Conversion Factor Policy'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3378. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval of American Society of Mechanical Engineers' Code Cases'' (RIN3150–AJ94) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3379. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to the law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID–19) pandemic that was originally declared in Proclamation 9994 of March 13, 2020; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3380. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a

report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General of Health and Human Services, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3381. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3382. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Finalizing Medicare Regulations under Section 902 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003 for Calendar Year 2021''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3383. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Medicare and Medicaid Program Integrity''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3384. A communication from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2022 Trade Policy Agenda and 2021 Annual Report of the President of the United States on the Trade Agreements Program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3385. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2022–0025—2022–0030); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3386. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Determination Under Sections 506(a)(1) and 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine''; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3387. A communication from the Legal Counsel, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2022 Adjustment of the Penalty for Violation of Notice Posting Requirements'' (RIN3046–AB17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–3388. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–337, ''Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Limited Grant-Making Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3389. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–338, ''Early Childhood Educator Equitable Compensation Task Force Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3390. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–339, ''Attorney General Civil Rights Enforcement Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3391. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–340, ''Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Pandemic Provisions Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3392. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–341, ''Office of Administrative Hearings Unemployment Appeals Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3393. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–342, ''Public Health Emergency Credit Alert Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3394. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–343, ''District Government Family Bereavement Leave Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3395. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–344, ''Foreclosure Moratorium Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3396. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Bureau's fiscal year 2021 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3397. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal entitled ''To authorize the Joint Task Forces of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3398. A communication from the Senior Procurement/Policy Analyst, Office of Governmentwide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''General Services Administration Acquisition Regulation (GSAR); Extending FSS Orders Beyond the Contract Term'' (RIN3090–AK19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 3, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3399. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Administrator of Resilience, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–3400. A communication from the Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Office's audit of the United States government's fiscal years 2021 and 2020 consolidated financial statements; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–114. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nebraska applying to the United States Congress, pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the United States Constitution that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 14

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the members of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature of Nebraska, Second Session:

1. The Legislature of the State of Nebraska hereby applies to Congress, under the provisions of Article V of the Constitution of the United States, for the calling of a convention of the states limited to proposing amendments to the constitution of the United States that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.

2. The Clerk of the Legislature shall transmit copies of this application to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives from this state, and to the presiding officers of each of the legislative houses in the several states, requesting their cooperation.

3. This application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the United States until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject.

4. This application will be rescinded as of February 1, 2027.

POM–115. A joint resolution adopted by the legislature of the State of Colorado designating January 23 of each year as ''U.S.S. Pueblo Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22–1013

Whereas, The U.S.S. Pueblo was originally launched as a United States Army cargo ship in 1944 but was transferred to the United States Navy and renamed the U.S.S. Pueblo in 1966; and

Whereas, The U.S.S. Pueblo was named for the city of Pueblo, Colorado, and the county of Pueblo, Colorado, and was the third ship in the naval fleet to bear the name Pueblo; and

Whereas, After leaving Japan in early January 1968 on an intelligence mission, the U.S.S. Pueblo was attacked by the North Korean military on January 23, 1968; and

Whereas, According to United States naval authorities and the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo, the ship was in international waters at the time of the attack; and

Whereas, One crew member of the U.S.S. Pueblo was killed during the attack, and eighty crew members and two civilian oceanographers were captured and held for eleven months by the North Korean government; and

Whereas, This year marks the fifty-fourth anniversary of North Korea's attack on the U.S.S. Pueblo and her crew; and

Whereas, The U.S.S. Pueblo is still in commission in the United States Navy but continues to be held by the North Korean government and is currently a museum in Pyongyang, North Korea; now, therefore, *be it*

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

(1) That we, the members of the General Assembly, recognize the bravery and sacrifice of the crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo;

(2) That we take pride in the fact that the U.S.S. Pueblo bears the name of a city and a county in Colorado, and, therefore, the citizens of Colorado should be aware of the incident that occurred with the U.S.S. Pueblo fifty-four years ago;

(3) That we continue the call for Kim Jong Un and the North Korean government to return the U.S.S. Pueblo to the people of the United States; and

(4) That we hereby designate January 23 of each year as ''U.S.S. Pueblo Day'', a day to remember and honor the brave crew of the U.S.S. Pueblo.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.; Governor Jared Polis; President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate Patrick Leahy; Speaker of the United States House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi; and the members of Colorado's Congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2533. A bill to improve mammography services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2687. A bill to provide the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs testimonial subpoena authority, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jennifer Louise Rochon, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Sunshine Suzanne Sykes, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Sherilyn Peace Garnett, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Nina Morrison, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Trina L. Thompson, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Paul Monteiro, of Maryland, to be Director, Community Relations Service, for a term of four years.

Trina A. Higgins, of Utah, to be United States Attorney for the District of Utah for the term of four years.

Jane E. Young, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

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. SCHATZ:

S. 3789. A bill to amend the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act to authorize grants to Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3790. A bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion receive an ultrasound and the opportunity to review the ultrasound before giving informed consent to receive an abortion; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3791. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of prescription digital therapeutics under such titles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3792. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3793. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to recommend the Center of Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of technology-enabled care interventions in the home to coordinate care over time and across settings, improve quality, and lower costs for certain Medicare Advantage beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3794. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish an emergency grant aid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3795. A bill to recognize the refugee and immigrant communities from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam including the Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien, Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese Americans who supported and defended the Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia, authorize assistance to support activities relating to clearance of unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 3796. A bill to eliminate the opt-out for nonfederal governmental health plans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3797. A bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to support stillbirth prevention and research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 3798. A bill to prohibit the importation of crude oil, petroleum, petroleum products, and liquefied natural gas from Venezuela and Iran; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. 3799. A bill to prepare for, and respond to, existing viruses, emerging new threats, and pandemics; to the Committee on Health, Education , Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3800. A bill to amend to Public Health Services Act to establish and support a network of Centers for Public Health Preparedness and Response; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3801. A bill to establish limitations on the amount of debt issued by the United States which may be held by foreign governments, entities, and individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. REED):

S. 3802. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a windfall profits excise tax on crude oil and to rebate the tax collected back to individual taxpayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3803. A bill to establish the Office of Rural Prosperity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 3804. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1233 North Cedar Street in Owasso, Oklahoma, as the ''Technical Sergeant Marshal Roberts Post Office Building'' ; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 3805. A bill to support the advancement of inclusive economic growth, democratic governance, peace, and security in Colombia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3806. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to establish a grant program to demonstrate the performance and reliability of heavy-duty fuel cell vehicles that use hydrogen as a fuel source, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3807. A bill to address the supply chain backlog in the freight network at United States ports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 3808. A bill to reauthorize certain leasing on the Outer Continental shelf, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 3809. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study relating to COVID–19 immunity resulting from a prior infection, vaccination, or both, and the COVID–19 pandemic; to the

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 3810. A bill to amend the Countermeasure Injury Compensation Program with respect to COVID–19 vaccines; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3811. A bill making supplemental appropriations for assistance and activities related to Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 3812. A bill to provide a temporary waiver of countervailing and antidumping duties relating to fertilizer or fertilizer ingredients if an emergency situation impacts the domestic production or supply of merchandise subject to those duties, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3813. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to exclude extensions of credit made to veterans from the definition of a member business loan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 3814. A bill to moderate biosurveillance capabilities and infectious disease data collection, and improve epidemic forecasting and outbreak analytics; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3815. A bill to amend the Emergency Energy Conservation Act of 1979 to allow the President to provide short-term relief to the American people as the United States works to impose a necessary ban on all oil imports from Russia and to restore the ability of the President to set energy efficiency targets for States during an energy supply emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 3816. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to establish a United States Marine Highway Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. THUNE, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 3817. A bill to improve the forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3818. A bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students and improve textbook price information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BURR):

S. 3819. A bill to establish an Advanced Research Projects Authority for Health within the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3820. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of pay for certain nurses and other medical positions of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 3821. A bill making appropriations to provide emergency assistance for the Community Development Fund for disaster response and recovery for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 3822. A bill to prohibit the President from promulgating new oil and gas regulations until after the Russian troops have withdrawn from Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 541. A resolution commemorating the life and legacy of Jean-Louis de Kerouac on the centennial of his birth on March 12, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KING, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 542. A resolution recognizing Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 110th birthday and celebrating its legacy of providing girls with a safe, inclusive space that supports the next generation of women leaders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 543. A resolution designating March 10, 2022, as ''National 'Slam the Scam' Day'' to raise awareness about pervasive government imposter scams, and to promote education to prevent government imposter scams; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. Con. Res. 33. A concurrent resolution commending the heroism of Olathe East High School Administrator Dr. Kaleb Stoppel and School Resource Officer Erik Clark in responding to a student armed with a firearm; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 344

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retirement pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to strengthen the use of patient-experience data within the benefit-risk framework for approval of new drugs.

S. 377

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 377, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 403

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 450

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

S. 488

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 488, a bill to provide for congressional review of actions to terminate or waive sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.

S. 586

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

S. 673

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 673, a bill to provide a temporary safe harbor for publishers of online content to collectively negotiate with dominant online platforms regarding the terms on which content may be distributed.

S. 765

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 765, a bill to improve United States consideration of, and strategic support for, programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence from the onset of humanitarian emergencies and to build the capacity of humanitarian actors to address the immediate and long-term challenges resulting from such violence, and for other purposes.

S. 864

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility of certain short-term programs.

S. 938

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 938, a bill to require the President to declare a national emergency relating to climate change under the National Emergencies Act, and for other purposes.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 976, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1167

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1167, a bill to eliminate subsidies for fossil-fuel production.

S. 1218

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1218, a bill to provide economic empowerment opportunities in the United States through the modernization of public housing, and for other purposes.

S. 1244

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1244, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Civilian Climate Corps to help communities respond to climate change and transition to a clean economy, and for other purposes.

S. 1280

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1280, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to certain members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S. 1486

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1486, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1596

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1596, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1596, supra.

S. 1616

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1616, a bill to provide exceptions from permitting and fee requirements for content creation, regardless of distribution platform, including digital or analog video and digital or analog audio recording activities, conducted on land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior.

S. 1644

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1644, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a time-limited provisional approval pathway, subject to specific obligations, for certain drugs and biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 1725

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1725, a bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated.

S. 1767

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1767, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modernize certain processes regarding expulsion of credit union members for cause, and for other purposes.

S. 1912

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1912, a bill to clarify the rights of certain persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

S. 2061

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2061, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure coverage of mental health services furnished through telehealth.

S. 2456

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2456, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to take certain actions to increase diversity of ownership in the broadcasting industry, and for other purposes.

S. 2508

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2508, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to extend the consumer credit protections provided to members of the Armed Forces and their dependents under title 10, United States Code, to all consumers.

S. 2607

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2607, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979–1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

S. 2675

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2675, a bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 2700

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2700, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of mental health issues among public safety officers, and for other purposes.

S. 2886

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2886, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to authorize the donation and distribution of capes, horns, and antlers from wildlife management activities carried out on National Park System land.

S. 2887

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2887, a bill to codify the existing Outdoor Recreation Legacy

Partnership Program of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 2907

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2907, a bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3048

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3048, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to establish an Advisory Commission on Serving and Supporting Students with Mental Health Disabilities in Institutions of Higher Education, and for other purposes.

S. 3176

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) 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. 3205

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3205, a bill to establish an advanced industrial facilities deployment program and a State flex-tech energy program, and for other purposes.

S. 3331

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3331, a bill to amend the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 to improve the semiconductor incentive program of the Department of Commerce.

S. 3335

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 3335, a bill to provide liability protection for the sharing of information regarding suspected fraudulent, abusive, or unlawful robocalls, illegally spoofed calls, and other illegal calls by or with the registered consortium that conducts private-led efforts to trace back the origin of suspected unlawful robocalls, and for the receipt of such information by the registered consortium, and for other purposes.

S. 3340

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3340, a bill to establish a competitive grant program to provide assistance to support small businesses and business district revitalization in low-income, rural, and minority communities, and for other purposes.

S. 3412

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3412, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to enforce the rule submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services relating to COVID–19 vaccine and mask requirements for Head Start programs.

S. 3580

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3580, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to prohibited acts by ocean common carriers or marine terminal operators, and for other purposes.

S. 3623

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3623, a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

S. 3649

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3649, a bill to establish an advisory committee to provide independent advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation regarding comprehensive, interdisciplinary issues relating to transportation from a variety of stakeholders in transportation planning, design, research, policy, and advocacy, and for other purposes.

S. 3655

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3655, a bill to amend the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018 to extend the termination date of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board.

S. 3675

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3675, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility.

S. 3700

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3700, a bill to provide for appropriate cost-sharing for insulin products covered under Medicare part D and private health plans.

S. 3709

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3709, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out vegetation management projects and timber production projects on certain National Forest System land in the States of Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming, and for other purposes.

S. 3754

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3754, a bill to prohibit the importation of crude oil and petroleum products from the Russian Federation, to impose sanctions with respect to persons involved in the importation of such crude oil and petroleum products who have engaged in acts of corruption or who are responsible for serious human rights abuses, and for other purposes.

S. 3756

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3756, a bill to require a strategy for international cooperation to counter Russian energy influence globally.

S. 3760

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California

(Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3760, a bill to continue the temporary waiver of interest on State unemployment loans during the pandemic to provide additional relief, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention relating to ''Requirement for Persons To Wear Masks While on Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs''.

S. RES. 334

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 334, a resolution memorializing those impacted by and lost to the COVID–19 virus.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3818. A bill to expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students and improve textbook price information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. 3818

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 ''Affordable College Textbook Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The high cost of college textbooks continues to be a barrier for many students in achieving higher education.

(2) According to the College Board, during the 2021–2022 academic year, the average student budget for college books and supplies at 4-year public institutions of higher education was $1,240.

(3) The Government Accountability Office found that new textbook prices increased 82 percent between 2002 and 2012 and that although Federal efforts to increase price transparency have provided students and families with more and better information, more must be done to address rising costs.

(4) The growth of the internet has enabled the creation and sharing of digital content, including open educational resources that can be freely used by students, teachers, and members of the public.

(5) According to the Student PIRGs, expanded use of open educational resources has the potential to save students more than a billion dollars annually.

(6) Federal investment in expanding the use of open educational resources could significantly lower college textbook costs and reduce financial barriers to higher education, while making efficient use of taxpayer funds.

(7) Educational materials, including open educational resources, must be accessible to the widest possible range of individuals, including those with disabilities.

SEC. 3. OPEN TEXTBOOK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

(2) OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE.—The term ''open educational resource'' has the meaning given the term in section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b).

(3) OPEN TEXTBOOK.—The term ''open textbook'' means an open educational resource or set of open educational resources that either is a textbook or can be used in place of a textbook for a postsecondary course at an institution of higher education.

(4) RELEVANT FACULTY.—The term ''relevant faculty'' means both tenure track and contingent faculty members who may be involved in the creation or use of open textbooks created as part of an application under subsection (d).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Education.

(6) SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL.—The term ''supplemental material'' has the meaning given the term in section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b).

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—From the amounts appropriated under subsection (k), the Secretary shall make grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to support projects that expand the use of open textbooks in order to achieve savings for students while maintaining or improving instruction and student learning outcomes.

(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term ''eligible entity'' means an institution of higher education, a group of institutions of higher education, or States on behalf of institutions of higher education.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this section, after consultation with relevant faculty, shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the project to be completed with grant funds and—

(A) a plan for promoting and tracking the use of open textbooks in postsecondary courses offered by the eligible entity, including an estimate of the projected savings that will be achieved for students;

(B) a plan for evaluating, before creating new open textbooks, whether existing open textbooks could be used or adapted for the same purpose;

(C) a plan for quality review and review of accuracy of any open textbooks to be created or adapted through the grant;

(D) a plan for assessing the impact of open textbooks on instruction and student learning outcomes at the eligible entity;

(E) a plan for disseminating information about the results of the project to institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity, including promoting the adoption of any open textbooks created or adapted through the grant; and

(F) a statement on consultation with relevant faculty, including those engaged in the creation of open textbooks, in the development of the application.

(e) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give special consideration to applications that demonstrate the greatest potential to—

(1) achieve the highest level of savings for students through sustainable expanded use of open textbooks in postsecondary courses offered by the eligible entity;

(2) expand the use of open textbooks at institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity; and

(3) produce—

(A) the highest quality open textbooks;

(B) open textbooks that can be most easily utilized and adapted by faculty members at institutions of higher education;

(C) open textbooks that correspond to the highest enrollment courses at institutions of higher education;

(D) open textbooks created or adapted in partnership with entities within institutions of higher education, including campus bookstores, that will assist in marketing and distribution of the open textbook; and

(E) open textbooks that are accessible to students with disabilities.

(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to carry out any of the following activities to expand the use of open textbooks:

(1) Professional development for any faculty and staff members at institutions of higher education, including the search for and review of open textbooks.

(2) Creation or adaptation of open textbooks.

(3) Development or improvement of supplemental materials and informational resources that are necessary to support the use of open textbooks, including accessible instructional materials for students with disabilities.

(4) Research evaluating the efficacy of the use of open textbooks for achieving savings for students and the impact on instruction and student learning outcomes.

(g) LICENSE.—For each open textbook, supplemental material, or informational resource created or adapted wholly or in part under this section that constitutes a new copyrightable work, the eligible entity receiving the grant shall release such textbook, material, or resource to the public under a non-exclusive, royalty-free, perpetual, and irrevocable license to exercise any of the rights under copyright conditioned only on the requirement that attribution be given as directed by the copyright owner.

(h) ACCESS AND DISTRIBUTION.—The full and complete digital content of each open textbook, supplemental material, or informational resource created or adapted wholly or in part under this section shall be made available free of charge to the public—

(1) on an easily accessible and interoperable website, which shall be identified to the Secretary by the eligible entity;

(2) in a machine readable, digital format that anyone can directly download, edit with attribution, and redistribute;

(3) in a format that conforms to accessibility standards under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), where feasible; and

(4) with identifying information, including the title, edition, author, publisher, copyright date, and International Standard Book Number, if available.

(i) REPORT.—Upon an eligible entity's completion of a project supported under this section, the eligible entity shall prepare and submit a report to the Secretary regarding—

(1) the effectiveness of the project in expanding the use of open textbooks and in achieving savings for students;

(2) the impact of the project on expanding the use of open textbooks at institutions of higher education outside of the eligible entity;

(3) open textbooks, supplemental materials, and informational resources created or adapted wholly or in part under the grant, including instructions on where the public can access each educational resource under the terms of subsection (h);

(4) the impact of the project on instruction and student learning outcomes; and

(5) all project costs, including the value of any volunteer labor and institutional capital used for the project.

(j) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives detailing—

(1) the open textbooks, supplemental materials, and informational resources created or adapted wholly or in part under this section;

(2) the adoption of such open textbooks, including outside of the eligible entity;

(3) the savings generated for students, States, and the Federal Government through projects supported under this section; and

(4) the impact of projects supported under this section on instruction and student learning outcomes.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as are necessary.

SEC. 4. TEXTBOOK PRICE INFORMATION.

Section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (6) and inserting the following:

''(6) OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE.—The term 'open educational resource' means a teaching, learning, or research resource that is offered freely to users in at least one form and that resides in the public domain or has been released under an open copyright license that allows for its free use, reuse, modification, and sharing with attribution.''; and

(B) in paragraph (9), by striking ''textbook that'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''textbook that may include printed materials, computer disks, website access, and electronically distributed materials.'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''or other person or adopting entity in charge of selecting course materials'' and inserting ''or other person or entity in charge of selecting or aiding in the discovery and procurement of course materials'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''such institution of higher education or to'' after ''would make the college textbook or supplemental material available to''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) Whether the college textbook or supplemental material is an open educational resource.

''(F) For a college textbook or supplemental material delivered primarily in a digital format, a summary of terms and conditions under which a publisher collects and uses student data through the student's use of such college textbook or supplemental material, including whether a student can opt out of such terms and conditions.'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''ISBN''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) verify and disclose, on (or linked from) the institution's Internet course schedule, for each course listed in such course schedule, and in a manner of the institution's choosing (except that if the institution determines that the disclosure of the information described in this subsection is not practicable or available for a college textbook or supplemental material, then the institution shall indicate the status of such information in lieu of the information required under this subsection)—

''(A) the International Standard Book Number of required and recommended college textbooks and supplemental materials, except that if the International Standard Book Number is not available for such college textbook or supplemental material, then the institution shall include in the Internet course schedule the author, title, publisher, and copyright date for such college textbook or supplemental material;

''(B) the retail price of required and recommended college textbooks and supplemental materials;

''(C) any applicable fee information of required and recommended college textbooks and supplemental materials;

''(D) whether each required and recommended college textbook and supplemental material is an open educational resource; and

''(E) for a college textbook or supplemental material delivered primarily in a digital format, a link to the summary required to be provided by the publisher under subsection (c)(1)(F); and'';

(4) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION FOR COLLEGE BOOKSTORES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An institution of higher education receiving Federal financial assistance shall assist a college bookstore that is operated by, or in a contractual relationship or otherwise affiliated with, the institution, in obtaining required and recommended course materials information and such course schedule and enrollment information as is reasonably required to implement this section so that such bookstore may—

''(A) verify availability of such materials;

''(B) source lower cost options, including presenting lower cost alternatives to faculty for faculty to consider, when practicable; and

''(C) maximize the availability of format options for students.

''(2) DUE DATES.—In carrying out paragraph (1), an institution of higher education may establish due dates for faculty or departments to notify the campus bookstore of required and recommended course materials.''; and

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) available open educational resources;''.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that institutions of higher education should encourage the consideration of open textbooks by faculty within the generally accepted principles of academic freedom that establishes the right and responsibility of faculty members, individually and collectively, to select course materials that are pedagogically most appropriate for their classes.

SEC. 6. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives on the cost of textbooks to students at institutions of higher education. The report shall particularly examine—

(1) the implementation of section 133 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015b), as amended by section 4, including—

(A) the availability of college textbook and open educational resource information on course schedules;

(B) the compliance of publishers with applicable requirements under such section; and

(C) the costs and benefits to institutions of higher education and to students;

(2) the change in the cost of textbooks;

(3) the factors, including open textbooks, that have contributed to the change of the cost of textbooks;

(4) the extent to which open textbooks are used at institutions of higher education; and

(5) how institutions are tracking the impact of open textbooks on instruction and student learning outcomes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 541—COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JEAN-LOUIS DE KEROUAC ON THE CENTENNIAL OF HIS BIRTH ON MARCH 12, 2022

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

S. RES. 541

Whereas Jean-Louis de Kérouac, better known as ''Jack'', was a giant of American literature and favorite son of Lowell, Massachusetts;

Whereas, alongside Allen Ginsberg and William Burroughs, Jack Kerouac ignited the literary movement in the 1950s known as the ''Beat Generation'';

Whereas the Beat Generation's rebuke against traditional values and materialism created the foundation for subsequent counterculture movements in America and beyond;

Whereas the beatnik stereotype dominated popular media and culture in the 1950s and 1960s, an amalgamation of Kerouac's self-expressive, unconventional characters;

Whereas the ''Beatles'' took their name after the movement, while artists such as Bob Dylan and Jim Morrison cite Kerouac's work as major influences; and

Whereas, more than half a century since his death, Kerouac's novels still fire the imagination, particularly of young people, and serve as a tribute to their culture-changing origins: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and commemorates the enduring contribution of Jack Kerouac's work to American literary culture and beyond on the centennial of his birth.

SENATE RESOLUTION 542—RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON ITS 110TH BIRTHDAY AND CELEBRATING ITS LEGACY OF PROVIDING GIRLS WITH A SAFE, INCLUSIVE SPACE THAT SUPPORTS THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN LEADERS

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr.

WARNOCK, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KING, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 542

Whereas March 12, 2022, marks the 110th birthday of Girl Scouts of the United States of America (referred to in this preamble as ''Girl Scouts''), the largest and most impactful leadership program for girls in the world;

Whereas, since its founding, Girl Scouts has emphasized public service and civic engagement and fostered a sense of community in girls;

Whereas Girl Scouts works to champion the ambitions, cultivate the talents, and develop the skills of girls to confidently pursue their passions and make the world a better place;

Whereas, during a time when girls are experiencing increased levels of anxiety, stress, loneliness, and depression, Girl Scouts provides community, consistency, and connection for girls and is a safe haven in all the uncertainty;

Whereas Girl Scouts supports the mental health of girls and is an accepting, safe space where—

(1) girls feel free to be themselves; and

(2) leaders and peers are sources of support;

Whereas, especially in the time of COVID–19, Girl Scouts plays an indispensable role in engaging girls in afterschool and out-of-school programming and experiences that expand their world and allow them to tap into their inner innovator, change maker, and leader;

Whereas, at a time when civics education is missing from many schools, Girl Scouts engages girls of all grade levels in civics programming that deepens their understanding of democracy and government, prepares them for a lifetime of civic engagement, and motivates them to take action on issues that are important to them;

Whereas Girl Scouts offers girls 21st century programming in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and beyond, helping girls develop invaluable life skills;

Whereas, to earn the Gold Award, Girl Scouts take on projects that have a measurable and sustainable impact on a community by assessing a need, designing a solution, completing a project, and inspiring others to sustain it; and

Whereas more than 50,000,000 women—trailblazers, visionaries, and leaders—are Girl Scout alums who have made the world a better place: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes Girl Scouts of the United States of America for 110 years of providing a safe, inclusive space where girls can hone their skills and develop leadership abilities;

(2) congratulates all Girl Scouts who earned the Gold Award in 2021, including the National Gold Award Girl Scouts; and

(3) encourages Girl Scouts of the United States of America to continue to champion the ambitions, nurture the creativity, and support the talents of future women leaders.

SENATE RESOLUTION 543—DESIGNATING MARCH 10, 2022, AS ''NATIONAL 'SLAM THE SCAM' DAY'' TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT PERVASIVE GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER SCAMS, AND TO PROMOTE EDUCATION TO PREVENT GOVERNMENT IMPOSTER SCAMS

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 543

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals in the United States are targeted by government imposter scams each year, including Social Security-related and Internal Revenue Service-related government imposter scams;

Whereas government imposter scams involve scammers contacting individuals in the United States and impersonating employees of government agencies, such as the Social Security Administration, to demand payment or personal information, which defrauds individuals of the United States and erodes trust in the government agencies that the scammers impersonate;

Whereas, since 2013, the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate has received more than 10,000 complaints from individuals in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, of which one-third were reporting possible government imposter scams;

Whereas there were nearly 400,000 government imposter scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission in 2021;

Whereas the Federal Trade Commission has estimated that victims lost over $442,000,000 in government imposter scams in 2021;

Whereas, according to the Federal Trade Commission, in 2021, older adults reported larger median individual losses as a result of government imposter scams than younger adults;

Whereas, according to the Federal Trade Commission, in 2021, individuals in the United States reported losing $23,150,000 to Social Security-related imposter scams;

Whereas, in 2021, Social Security-related imposter scams represented the largest category of complaints received by the fraud hotline of the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate; and

Whereas increased awareness of, and education about, government imposter scams help to thwart government imposter scammers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 10, 2022, as ''National 'Slam the Scam' Day'';

(2) recognizes National ''Slam the Scam'' Day as an opportunity to raise awareness about scams that involve individuals impersonating government employees by any means, including by mail, telephone, electronic mail, or internet websites (referred to in this resolving clause as ''government imposter scams'');

(3) recognizes that law enforcement agencies, consumer protection groups, telephone companies, area agencies on aging, and financial institutions all play vital roles in—

(A) preventing government imposter scams from targeting the people of the United States; and

(B) educating the people of the United States about government imposter scams;

(4) encourages—

(A) the implementation of policies to prevent government imposter scams; and

(B) the improvement of measures to protect the people of the United States from government imposter scams;

(5) encourages members of the public to—

(A) ignore solicitations from individuals falsely claiming to represent government agencies;

(B) share information about government imposter scams with family and friends; and

(C) report government imposter scams to—

(i) the Office of the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration;

(ii) the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration; or

(iii) the Federal Trade Commission; and

(6) honors the commitment and dedication of the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to fight against government imposter scams.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 33—COMMENDING THE HEROISM OF OLATHE EAST HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR DR. KALEB STOPPEL AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER ERIK CLARK IN RESPONDING TO A STUDENT ARMED WITH A FIREARM

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES 33

Whereas, on Friday, March 4, 2022, 2 employees of Olathe East High School in Olathe, Kansas, Administrator Dr. Kaleb Stoppel (referred to in this preamble as ''Dr. Stoppel'') and School Resource Officer Erik Clark (referred to in this preamble as ''Officer Clark''), were shot and wounded while engaging with an armed student;

Whereas the decision of Dr. Stoppel to remove the student from class and the swift response of Officer Clark to neutralize the student after he began shooting prevented the loss of innocent lives at Olathe East High School;

Whereas Officer Clark has been a school resource officer at Olathe East High School for 7 years and a law enforcement officer for 15 years; and

Whereas Dr. Stoppel has been an Assistant Principal and the Athletic Director of Olathe East High School for nearly 4 years and an educator for nearly 13 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate—

(1) commends Administrator Dr. Kaleb Stoppel and School Resource Officer Erik Clark for their heroic actions to protect students and staff of Olathe East High School; and

(2) recognizes Administrator Dr. Kaleb Stoppel and School Resource Officer Erik Clark for their years of dedication and service to their community as an educator and a member of law enforcement, respectively.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4982. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3811, making supplemental appropriations for assistance and activities related to Ukraine, and for other purposes.; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

SA 4983. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of

post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti.

SA 4984. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2471, supra.

SA 4985. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4984 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 2471, supra.

SA 4986. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2471, supra.

SA 4987. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4986 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 2471, supra.

SA 4988. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4987 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 4986 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 2471, supra.

SA 4989. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, supra.

SA 4990. Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2471, supra.

SA 4991. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4992. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4993. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4994. Ms. STABENOW submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2471, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4995. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4996. Mr. MARSHALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4997. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2471, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4998. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2471, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4999. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2471, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4982. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3811, making supplemental appropriations for assistance and activities related to Ukraine, and for other purposes.; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VII, insert the following:

SEC. 7_____. (a) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Department of Agriculture in section 1001(a) of subtitle A of title I of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2), $1,000,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(b) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available under the heading ''Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account, CARES Act'' in section 323(d)(1)(A) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) for the cost of guaranteed loans as authorized under paragraphs (36) and (37) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), $2,950,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(c) Of the unexpended balances remaining from amounts made available under the heading ''Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account, CARES Act'' in section 1107(a)(1) of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136), as amended by section 101(a)(2) of division A of the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (Public Law 116–139), $1,904,000,000 shall be returned to the Treasury.

(d) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available under sections 602(a)(1) and 603(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 802(a)(1), 803(a)) on the date of enactment of this Act, $7,055,000,000 is rescinded as of such date: *Provided*, That such rescission shall be applied first on a pro rata basis to the unobligated balances of the payment amounts allocated by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to subsection (b)(3)(B) of section 602 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 802): *Provided further*, That any remaining amounts to be rescinded shall be applied next on a pro rata basis to the unobligated balances of the payment amounts allocated by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(B) and (b)(2)(B) of section 602 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 802): *Provided further*, That any remaining amounts to be rescinded shall be applied on a pro rata basis to the unobligated balances of the payment amounts allocated by the Secretary of the Treasury for each of the entities authorized to receive payments under section 603 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 803).

(e) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Department of Education in section 2003 of title II of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2) and allocated to institutions of higher education as defined in section 102(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, $100,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(f) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Department of Transportation in section 7202(a) of title VII of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2), $2,000,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 7___. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Department of Agriculture under the heading ''Agricultural Programs—Office of the Secretary'' in title I of division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136), $650,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded: *Provided*, That the amounts rescinded pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) and section 4001(b) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year.

SA 4983. Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated to the ''Community Development Fund'', for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure, housing, and economic revitalization in areas in States for which the President declared a major disaster under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.) related to Hurricanes Laura, Delta, and Ida, $2,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, for activities authorized under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), of which—

(1) $600,000,000 shall be for activities related to Hurricanes Laura and Delta; and

(2) $1,400,000,000 shall be for activities related to Hurricane Ida.

(b) DEPOSIT OF C-BAND SPECTRUM AUCTION PROCEEDS IN TREASURY.—Section 309(j)(8) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(8)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and (G)'' and inserting ''(G), and (H)'';

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking ''and (G)'' and inserting ''(G), and (H)''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) C-BAND AUCTION PROCEEDS.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), and except as provided in subparagraph (B), of the proceeds (including deposits and upfront payments from successful bidders) from the use of a system of competitive bidding under this subsection to award licenses in the band of frequencies between 3700 megahertz and 3980 megahertz (designated by the Commission as 'Auction 107'), $2,500,000,000 shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury and used for emergency assistance under section 240(a) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.''.

SEC. _____. ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

In addition to amounts otherwise appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated $500,000,000 for the Port Infrastructure Development Program within the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration, to equitably administer grant awards to ports that incurred damages from Hurricanes Laura, Delta, Zeta, and Ida and Tropical Storm Cristobal.

SA 4984. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. ___. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 1 day after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 4985. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4984 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike ''1 day'' and insert ''2 days''.

SA 4986. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. ___. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 4 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 4987. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4986 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike ''4'' and insert ''5''.

SA 4988. Mr. SCHUMER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4987 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the amendment SA 4986 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike ''5'' and insert ''6''.

SA 4989. Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; as follows:

At the end of division HH, add the following:

TITLE VII—PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR COVID–19 VACCINE MANDATES

SEC. 701. PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR COVID–19 VACCINE MANDATES.

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under any division of this Act (notwithstanding section 3) 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).

SA 4990. Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; as follows:

At the end of the matter preceding division A, add the following:

SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON EARMARKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision of any division of this Act, none of the funds made available under any division of this Act may be used to implement any earmark, Community Project Funding, or Congressionally Directed Spending specified in any provision of any division of this Act or in the explanatory statement described in section 4.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall prevent funds allocated for any earmark, Community Project Funding, or Congressionally Directed Spending included in any division of this Act or in the tables contained in the explanatory statement described in section 4 from being awarded under a merit-based process under existing law.

SA 4991. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division HH, insert the following:

TITLE ___—PROTECTION OF NATIONAL ELECTRIC GRID

SEC. ____. AUTHORIZATION OF AMOUNTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO PROTECT THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC GRID.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Defense $4,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to be used by the Secretary to protect the electric grid of the United States.

(b) OFFSET.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to carry out the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) is hereby decreased by $4,000,000,000.

SA 4992. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION ___—PREVENT GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Prevent Government Shutdowns Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1311. Automatic continuing appropriations

''(a)(1)(A) On and after the first day of each fiscal year, if an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity has not been enacted and continuing appropriations are not in effect with respect to the program, project, or activity, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary to continue, at the rate for operations specified in subparagraph (C), the program, project, or activity if funds were provided for the program, project, or activity during the preceding fiscal year.

''(B)(i) Appropriations and funds made available and authority granted under subparagraph (A) shall be available for a period of 14 days.

''(ii) If, at the end of the first 14-day period during which appropriations and funds are made available and authority is granted under subparagraph (A), and the end of every 14-day period thereafter, an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity has not been enacted and continuing appropriations are not in effect with respect to the program, project, or activity under a provision of law other than subparagraph (A), the appropriations and funds made available and authority granted under subparagraph (A) during the 14-day period shall be extended for an additional 14-day period.

''(C)(i) Except as provided in clause (ii), the rate for operations specified in this subparagraph with respect to a program, project, or activity is the rate for operations for the preceding fiscal year for the program, project, or activity—

''(I) provided in the corresponding appropriation Act for such preceding fiscal year;

''(II) if the corresponding appropriation bill for such preceding fiscal year was not enacted, provided in the law providing continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year; or

''(III) if the corresponding appropriation bill and a law providing continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year were not enacted, provided under this section for such preceding fiscal year.

''(ii) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided for the previous fiscal year in appropriations Acts, under a law other than this section providing continuing appropriations for such previous year, or under this section, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, appropriations and funds made available during a fiscal year under this section shall be at the rate necessary to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act.

''(2) Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for any fiscal year pursuant to this section for a program, project, or activity shall be available, in accordance with paragraph (1)(B), for the period—

''(A) beginning on the first day of any lapse in appropriations during such fiscal year; and

''(B) ending on the date of enactment of an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for such program, project, or activity (whether or not such Act provides appropriations for such program, project, or activity) or a law making continuing appropriations for the program, project, or activity, as applicable.

''(3) Notwithstanding section 251(a)(1) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)(1)) and the timetable in section 254(a) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 904(a)), for any fiscal year for which appropriations and funds are made available under this section, the final sequestration report for such fiscal year pursuant to section 254(f)(1) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 904(f)(1)) and any order for such fiscal year pursuant to section 254(f)(5) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 901(f)(5)) shall be issued—

''(A) for the Congressional Budget Office, 10 days after the date on which appropriation Acts providing funding for the entire Federal Government through the end of such fiscal year have been enacted; and

''(B) for the Office of Management and Budget, 15 days after the date on which appropriation Acts providing funding for the entire Federal Government through the end of such fiscal year have been enacted.

''(b) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be subject to the terms and conditions imposed with respect to the appropriation made or funds made available for the preceding fiscal year, or authority granted for such program, project, or activity under current law.

''(c) Expenditures made for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity or a law making continuing appropriations until the end of such fiscal year for such program, project, or activity is enacted.

''(d) This section shall not apply to a program, project, or activity during a fiscal year if any other provision of law (other than an authorization of appropriations)—

''(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds available, or grants authority for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period; or

''(2) specifically provides that no appropriation shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''1311. Automatic continuing appropriations.''.

SEC. 3. TIMELY ENACTMENT OF APPROPRIATION ACTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''covered officer or employee'' means—

(A) an officer or employee of the Office of Management and Budget;

(B) a Member of Congress; or

(C) an employee of the personal office of a Member of Congress, a committee of either House of Congress, or a joint committee of Congress;

(2) the term ''covered period''—

(A) means any period of automatic continuing appropriations; and

(B) with respect to the legislative branch—

(i) does not include any period of automatic continuing appropriations that occurs during the period—

(I) beginning at the time at which general appropriations Acts providing funding for the entire Federal Government (including an appropriation Act providing continuing funding) have been enacted or passed in identical form by both Houses and transmitted to Secretary of the Senate or Clerk of the House for enrollment and presentment to the President for his signature; and

(II) ending at the time at which 1 or more general appropriations Acts—

(aa) are vetoed by the President; or

(bb) do not become law without the President's signature under article I, section 7 of the Constitution of the United States based on an adjournment of the Congress; and

(ii) includes any period of automatic continuing appropriations that is not a period described in clause (i) and that follows a veto or a failure to become law (as described in item (bb) of clause (i)(II)) of 1 or more general appropriations Acts;

(3) the term ''Member of Congress'' has the meaning given that term in section 2106 of title 5, United States Code;

(4) the term ''National Capital Region'' has the meaning given that term in section 8702 of title 40, United States Code; and

(5) the term ''period of automatic continuing appropriations'' means a period during which automatic continuing appropriations under section 1311 of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 2 of this Act, are in effect with respect to 1 or more programs, projects, or activities.

(b) LIMITS ON TRAVEL EXPENDITURES.—

(1) LIMITS ON OFFICIAL TRAVEL.—

(A) LIMITATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), during a covered period no amounts may be obligated or expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—

(i) RETURN TO DC.—If a covered officer or employee is away from the seat of Government on the date on which a covered period begins, funds may be obligated and expended for official travel for a single return trip to the seat of Government by the covered officer or employee.

(ii) TRAVEL IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—During a covered period, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee from one location in the National Capital Region to another location in the National Capital Region.

(iii) NATIONAL SECURITY EVENTS.—During a covered period, if a national security event that triggers a continuity of operations or continuity of Government protocol occurs, amounts may be obligated and expended for official travel by a covered officer or employee for any official travel relating to responding to the national security event or implementing the continuity of operations or continuity of Government protocol.

(2) RESTRICTION ON USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS.—Section 313 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking ''for ordinary'' and inserting ''except as provided in subsection (d), for ordinary''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) RESTRICTION ON USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL DURING AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), during a covered period (as defined in section 3 of the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act of 2022), a contribution or donation described in subsection (a) may not be obligated or expended for travel in connection with duties of the individual as a holder of Federal office.

''(2) RETURN TO DC.—If the individual is away from the seat of Government on the date on which a covered period (as so defined) begins, a contribution or donation described in subsection (a) may be obligated and expended for travel by the individual to return to the seat of Government.''.

(c) PROCEDURES IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During a covered period, in the Senate and the House of Representatives—

(A) it shall not be in order to move to proceed to any matter except for—

(i) a measure making appropriations for the fiscal year during which the covered period begins;

(ii) any motion required to determine the presence of or produce a quorum; or

(iii) on and after the 30th calendar day after the first day of a covered period—

(I) the nomination of an individual—

(aa) to a position at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5 of the United States Code; or

(bb) to serve as Chief Justice of the United States or an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; or

(II) a measure extending the period during which a program, project, or activity is authorized to be carried out (without substantive change to the program, project, or activity or any other program, project, or activity) if—

(aa) an appropriation Act with respect to the program, project, or activity for the fiscal year during which the covered period occurs has not been enacted; and

(bb) the program, project, or activity has expired since the beginning of such fiscal year or will expire during the 30-day period beginning on the date of the motion;

(B) it shall not be in order to move to recess or adjourn for a period of more than 23 hours; and

(C) at noon each day, or immediately following any constructive convening of the Senate under rule IV, paragraph 2 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Presiding Officer shall direct the clerk to determine whether a quorum is present.

(2) WAIVER.—

(A) LIMITATION ON PERIOD.—It shall not be in order in the Senate or the House of Representatives to move to waive any provision of paragraph (1) for a period that is longer than 7 days.

(B) SUPERMAJORITY VOTE.—A provision of paragraph (1) may only be waived or suspended upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the applicable House of Congress, duly chosen and sworn.

(d) MOTION TO PROCEED TO APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the 30th calendar day after the first day of each fiscal year, if an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to a program, project, or activity has not been enacted, it shall be in order in the Senate, notwithstanding rule XXII or any pending executive measure or matter, to move to proceed to any appropriations bill or joint resolution for the program, project, or activity that has been sponsored and cosponsored by not less than 3 Senators who are members of or caucus with the party in the majority in the Senate and not less than 3 Senators who are members of or caucus with the party in the minority in the Senate.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—For a bill or joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—

(A) the bill or joint resolution may be considered the same day as it is introduced and shall not have to lie over 1 day; and

(B) the motion to proceed to the bill or joint resolution shall be debatable for not to exceed 6 hours, equally divided between the proponents and opponents of the motion, and upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate shall vote on the motion to proceed.

SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—The budgetary effects of this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall be estimated as if this Act and the amendments made by this Act are discretionary appropriations Acts for purposes of section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.).

(b) BASELINE.—For purposes of calculating the baseline under section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907), the provision of budgetary resources under section 1311 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act, for an account shall be considered to be a continuing appropriation in effect for such account for less than the entire current year.

(c) ENFORCEMENT OF DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.—For purposes of enforcing the discretionary spending limits under section 251(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)), the budgetary resources made available under section 1311 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this Act, shall be considered part-year appropriations for purposes of section 251(a)(4) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)(4)).

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on September 30, 2022.

SA 4993. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. REQUIRING STATES, TERRITORIES, AND LOCALITIES TO SET ASIDE A PORTION OF CORONAVIRUS FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS FOR RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 602(c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''paragraph (3)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (3), (4), and (5)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or territory shall, subject to subparagraph (B), use at least 10 percent of the total amount of funds provided to the State or territory under this section (including, in the case of a State, any funds transferred to the State under section 603(c)(4)) to provide assistance to eligible entities (which, for purposes of this paragraph, shall have the meaning given such term in section 5003(a)(4) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) that did not receive a grant under section 5003(c) of such Act.

''(B) REQUIREMENT FOR STATES OR TERRITORIES WITH INSUFFICIENT FUNDS REMAINING.—If less than 10 percent of the total amount of funds provided to a State or territory under this section (including, in the case of a State, any funds transferred to the State under section 603(c)(4)) are unobligated on the date of enactment of this paragraph and the State or territory is unable to meet the requirement of subparagraph (A) as a result, the State or territory shall submit a report to Congress on how the State or territory has used such funds, including the amount of such funds the State or territory has used to provide assistance to eligible entities.

''(C) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—If a State or territory provides funds to an eligible entity under this paragraph—

''(i) such funds shall be available to the eligible entity for the 2-year period that begins on the date of enactment of this paragraph; and

''(ii) any such funds that are unobligated by the eligible entity after such period shall revert to the Treasury.''; and

(2) in section 603(c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''paragraphs (3) and (4)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (3), (4), (5), and (6)''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(6) RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county shall, subject to subparagraph (B), use at least 10 percent of the total amount of funds provided to city, unit of local government, or county under this section to provide assistance to eligible entities (which, for purposes of this paragraph, shall have the meaning given such term in section 5003(a)(4) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) that did not receive a grant under section 5003(c) of such Act.

''(B) REQUIREMENT FOR LOCALITIES WITH INSUFFICIENT FUNDS REMAINING.—If less than 10 percent of the total amount of funds provided to a metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county are unobligated on the date of enactment of this paragraph and the city, unit of local government, or county is unable to meet the requirement of subparagraph (A) as a result, the city, unit of local government, or county shall submit a report to Congress on how the city, unit of local government, or county has used such funds, including the amount of such funds the city, unit of local government, or county has used to provide assistance to eligible entities.

''(C) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS PROVIDED TO ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—If a metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county provides funds to an eligible entity under this paragraph—

''(i) such funds shall be available to the eligible entity for the 2-year period that begins on the date of enactment of this paragraph; and

''(ii) any such funds that are unobligated by the eligible entity after such period shall revert to the Treasury.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Sections 602(c)(3) and 603(c)(3) of title VI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 802(c)(3), 803(c)(3)) are each amended by striking ''paragraph (17) of''.

SA 4994. Ms. STABENOW submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. EXTENDING CHILD NUTRITION WAIVER AUTHORITY.

Section 2202 of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (42 U.S.C. 1760 note; Public Law 116–127) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''due to the COVID–19 pandemic'' after ''(42 U.S.C. 1760(l))'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon and inserting ''or''; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) ensuring continuity of program operation under a qualified program.'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''and subject to paragraph (3)'' after ''(42 U.S.C. 1760(1))''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B) by striking ''such section'' and inserting ''section 12(l) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(l))''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) TRANSITION PLAN.—A State that elects to be subject to a waiver under paragraph (2) that alters the operation of a qualified program described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (g)(1) during the 2022-2023 school year shall submit to the Secretary a transition plan by November 1, 2022.

''(4) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to assist school food authorities in meeting nutrition standards during the period in which a waiver established under paragraph (1) is in effect.

''(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR REGULAR OPERATION.—Not later than September 30, 2022, the Secretary shall issue technical assistance to States relating to the statutory and regulatory requirements that a State shall be required to meet to resume regular operation of each qualified program for the 2023-2024 school year.'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) through (f) as subsections (e) through (g), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) STATE ACTION.—If the Secretary issues a waiver under this section for meals served under a qualified program for school year 2022-2023, a State, during the period in which the waiver is in effect—

''(1) shall provide technical assistance or guidance in lieu of fiscal action for meal pattern violations due to supply chain disruptions;

''(2) shall not take fiscal action for meal pattern violations due to supply chain disruptions; and

''(3) shall not, in applying fiscal action in any subsequent school year, consider meal pattern violations that occurred due to supply chain disruptions during that period.'';

(4) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2); and

(B) by striking ''the following:'' in the matter preceding paragraph (1) and all that follows through ''A summary'' in paragraph (1) and inserting ''a summary'';

(5) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by striking ''The authority'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The authority'';

(B) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by striking ''June 30'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''September 30, 2023.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—A waiver authorized by the Secretary under this section may not be in effect after September 30, 2023.

''(3) RETURN TO REGULAR OPERATION.—Beginning on October 1, 2023, each qualified program for which a waiver is authorized under this section shall resume regular operation.'';

(6) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) REGULAR OPERATION.—The term 'regular operation', with respect to a qualified program, means the operation of the qualified program as if this section was not in effect.''; and

(7) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) FUNDING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

''(2) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts provided by paragraph (1) are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

''(B) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this section is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4112(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018.''.

SA 4995. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REQUIRING STATES, TERRITORIES, AND LOCALITIES TO USE COVID RELIEF FUNDS IN A TIMELY MANNER; LIFTING RESTRICTIONS ON STATE TAX LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 602—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''December 31, 2022''; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''Subject to paragraph (2), and except as provided in paragraph (3)'' and inserting ''Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3)''; and

(II) by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''December 31, 2022''; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively;

(C) in subsection (d)(2)(A), by striking '', including, in the case of a State or a territory, all modifications to the State's or territory's tax revenue sources during the covered period'';

(D) in subsection (e), by striking '', provided that, in the case of a violation of subsection (c)(2)(A)'' and all that follows through ''section 603(c)(4)''; and

(E) in subsection (g), by striking paragraph (1) and redesignating paragraphs (2) through (7) as paragraphs (1) through (6), respectively; and

(2) in section 603—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''December 31, 2022''; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''December 31, 2022''.

(b) USE OF UNEXPENDED COVID RELIEF FUNDS FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Any funds provided to a State, territory, Tribal government, metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county under section 602 or 603 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 802, 803) that are unexpended on January 1, 2023, shall revert to the Treasury and be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury for the sole purpose of deficit reduction.

(c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 603(c)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 803(c)(3)) and paragraph (2) of section 602(c) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 802(c)) (as redesignated by subsection (a)(1)(B)(ii)) are each amended by striking ''paragraph (17) of''.

SA 4996. Mr. MARSHALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PROHIBITION ON USE OF AMOUNTS TO IMPLEMENT OR ENFORCE MASK MANDATES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

No amounts appropriated under this Act or any other provision of law may be used to implement or enforce any requirement of the Department of Defense that individuals wear a mask to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to as ''COVID–19'') in indoor settings in installations and other facilities owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the Department.

SA 4997. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION ____—PROVIDING REPORTS ON INFLATIONS COSTS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ACT

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Providing Reports on Inflation Costs and Economic Impact Act'' or the ''PRICE Act''.

SEC. 2. POINT OF ORDER REQUIRING AN INFLATION IMPACT REPORT WITH ANY LEGISLATION THAT MAKES DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, amendment between the Houses, or conference report making discretionary appropriations (as defined in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c))) unless an inflation impact report by the Congressional Budget Office with respect to the measure is submitted for publication in the Congressional Record, including an analysis of the impact the measure would have on—

(1) the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor;

(2) the Employment Cost Index for private industry workers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

(3) the purchasing power of consumers, including a comparison of the impact described in paragraph (1) and the impact described in paragraph (2).

(b) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEALS.—

(1) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEALS.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this section shall be limited to 1 hour, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the bill or joint resolution, as the case may be. An affirmative vote of three-fifths 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 this section.

SA 4998. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION ____—COST ACT

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Cost Openness and Spending Transparency Act of 2021'' or the ''COST Act''.

SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECIPIENTS OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 1356. Disclosure requirements for recipients of Federal funds

''(a) IN GENERAL.—An individual or entity (including a State or local government and a recipient of a Federal research grant) carrying out a program, project, or activity that is, in whole or in part, carried out using Federal funds shall clearly state in any statement, press release, request for proposals, bid solicitation, or other document describing the program, project, or activity, other than a communication containing not more than 280 characters—

''(1) the percentage of the total costs of the program, project, or activity which will be financed with Federal funds;

''(2) the dollar amount of the Federal funds made available for the program, project, or activity; and

''(3) the percentage of the total costs of, and dollar amount for, the program, project, or activity that will be financed by nongovernmental sources.

''(b) NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines that an individual or entity is failing to comply with subsection (a), the Director may direct the head of each agency providing Federal funds to the individual or entity to withhold not more than 25 percent of the amount of Federal funds that would otherwise be provided to the individual or entity, until the date on which the individual or entity complies with subsection (a).''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter III of chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''1356. Disclosure requirements for recipients of Federal funds.''.

SA 4999. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2471, to measure the progress of post-disaster recovery and efforts to address corruption, governance, rule of law, and media freedoms in Haiti; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REPORT REGARDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) provides a description of the effect of inflation and supply chain disruption during the 3-year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act on the cost to small business concerns (as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636)) of obtaining access to capital, disaggregated by industry; and

(2) makes recommendations, in partnership with the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, on how to support access to capital for small business concerns involved in domestic manufacturing, agriculture, and production of technologies listed on the Critical and Emerging Technologies List issued by the National Security Council, or any successor thereto.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Eric M. Garcetti, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of India, dated March 10, 2022.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I have seven 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, March 10, 2022, at 8 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 9:30 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, March 10, 2022, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on The Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 12 p.m., to conduct an open hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 10, 2022, to conduct a closed hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until May 20, 2022: Jacob Custer, Mia Kuchner, Wilson Beaver, and Pedro Rodriguez.

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

DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF H.R. 2471

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 79, which was received from the House.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 79) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2471.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and 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.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 79) was agreed to.

EXTENSION OF CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 75, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be considered read a third time.

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) 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.

AMERICAN FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 209, S. 497.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 497) to establish the American Fisheries Advisory Committee to assist in the awarding of fisheries research and development grants, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further 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 with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (S. 497) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 497

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 ''American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act''.

SEC. 2. AMERICAN FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 2 of the Act of August 11, 1939 (15 U.S.C. 713c–3), is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) AMERICAN FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COMMITTEE.—The term 'Committee' means the American Fisheries Advisory Committee established under paragraph (2).

''(B) FISHING COMMUNITY.—The term 'fishing community' means harvesters, marketers, growers, processors, recreational fishermen, charter fishermen, and persons providing them with goods and services.

''(C) MARKETING AND PROMOTION.—The term 'marketing and promotion' means an activity aimed at encouraging the consumption of seafood or expanding or maintaining commercial markets for seafood.

''(D) PROCESSOR.—The term 'processor' means any person in the business of preparing or packaging seafood (including seafood of the processor's own harvesting) for sale.

''(E) SEAFOOD.—The term 'seafood' means farm-raised and wild-caught fish, shellfish, or marine algae harvested in the United States or by a United States flagged vessel for human consumption.

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act, the Secretary shall establish 6 regions within the American Fisheries Advisory Committee as follows:

''(A) Region 1 shall consist of Alaska, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of Guam and American Samoa.

''(B) Region 2 shall consist of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut.

''(C) Region 3 shall consist of Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Arkansas, Puerto Rico, and the Territory of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

''(D) Region 4 shall consist of California, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

''(E) Region 5 shall consist of New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

''(F) Region 6 shall consist of Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

''(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

''(A) REGIONAL REPRESENTATION.—Each of the regions listed in subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (2) shall be represented on the Committee by 3 members—

''(i) who are appointed by the Secretary;

''(ii) who reside in a State or territory in the region that the member will represent;

''(iii) of which—

''(I) one shall have experience as a seafood harvester or processor;

''(II) one shall have experience as recreational or commercial fisher or have experience growing seafood; and

''(III) one shall be an individual who represents the fisheries science community or the relevant Regional Fishery Management Council; and

''(iv) that are selected so that the members of the Committee have experience or expertise with as many seafood species as practicable.

''(B) AT-LARGE MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint to the Committee at-large members as follows:

''(i) One individual with experience in food distribution, marketing, retail, or food service.

''(ii) One individual with experience in the recreational fishing industry supply chain, such as fishermen, manufacturers, retailers, and distributors.

''(iii) One individual with experience in the commercial fishing industry supply chain, such as fishermen, manufacturers, retailers, and distributors.

''(iv) One individual who is an employee of the National Marine Fisheries Service with expertise in fisheries research.

''(C) BALANCED REPRESENTATION.—In selecting the members described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), the Secretary shall seek to maximize on the Committee, to the extent practicable, a balanced representation of expertise in United States fisheries, seafood production, and science.

''(4) MEMBER TERMS.—The term for a member of the Committee shall be 3 years, except that the Secretary shall designate staggered terms for the members initially appointed to the Committee.

''(5) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Committee shall be responsible for—

''(A) identifying needs of the fishing community that may be addressed by a project funded with a grant under subsection (c);

''(B) developing the request for proposals for such grants;

''(C) reviewing applications for such grants; and

''(D) selecting applications for approval under subsection (c)(2)(B).

''(6) CHAIR.—The Committee shall elect a chair by a majority of those voting, if a quorum is present.

''(7) QUORUM.—A simple majority of members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold hearings.

''(8) MEETINGS.—

''(A) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall meet not more than 2 times each year.

''(B) LOCATION.—The meetings of the Committee shall rotate between the geographic regions described under paragraph (2).

''(C) MINIMIZING COSTS.—The Committee shall seek to minimize the operational costs associated with meetings, hearings, or other business of the Committee, including through the use of video or teleconference.

''(9) DESIGNATION OF STAFF MEMBER.—The Secretary shall designate a staff member to coordinate the activities of the Committee and to assist with administrative and other functions as requested by the Committee.

''(10) PER DIEM AND EXPENSES AND FUNDING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Committee shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code, for reasonable travel costs and expenses incurred in performing duties as a member of the Committee.

''(B) FUNDING.—The costs of reimbursements under subparagraph (A) and the other costs associated with the Committee shall be paid from funds made available to carry out this section (which may include funds described in subsection (f)(1)(B)), except that no funds allocated for grants under subsection (f)(1)(A) shall be expended for any purpose under this subsection.

''(11) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—The conflict of interest and recusal provisions set out in section 302(j) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(j)) shall apply to any decision by the Committee and to all members of the Committee as if each member of the Committee is an affected individual within the meaning of such section 302(j), except that in addition to the disclosure requirements of section 302(j)(2)(C) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(j)(2)(C)), each member of the Committee shall disclose any financial interest or relationship in an organization or with an individual that is applying for a grant under subsection (c) held by the member of the Committee, including an interest as an officer, director, trustee, partner, employee, contractor, agent, or other representative.

''(12) TECHNICAL REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Prior to review of an application for a grant under subsection (c) by the Committee, the Secretary shall obtain an independent written technical evaluation from 3 or more appropriate Federal, private, or public sector experts (such as industry, academia, or governmental experts) who—

''(i) have subject matter expertise to determine the technical merit of the proposal in the application;

''(ii) shall independently evaluate each such proposal; and

''(iii) shall certify that the expert does not have a conflict of interest concerning the application that the expert is reviewing.

''(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance related to carrying out the technical evaluations under subparagraph (A). Such guidance shall include criteria for the elimination by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of applications that fail to meet a minimum level of technical merit as determined by the review described in subparagraph (A).''.

(b) ROLE IN APPROVAL OF GRANTS.—Section 2(c)(3) of the Act of August 11, 1939 (15 U.S.C. 713c–3(c)(3)), is amended to read as follows:

''(3)(A) No application for a grant under this subsection may be approved unless the Secretary—

''(i) is satisfied that the applicant has the requisite technical and financial capability to carry out the project; and

''(ii) based on the recommendations of the American Fisheries Advisory Committee established in subsection (e), evaluates the proposed project as to—

''(I) soundness of design;

''(II) the possibilities of securing productive results;

''(III) minimization of duplication with other fisheries research and development projects;

''(IV) the organization and management of the project;

''(V) methods proposed for monitoring and evaluating the success or failure of the project; and

''(VI) such other criteria as the Secretary may require.

''(B) If the Secretary fails to provide funds to a grant selected by the American Fisheries Advisory Committee, the Secretary shall provide a written document to the Committee justifying the decision.''.

SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF SPECIFIED PURPOSES OF FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS GRANTS PROGRAM TO INCLUDE FISHERIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

Section 2(c)(1) of the Act of August 11, 1939 (15 U.S.C. 713c–3(c)(1)), is amended by inserting ''fisheries science, recreational fishing,'' before ''harvesting,''.

SEC. 4. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS PROPOSALS.

Section 2(c) of the Act of August 11, 1939 (15 U.S.C. 713c–3(c)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) Any person awarded a grant under this subsection shall make publicly available a title and abstract of the project to be carried out by the grant funds that serves as the public justification for funding the project that includes a statement describing how the project serves to enhance United States fisheries, including harvesting, processing, marketing, and associated infrastructures, if applicable.''.

NATIONAL 'SLAM THE SCAM' DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 543, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 543) designating March 10, 2022, as ''National 'Slam the Scam' Day'' to raise awareness about pervasive government imposter scams, and to promote education to prevent government imposter scams.

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

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 543) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's (legislative day of March 7, 2022) RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 726.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 726, Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

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, Patrick J. Leahy, Debbie Stabenow.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 718.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Susan Tsui Grundmann, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2025.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 718, Susan Tsui Grundmann, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2025.

Charles E. Schumer, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Chris Van Hollen, Raphael G. Warnock, Jacky Rosen, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher A. Coons, Gary C. Peters.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, March 10, be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the EPW Committee be discharged from further consideration of PN1676, Corey Wiggins, to be Federal Cochairperson, Delta Regional Authority; and the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. PN1676, 641, 776, 782, 785, 786, 787, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Foreign Service; 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, and the Senate resume legislative session.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Corey Wiggins, of Mississippi, to be Federal Cochairperson, Delta Regional Authority; Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Serbia; Peter J. Beshar, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force; George J. Tsunis, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece; Randi Charno Levine, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Portuguese Republic; Laura Farnsworth Dogu, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Honduras; N. Nickolas Perry, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica; and all nominations on the Secretary's Desk in the Foreign Service as follows: PN1319 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Scott Bruns, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of October 27, 2021; PN1418 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Casey E. Bean, and ending Erich R. Kuss, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of November 17, 2021; PN1419 FOREIGN SERVICE nomination of Ronald P. Verdonk, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of November 17, 2021; PN1420 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (11) beginning Lisa M. Allen, and ending Jasmine M. Osinski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of November 17, 2021; PN1421—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (205) beginning Stephen Anderson, and ending Eugene West, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of November 17, 2021; PN 1422 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (4) beginning Randy W. Berry, and ending Lynne Marie Tracy, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of November 17, 2021; and PN1747 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (42) beginning Kathy E. Body, and ending Jessica Hunter Zaman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of January 31, 2022, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117–81, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology: Senator TODD YOUNG of Indiana and Dr. Alexander J. Titus of New Hampshire.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 110–315, announces the appointment of the following individual to be a member of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity: Zakiya Smith Ellis of New Jersey, vice Dr. Paul LeBlanc of New Hampshire.

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy: The Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER of Colorado (At Large).

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, March 14, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Young nomination; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022, AT 3 P.M.

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 10:27 p.m., adjourned until Monday, March 14, 2022, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RITA M. LANDGRAF, OF DELAWARE, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AGING, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE LANCE ALLEN ROBERTSON.

ROSELYN TSO, OF OREGON, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MICHAEL D. WEAHKEE.

ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW COMMISSION

WILLIAM CARL BLAKE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW COMMISSION. (NEW POSITION)

MICHAEL BLECKER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW COMMISSION. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SHEREEF M. ELNAHAL, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR HEALTH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, VICE DAVID J. SHULKIN.

ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW COMMISSION

CHRISTINA ORZADA HILL, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW COMMISSION. (NEW POSITION)

JOYCE M. JOHNSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW COMMISSION. (NEW POSITION)

LUCRETIA MARIA MCCLENNEY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW COMMISSION. (NEW POSITION)

PATRICK J. MURPHY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW COMMISSION. (NEW POSITION)

JOSE R. RAMOS, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW COMMISSION. (NEW POSITION)

JONATHAN WOODSON, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ASSET AND INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW COMMISSION. (NEW POSITION)

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS DEPUTY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 9037:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. REBECCA R. VERNON

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

LT. GEN. JAMES J. MINGUS

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203(A):

To be rear admiral

MIRIAM L. LAFFERTY

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER D. CORLISS

IN THE ARMY

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

To be lieutenant colonel

MATTHEW B. YOUNG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MICHAEL PEROZENI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

To be colonel

WILLIAM M. YUND

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be major

ALEX V. FUNICELLO

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

NEIL JAIN

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

To be colonel

LUKE M. SAUTER

To be liuetenant colonel

JOHN D. PATRICK

SABINE SLOVER

To be major

DERRICK W. BURNETT
ZACHARY W. FIELDS

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

COREY WIGGINS, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRPERSON, DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 10, 2022:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MARIA L. PAGAN, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE A DEPUTY UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE (GENEVA OFFICE), WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHRISTOPHER R. HILL, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PETER J. BESHAR, OF NEW YORK, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GEORGE J. TSUNIS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO GREECE.

RANDI CHARNO LEVINE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC.

LAURA FARNSWORTH DOGU, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS.

N. NICKOLAS PERRY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAMAICA.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF SCOTT BRUNS.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CASEY E. BEAN AND ENDING WITH ERICH R. KUSS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2021.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF RONALD P. VERDONK.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LISA M. ALLEN AND ENDING WITH JASMINE M. OSINSKI, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2021.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN ANDERSON AND ENDING WITH EUGENE WEST, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2021.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RANDY W. BERRY AND ENDING WITH LYNNE MARIE TRACY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 17, 2021.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KATHY E. BODY AND ENDING WITH JESSICA HUNTER ZAMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 31, 2022.

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

COREY WIGGINS, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE FEDERAL CO-CHAIRPERSON, DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY.