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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Mighty God, whose ears are attentive to our prayers, we acknowledge that You are the source of all goodness. Lord, the world belongs to You, for You laid the Earth's foundation and built it on the ocean's depths. Bring peace to our world, particularly in Ukraine. Give wisdom to our world leaders so that they will fulfill Your purposes for peace in our world.

We praise You because of Your strength and might. You are invincible in battle, and our times are in Your hands.

Lord, we trust You with our future, offering this prayer in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AMERICA CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANUFACTURING, PRE-EMINENCE IN TECHNOLOGY, AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH ACT OF 2022—Resumed

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4521, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4521) to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology.

Pending:

Schumer Amendment No. 5002, in the nature of a substitute.

Schumer Amendment No. 5003 (to Amendment No. 5002), to change the enactment date.

Schumer Amendment No. 5004 (to Amendment No. 5003), to change the enactment date.

Schumer Amendment No. 5005 (to the language proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 5002), to change the enactment date.

Schumer Amendment No. 5006 (to Amendment No. 5005), to change the enactment date.

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with instructions to report back forthwith, Schumer Amendment No. 5007, to change the enactment date.

Schumer Amendment No. 5008 (to the instructions of the motion to commit (Amendment No. 5007), to change the enactment date.

Schumer Amendment No. 5009 (to Amendment No. 5008), to change the enactment date.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

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

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. President Biden likes to say, and has said again today, that budgets are statements of values. Indeed, they can be, and the White House budget request that President Biden published today offers the clearest possible reminder that the Biden administration's far-left values are fundamentally disconnected from what American families actually need.

I mentioned around President Biden's State of the Union that the speech gave the President a chance to pivot. He has had a chance to assess the poll numbers, read the tea leaves, and make a dramatic course correction back toward where Americans would like for him to be. But he chose not to, and this budget proposal is just the mathematical version of that failure to pivot.

The White House is desperately spinning to call this budget centrist, but there is nothing remotely moderate about what is in it.

First and foremost, at a dangerous time, the President's budget falls woefully short on defense spending. Our Commander in Chief has again failed to budget for the resources that our Armed Forces actually need. The Biden administration proposes a nominal 4-percent increase for defense over the bipartisan bill Congress just passed for this year.

That is a nominal 4-percent increase before any of the Democrats' historic inflation is taken into account, and inflation right now is about twice that. So even if you accept the White House's rosiest predictions about where inflation is headed, this would amount to flat-funding defense, with none of the robust growth we need to keep pace with Russia and China. Even in the best case scenario for their budget, it

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

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would leave our Armed Forces simply treading water.

And what if Democrats' historic inflation does not plummet downward as quickly as they would like? What if the inflation they have caused keeps sticking around? Then, President Biden's budget would actually cut funding for our Armed Forces in real dollars.

Look, the world is a dangerous place and growing more dangerous by the day. Putin's escalation in Europe has created significant new requirements for the Pentagon and our defense industrial base. We have growing threats from Iran. China is pouring money into high-tech weapons systems. Beijing announced that they are increasing defense spending again this year by more than 7 percent.

So, amid all this, the White House has proposed no meaningful increase in resources for protecting innocent Americans, promoting our interests, supporting our partners, assisting Ukraine, or replenishing our stockpiles. President Biden likes to give speeches about the need for American leadership in the world, but when the rubber meets the road, when it is time to invest so we can rise and meet challenges like Russia and China, this President has, again, decided to do exactly the opposite. Putin and Xi will sleep more soundly at night if the Biden administration gets its way on defense funding than if Republicans get ours.

Now, let's look at the places where President Biden does want to pull out all the stops and hand out massive funding increases. Our Armed Forces may get the short end of the stick from this White House, but plenty, plenty of far-left domestic priorities will be literally swimming in cash.

While they limit defense to 4 percent growth before inflation, nondefense spending would get a significantly larger increase—not all of domestic spending however. Border security and the Department of Homeland Security barely tread water, just like our troops. But other Agencies and Departments that are more useful for the far-left agenda, like the IRS, the EPA, Commerce, HUD, and Labor make out like bandits with gigantic—gigantic—increases of 20 and 30 percent since 2021.

They want to pour money into absurdities like the U.N. Green Climate Fund—borrow from China to fund a global bureaucracy that will hand free money back to China. There is plenty of money for things like antigun regulations, free lawyers for illegal immigrants, and something called ''environmental justice.''

This whole far-left feast leaves out the reckless taxing-and-spending spree that Democrats failed to pass last year and are now trying to revive. The Biden administration still wants all that spending, too, but they couldn't even budget for it honestly.

And all of the bloated liberal nonsense comes paired with the biggest tax hike in American history—a 2.5-plus-trillion-dollar bomb of tax hikes dropped on top of an economy that the Democrats' policies have already hurt badly, literally—literally—the largest tax hike in history.

Among those increases, President Biden wants to use colossal tax hikes to punish domestic producers of American energy. World events are reminding us every day how important American oil and natural gas production is for our national security and for our partners, but President Biden would rather grind his ideological ax and escalate his holy war on ''Made in America'' fossil fuels.

This—this—is the budget request of an administration that is completely disconnected from reality, of a President who has decided not to pivot, of a Democratic Party that has chosen not to correct course on its own.

Every data point suggests that the American people want and need a major course correction. It appears that in about 7 months, they may have to provide it themselves.

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

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

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, held its hearing on the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve as Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

It was an opportunity to learn a lot about her: her qualifications, her experience, her approach to cases, her judicial temperament, and her temperament before the committee.

She proved to the public what many of us suspected and some knew: She is, without a doubt, ready to serve on the Supreme Court.

I have spoken before about Judge Jackson's background and qualifications, but some of it bears repeating because this is the critical week before we consider her nomination next week on the floor of the Senate.

She is the daughter of two school teachers, public school teachers. Judge Jackson discovered her passion for the law at the age of 4. See, her dad decided to give up teaching. He had another profession in mind; he was going to become a lawyer. And so he would sit at the kitchen table with his law books all stacked up, and Judge Jackson, at the age of 4, would gather her coloring books and sit next to her daddy. She was going to study too.

She believes that might have been the first time that she thought seriously about becoming a lawyer.

After graduating from public high school in Miami—she had distinguished herself as president of the student body and as the lead on the high school speech and debate team. She competed nationally successfully and visited the campus of Harvard University. She loved it. She decided that she was going to apply to go to school there.

When she went back to her high school in Florida, she sat down with her counselor to talk about that option. The counselor discouraged her; she was aiming too high. But she did it anyway, and she was accepted and then went on to Harvard Law School.

She has clerked at every level of the Federal judiciary. If you are not a lawyer, that may not mean much; but if you are a lawyer, it is a big deal. To think that she started off at the lowest Federal district court level clerking for a judge, then was accepted to move up a level to the circuit judge position to serve as a clerk as well, and then to finally grab the gold ring of being a Supreme Court clerk to none other than Justice Stephen Breyer whose vacancy she is hoping to fill.

She worked in private practice as a lawyer, and she proved that she was a consensus builder all the way along. On the bench, she served as a district court judge and now circuit court in the DC Circuit.

It is no surprise that she has won the admiration and friendship of so many people throughout her career. In fact, she has come before the same Senate Judiciary Committee on three separate occasions with her background carefully reviewed and emerged with the approval of the committee with bipartisan support.

In fact, when you look at it, if you watched last week's hearing before the Judiciary Committee, no one questioned her qualifications, her knowledge, her experience. She really has a platinum resume when it comes to that.

On the final day of the hearing, the committee heard from Anne Williams. Anne Williams is well-known to the Presiding Officer as well as to myself. She served as a district court judge in the Northern District of Illinois and then as a circuit judge on the Seventh Circuit. I believe she was the first African-American woman to do so.

She is retired at this point, but she has volunteered with the American Bar Association to do the careful review of Judge Jackson to make certain that we know every comment that has been made by professionals who have been familiar with her work experience.

Judge Williams is an anomaly politically. Those who are looking for evidence as to whether she is Democrat or Republican, she was initially appointed to the district court by President Reagan and then to the circuit court by President Clinton—a bipartisan nominee all the way.

She came to report to the committee that Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, who had been reviewed with careful personal interviews of 250 separate individuals in her legal career, had emerged unanimously well-qualified to serve on the Supreme Court.

Judge Williams said that in interviewing these lawyers and judges, they asked the hard questions—the ones that you can ask in confidence and in private—and the answers were all the same.

Judge Jackson has a career that has distinguished her as outstanding, excellent, superior, superb, the list of accolades went on and on. The ABA found that Judge Jackson has a sterling reputation for thoughtfulness and collegiality and exceptional competence.

I also asked Judge Williams, serving as the spokesperson for the ABA, to comment on the allegations that Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is somehow soft on crime. It is a common mantra coming from the other side of the aisle. And I said, in the course of asking 250 different judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, and all the people who worked with and around her, Was there any evidence that she was soft on crime? No. None. None. That is amazing when you think that is the No. 1 talking point against her from the Republican side of the aisle. ''None whatsoever'' is exactly what Judge Williams said. Another ABA witness, Jean Veta, said that the ABA ''heard consistently from not only defense counsel, but [from] prosecutors'' of how unbiased Judge Jackson was throughout her career.

And just as impressive as her qualifications was her performance and candor before the Senate Judiciary Committee. If you ask her a question about stare decisis, she will start responding by defining it in plain English, just to make sure everybody at home, lawyer or nonlawyer, can follow along. She expresses her thinking with surgeon-like precision, which I am sure her husband, Dr. Patrick Johnson, who is an actual surgeon at Georgetown University Hospital, deeply admires. Clarity and impartiality, that is Judge Jackson.

During the hearing, several of my colleagues asked her to describe her judicial philosophy. Pick a label: Are you an originalist; are you a textualist; are you a liberal; are you a conservative? Previous Supreme Court nominees like Chief Justice Roberts have said that they do not have an ''overarching judicial philosophy'' that they bring to a case.

That was a good enough answer for many Republicans if it was given by Chief Justice Roberts or Justice Amy Coney Barrett, but they have complained now that she just won't come up and admit to a label.

She did us one better. She gave a thorough, step-by-step explanation of how she decided a case—every case—and she has some 580 separate written opinions. You don't need an electron microscope to find this judge's judicial philosophy. She has written it down and published it over and over and over again.

She established her independence, she says, by ''clearing [her] mind of any preconceived notions'' when she gets a case, sets aside her personal views, evaluates the facts, listens to the arguments, and then she interprets and applies the law, keeping in mind the limits of judicial authority.

What I have just described is what she told the committee, and it is exactly what we look for and should look for in every judge. I can't recall ever hearing a nominee give such a clear and thorough explanation of their approach to deciding a case. And Judge Jackson's evenhanded record on so many different issues—criminal law, labor relations, executive power—shows that it works.

Finally, the Judiciary Committee hearing allowed the public to observe Judge Jackson's incredible judicial temperament. We spend a lot of time as Senators with the authority under the Constitution to advise and consent, interviewing nominees for courts, trying to determine just what kind of a judge they will be. What will their temperament be? Will they be all swollen and big-headed over this black robe and lifetime appointment, or will they remember the real-life experiences that many people in their courtroom have lived through?

Well, I can tell you, Judge Jackson's temperament has shown through. Frankly, she was tested time and time again. You see, I might just go out on a limb and tell you: There are some Senators that don't show a very good temperament themselves under these circumstances. And they tested her over and over and over again with baseless, wild charges, some of which were just offensive on their face.

I listened to those, and I would look up and think, if she stands up at this point and says, ''That's enough. I am taking my family, and I'm going home,'' nobody would have faulted her for it—some of the questioning was just that bad—but she didn't.

My Republican colleagues promised a fair and respectful hearing. The majority of them, starting with Senator GRASSLEY, did just that; and I commended them for it today in the committee. They set an example of a minority party with a Supreme Court nominee and how the questioning should come down. Unfortunately, others, however, on that side of the table did not.

But in the face of the constant badgering and interruptions, offensive insinuations by a select few Republicans, Judge Jackson never lost her composure—never. She was patient, calm, and dignified.

Many times, the questions were so mean-spirited. And I thought, there sits her husband and her daughter listening to these charges on how she is soft on crime and doesn't care about the plight of children. And when you think about that, what they must think of to hear those things said about the doctor's wife and the kid's mother. It is just hard to take.

She was patient and kind. She didn't lose her temper at one time. Some of my colleagues attended the committee's hearing intent on tearing her down. It didn't work. Instead, she showed America that she can rise to any challenge as a Justice on the Supreme Court.

And despite some of my colleagues' behavior in the committee hearings, last week was an inspiration for so many people across this country. I invited law students from Howard University and my alma mater Georgetown Law to come over and sit through the hearing. We invited interns from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. They wanted to be there at this history-making moment.

They watched her prove that through hard work, a commitment to the law, and in the words of Senator BOOKER, her grit and grace, she has earned a seat on the highest Court in the land.

I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a look at this woman and what she will bring to the Court.

It is time, America, after all these years, never having had an African-American woman serve on the Court. It has got to be a challenge to find somebody who is ready to take on the job and take on the challenge. She can meet that challenge and will successfully. She is the best and deserves our support.

REMEMBERING MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

On another topic, Madam President, last week, America and the world lost another trailblazing woman and defender of justice and democracy—and a friend.

Madeleine Korbel Albright came to the United States at age 11 as a refugee. Her family had been driven out of their native Czechoslovakia twice by murderous regimes, in 1938 by the Nazis and 10 years later by the communists.

Those searing childhood upheavals helped to produce in this young woman a lifelong vigilance against dictators and a fierce commitment to democracy.

Her father had been a diplomat who received political asylum in America. Like nearly all immigrants and refugees who come to this country fleeing the tyranny of autocracy, he was keenly aware that this was a land of freedom. He told his daughter many times, ''Americans don't know how fragile their democracy is—and how resilient it is.''

She also knew persistent autocracy. It can rise at any age in any nation. We see it today in the leadership of Russia. That is why we must protect the rule of law, the most potent defense against dictators.

In 1997, she made history. She became America's first woman Secretary of State under President Clinton, previously serving as our Nation's Ambassador to the United Nations. She was a hardline critic of tyrants and despots who advocated the policy of assertive multilateralism, and she called the United States ''the indispensable nation.''

She believed that the best hope for a free and peaceful world lay in America, exercising leadership and working with the family of Democratic nations to protect democracy, just as we are today in Ukraine.

She was deeply committed to NATO. As Secretary of State, she supported NATO expansion to include Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic—three nations that lived under the boot heel of Soviet oppression. Today, all three nations are providing a haven for Ukrainian civilians, mostly women and children, who are fleeing Putin's unprovoked and barbaric war on that young democracy.

Madeleine Albright understood that any democracy could fall victim to the siren song of autocracy if its citizens were not vigilant. After her historic career in public service, she was chair of an organization called the National Democratic Institute, helping young democracies build independent court systems and a vibrant civil society.

She spoke to me about this important work and understood that for democracies to endure, they must offer more than promises. In one of her last interviews, Madeleine Albright offered a warning that we in this Senate should be wise to remember. She said:

> What is important is that democracy has to deliver. People want to vote and eat. And therefore it is very important for democracies, and certainly for the world's oldest, to understand the rule of law—because corruption is the cancer of democracy . . . The people need to be the beneficiaries of [democracy].

Likely because of her family's own experience with fleeing tyranny, Madeleine Albright was quicker than many at recognizing dictators when she saw them. She first met Vladimir Putin in the year 2000, 1 year after his meteoric rise from a mid-level, mediocre KGB apparatchik to President of the Russian Federation. She recorded her first impressions of Vladimir Putin over 20 years ago. She wrote:

> Putin is small and pale, so cold as to be almost reptilian.

She went on to note presciently that Putin was ''embarrassed about what happened to his country and determined to restore its greatness.''

The violence and destruction that Vladimir Putin is willing to wage in pursuit of this delusion to make Russia great again is now horrifyingly obvious to the entire world.

Let me say at the outset: I have no quarrel with the people of Russia. They are good people and have a great history. There were chapters in there that were oppressive and terrible to their neighbors and the countries that suffered under Stalin and the reach of the Soviet Union. But at their heart, I believe the Russians are good people. Sadly, I cannot say the same about their leader.

The brutal assault on Ukraine is now in its second month. Yesterday, at the water tower in downtown Chicago, we had a rally for Ukrainians. It was cold. This time of year, it is cold in Chicago. It was probably 30 degrees, and the wind was blowing. But what a crowd showed up—several hundred people—many bearing Ukrainian flags and, of course, proud of their Ukrainian heritage, but from so many other places as well. Groups of people were there who were Indian Americans who wanted to show support.

I was proud that the Baltic Americans—Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians—once again were there in force. I was also proud that the Polish people came, because they have a special kinship to Ukraine at this moment in history.

Poland is accepting more refugees from Ukraine than any other nation and is making great personal sacrifice to do it.

As the Polish Ambassador told us 2 weeks ago, when people get off that train for the first stop in Poland, finally, they are on safe soil, out of Ukraine. They don't look for people—soldiers and police—to guide them. What they find is that people are in their cars, waiting, with the doors open, to bring them in even if they are total strangers.

The Polish Ambassador said: You don't see any refugee camps in Poland.

No. People are going into the homes of other Polish families and are being welcomed into those homes.

He said: The reason we are feeling this way about our neighbors is that, when it happened to us many years ago, no one would take us in. We remember those days.

What a reminder to us in the United States.

You know, when the President said last week that he wants to accept 100,000 refugees from Ukraine, I applauded it, as did others, but just for a point of reference, a nation of 5 million, known as Ireland, has also agreed to accept 100,000 refugees. So the United States is showing some charity, but we can do more. We shouldn't limit it just to refugees from Ukraine. There are refugees from wars and calamities around the world who also need an opportunity to be in a safe place. The United States has enjoyed that reputation for almost 80 years, and we did it after World War II. We should return to those days.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees calculates that 10 million Ukrainians—almost a fourth of the population—have been driven from their homes and displaced—1 out of 4. Another 3.5 million Ukrainians have fled to neighboring nations, especially to Poland. The city of Warsaw alone is admitting 1,000 Ukrainian children to its schools every day—1,000 Ukrainian kids a day into Poland.

Joe Biden, our President, understands the same truth that Madeleine Albright saw—that the struggle between dictatorships and democracy did not end with the defeat of Nazism or the fall of the Berlin Wall. It continues in this century, and Ukraine is now the new frontline in this old battle.

Critics of the President's will no doubt fixate on one unscripted line of his speech in Poland. I say to those critics: Who among you has not uttered the same thought? Who doubts for one second this world would be more secure without the likes of such a tyrant?

The Russian people have to make that decision, and if they are given the truth, I am sure they will make the right decision. That is why Vladimir Putin is trying to control the media. The Russian people will decide for themselves whether Putin stays or goes.

The duty of democracy is to make sure that people have the final word as to their own destinies within their own borders. President Biden is leading a historic effort of the NATO alliance on behalf of the people of Ukraine. I salute him for his leadership.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this morning, President Biden released his budget for fiscal year 2023.

When you compare the President's agenda with the nasty Republican proposals, like the one from the Senator from Florida, it is clear that the contrast between the two parties is stark and glaring. One budget is for the ultrarich, and the other budget is for the middle class and those working to get there.

President Biden's vision for America is refreshingly bold, responsible, and taps into our Nation's greatest strength—the American people themselves. It is a good, strong budget that will help build on the historic growth of the past year.

For starters, the President's budget zeros in on fighting inflation. It calls, for instance, on increasing domestic manufacturing and relieving supply chain bottlenecks, especially at our ports.

It increases help for American families to afford childcare, pre-K, and provides more funding to help schools with the academic and mental health resources to help students thrive.

It builds on the President's promise to expand healthcare and supports efforts to lower prescription drug costs. Lowering prescription drug costs is one of the highest priorities of Senate Democrats, and we are eager and ready to work with the administration on this front.

After years of Trump budgets that didn't even mention the word ''climate,'' President Biden's plan would boost investments in clean energy, lower the costs of energy for low-income Americans, and speed up our transition to clean cars made right here in America, which will create thousands and thousands of good-paying new jobs.

Critically, the President's budget will grow our country while making sure the richest Americans pay their

fair share. Most Americans think it is unacceptable for those at the top to pay less in taxes than teachers and firefighters. God bless the rich—I have nothing against them—but I applaud the President's proposal for making sure the ultrarich chip in to growing our country.

Finally, I commend the President for releasing a budget that honors our Nation's promise to Ukraine while keeping Americans around the world safe from harm.

Now compare the President's budget, President Biden's budget, to the bewildering vision laid out by Senate Republicans in recent weeks.

While Democrats want to lower costs for American families, Republicans are openly calling on raising taxes on most Americans.

Yesterday, the junior Senator from Florida went on FOX News Sunday to deny this part of his plan, only for the anchor—the FOX anchor—to remind everyone watching: ''No, it's in the plan.''

While Democrats want to strengthen Medicare and make healthcare more affordable, Republicans have resurrected calls to repeal healthcare and even possibly put Medicare on the chopping block. And lest anyone forget, a few months ago, the junior Senator from Florida, in another example, openly said inflation was a ''gold mine''—a gold mine—for the Republican Party, a gold mine. People are hurt; it is a gold mine for the Republican Party.

Just how callous, how retrograde, how backward is the Republican vision for America? raising taxes on working people? cheerleading inflation? stoking divisions and even putting things like Medicare at risk while pushing tax breaks for the ultrarich? If that is their pitch to the American people, God help Republicans.

In the meantime, I thank President Biden for releasing a strong, optimistic, and responsible plan that will build on the historic recovery our Nation has seen in the past year.

Senate Democrats will work with the administration to put these proposals into concrete legislation in the weeks and months to come.

H.R. 4521

Madam President, now on the competition bill, it is an important day here on the Senate floor. In a few hours, we will hold a vote on final passage for the bipartisan jobs and competitiveness legislation many of us have worked on for over a year.

For the information of all, today's action will come in two steps. We will first vote on cloture on the substitute amendment, which contains the text of the Senate-passed United States Innovation and Competition Act. Then we will proceed to final passage. Both votes are set at a 60-vote threshold, and I am confident that we will wrap up this important work by the end of the day.

As I have said since the beginning of this process, the actions we are taking on the Senate floor will enable us to enter a conference committee with the House, which we need in order to finalize our competitiveness bill. I believe we can see a conference committee initiated by the end of this work period.

If enacted, I believe this legislation will be one of the most important accomplishments of the 117th Congress. This bill, for all its provisions, is really about two big things: creating more American jobs and lowering costs for American families.

It will help lowering costs by making it easier to produce critical technologies here at home, like semiconductors. It will create more jobs by bringing manufacturing back from overseas.

And just as importantly, this legislation will fuel another generation of American innovation. Whichever nation is the first to master the technologies of tomorrow will reshape the world in its image. America cannot afford to come in second place when it comes to technologies like 5G, AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, bioengineering, and so much more.

This bill is a necessary step toward securing the bright future of American ingenuity, which has always helped us lead the way.

I want to thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for everything they have done to help us each this moment. It has been a long, hard road, but almost every Member of this Chamber has had a hand in putting this bill together. It was a blend of various proposals across various committees, and it was a product of a healthy amendment process both in committee and on the floor.

We are, hopefully, just a few hours away from reaching the next important step in the process, putting us on a glidepath to initiating a conference committee with the House.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, on COVID, over the past few weeks, our country has made major strides in the fight against COVID. Cases, deaths, and hospitalizations are coming down and staying down. Schools and communities are opening up and staying open.

But in order to preserve this progress, Congress must now act to make sure that our communities, our healthcare workers, and our families have the resources they need to keep our country open. Sadly, public funding for COVID relief is in critical danger of actually running out.

That is why right now I am working with my Republican colleagues to reach a bipartisan agreement on another COVID–19 package. The White House has been unambiguous in saying they need more funding with all due haste, so that is what we are working to secure ASAP.

A new bipartisan bill will pay for all the tools we know work best against new variants: It will ensure we have enough vaccines; enough testing; enough therapeutics, which do amazing things if you get them in time; and support our schools to stay open in a safe way. We also need to do more to boost global vaccination efforts and support cutting-edge research into new vaccines.

We already know what to do in order to keep life going as normally as possible should another variant threaten to unravel our progress. Now we simply need to secure the funding to make sure we can keep schools open and our communities as safe as possible. If you don't go for the funding and a new variant hits and it gets bad, shame on you. Everyone should be for this.

Over the next few days, we will keep negotiating with our Republican colleagues in good faith. While we are not there yet, talks have been encouraging, and I hope we can reach an agreement very soon.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 7108 and H.R. 6968

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6968) to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 7108) to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you.

I yield the floor.

AMERICA CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MANUFACTURING, PRE-EMINENCE IN TECHNOLOGY, AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH ACT OF 2022—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, during the first few months of President Biden's term, he has tried to brush off the surge of illegal immigrant apprehensions as nothing more than a seasonal trend. But after month 6, seasonal migration was no longer a valid explanation for what turned out to be a recordbreaking year.

This border surge wasn't by accident. President Biden pledged to enact an open border agenda by halting border wall construction, reversing successful Trump-era immigration policies, and hamstringing our law enforcement officers. It was one promise he has kept.

And over a year into the Biden administration, we are seeing the consequences of that promise.

Just last year, nearly 2 million illegal immigrants were apprehended at our southern border from more than 160 different countries. And for 2022, it looks like we are on track to exceed that record, as this February was the 12th—the 12th—consecutive month with over 100,000 illegal immigrant apprehensions. And if President Biden's administration stops invoking title 42, and it doesn't secure the border, the crisis is going to be dramatically different.

A lot of attention is paid to who is coming across the border, and rightfully so, but it is time we all turn our attention to what is coming across the border, and it is called deadly fentanyl.

Just as our border continues to be overwhelmed by illegal immigrants, our communities are overwhelmed with this lethal drug. I have been to the border, and I have seen firsthand the impact of President Biden's open border policies and agenda.

At a checkpoint in McAllen, TX, I saw a truck bed filled with fentanyl, filled to the brim—a deadly synthetic opioid.

Thankfully, our Border Patrol officer stopped this particular truck from making it across the border, but for that one being stopped, there are several more that get across the border. Thankfully, our Border Patrol officer stopped this truck, stopped it from making it across the border, and it saved many lives. But for every truck of fentanyl, many, many more continue to come across.

It is hard to understand the significance of a truck bed full of fentanyl, so just let me break it down.

Look at my chart. Two milligrams of fentanyl is considered a lethal dose; 2 milligrams is the weight of a mosquito. Ten pennies weigh one ounce. One ounce of fentanyl can kill nearly 30,000 people. A football weighs 1 pound. Just 1 pound of fentanyl can kill over 200,000 people.

In October of last year, in South Alabama, Baldwin County sheriff deputy seized 14 grams of fentanyl. That is enough to kill upward of 7,000 people. And, of course, in any arrest, sometimes you have problems with fentanyl. One of his deputies just happened to touch fentanyl and was immediately put into the hospital.

We are seizing these deadly drugs across America every day. Last year, in San Diego, a trucker was arrested after attempting to smuggle more than 389 pounds of fentanyl, which is enough to kill 88 million people.

The connection between President Biden's open border policies and the rise of fentanyl is clear, and the American people are paying a heavy, heavy price.

Since President Biden's inauguration, Customs and Border Protection seized nearly 3,000 pounds of illicit fentanyl. That is a 41-percent increase from last year.

Over the last year, opioids took the lives of over 100,000 Americans. To put that into perspective, that is half the size of our capital city in the State of Alabama, which would be almost wiped off the map. This is bone-chilling.

But these numbers are more important than a stat. They are the sons and daughters, the mothers and fathers, the brothers and sisters who were all taken too soon—bright futures darkened by deadly drug addiction.

I spent 40 years traveling across this country visiting young athletes and their families from every walk of life. I had players who battled addiction or who had close friends who battled addiction. It is a heartbreaking procedure to watch a student worry about stepping in for a parent who is suffering from addiction. That happens daily. When they should be only worrying about studying or getting ready for a game, they are also covering for parents who are addicted to drugs.

It is true that drug addiction has plagued our country for decades, but we have seen a sharp rise since the pandemic: isolations, loss of work, depression, all making the problem worse. And the data confirms this. So it only makes sense to do all we can to help Americans. That would include cutting off the drugs at the primary source, which is the southern border. Yet the President refuses to take decisive action to stop these deadly substances from flooding into the country.

In fact, the answer from the Biden administration is there will be a strategy for dealing with addiction and fentanyl crisis coming ''soon.''

When President Biden's drug czar, Dr. Gupta, was asked about the administration's plans to address the addiction crisis, he responded that the drug control strategy was in its ''advanced stages of being finalized.''

To that I say, Americans are losing their lives right now. Lives are being lost every day when we are coming up with a strategy. We don't need a bureaucratic talking point or a bureaucrat wasting our time. We need a plan—and we need a plan now—to stop these drugs.

Since President Biden has been in office, he has failed to take charge in every situation. Sadly, the drug overdose epidemic is no different. While the folks at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue continue to work on their strategy, I propose President Biden take a logical and long-overdue first step today: enforce our immigration laws at the border—that would be a great start—end the free flow of fentanyl, and stop the loss of innocent lives.

For a White House that is so laser-focused on the health of Americans as it relates to the pandemic—masks, 6 feet apart, airports—the same emphasis should be cast on the people's lives that we are losing and the deadly drugs coming into our country illegally.

By creating and then failing to address this disastrous situation at the southern border, President Biden has fueled another crisis as fentanyl ravages our communities.

You know, we all watched this weekend as President Biden gave a great speech in Poland. He put the wrath down on the Russian people, military, and the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin. He showed anger—and he should have—at the destruction that is going on in Ukraine and the innocent lives lost.

President Biden needs to show the same anger. We will lose more people in the next 6 months than they will lose in this war in Ukraine—people in our country—and it is being overlooked. It is not being worked on. The problem is not trying to be answered. It is like we are having to just deal with it.

We have got a problem here, Mr. President, and we need to address it.

The President has the tools and the authority to act quickly and save lives. I just hope, sooner or later, somebody recognizes it and does something about it because, as we speak, we are not answering this problem.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

REMEMBERING RAY MARK LINDSEY

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, in May of 2013, one of my constituents, Bob Evans from Lawrence County, was placed on the kidney transplant list. His particular kidney ailment was hereditary, meaning family members who might have been a match could not donate. So Bob was left waiting for someone—someone—to step forward.

Unbeknownst to Bob, an acquaintance, Ray Lindsey, quietly went to get tested. Now, Ray took several days off work, traveling 3 hours round trip to Indianapolis to see if he would be a match. He was. And only then did Ray tell Bob what he had been up to. In the summer of 2014, Ray donated a kidney, and he saved Bob's life.

Yesterday, Ray, one of the most selfless people I have ever met, passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

Ray was a humble and unassuming family man with a sense of humor. On his Facebook page, he called himself a ''part-time hillbilly.'' Ray worked hard and, by the way, didn't get any compensation whatsoever for the weeks he had to take off while recuperating from surgery.

Ray's sacrifice has made a lasting impact on public policy. His story impacted and informed my interest in organ donation policy. I introduced the PRISE Act to incentivize new breakthroughs in kidney disease treatment options. In 2018, the Trump administration created a similar program called KidneyX.

We know Ray saved one life, but his story and selflessness impacted potentially thousands more.

Bob, by the way, is still going strong today, 8 years after the transplant surgery.

Ray was a man of deep faith, and I can think of no better tribute to Ray than words found in John, chapter 15:

My command is this. Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Ray lived those words, and I and countless others are going to miss him deeply. I offer my condolences to all who loved Ray, including his wife Debbie, three children, and eight grandchildren. Ray's incredible life and impact will never be forgotten.

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.

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

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

NOMINATION OF KETANJI BROWN JACKSON

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, well before we gaveled in to last week's Supreme Court confirmation hearing, our friends in the mainstream media had made it clear what the approved narrative was going to be. According to them, we were supposed to talk about what a historic moment it was and what a historic nominee Judge Jackson is.

My Democratic colleagues on the Judiciary Committee spent most of their time focusing on the approved talking points memo, but those of us who didn't play along were punished in print.

But, back home in Tennessee, these unhinged attacks by the media went over like a lead balloon, and I think my Democratic colleagues would benefit from listening to what people outside of Washington, DC, have to say because they—the people—are the ones who will bear the practical consequences of what happens here in DC.

Now, on Thursday, my Democratic colleagues declared victory for Judge Jackson, but Tennesseans I talked to this weekend still have a lot of questions. They expected more from her. They don't appreciate being called racist for saying they expected more. They wanted her to answer tough questions about the Constitution. They wanted assurance that a Justice Jackson would protect their constitutional rights.

They have no problem with having a former public defender on the Court. That could even be a good thing. But they wanted her to account for her record of granting light sentences to dangerous criminals. Why did she choose to let some of them out of jail on compassionate release?

I asked those questions, and I commend all of my colleagues on the committee who dug in and did the same thing. Many of my Democratic colleagues, on the other hand, accused us of ''tarnishing'' their historic moment. But Tennesseans didn't see it that way. They say it was the Democrats who tarnished the proceedings by ignoring their duty to vet Judge Jackson, who is up for a lifetime appointment to the highest Court in the land. They feel it was the media that tarnished the moment by politicizing—politicizing—the hearings.

Now, I cannot support Judge Jackson's nomination to the Supreme Court, but I am withholding my support for reasons my Democratic colleagues and the media have chosen to ignore. For all the focus my colleagues placed on ''judicial philosophy'' in previous confirmation hearings, I had hoped that Judge Jackson would come ready to tell us about hers, but she didn't. Instead, she came armed with a methodology that spoke to the thoroughness of her process but said very little about her approach to constitutional interpretation.

After the hysteria that broke out during Justice Barrett's hearings about the so-called dangers of originalism, I thought we might discover what sort of jurist my Democratic colleagues think would be more effective than a constitutionalist. But oh no—to ask that—you are not supposed to do that.

But, suddenly, judicial philosophy meant nothing. As I said, don't ask that question. What role the Constitution plays in Judge Jackson's ''methodology'' meant nothing to them. Don't ask that question.

Well, I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but this is not a subject the American people are willing to ignore. They want you to ask the questions and get answers. They don't expect to agree with a Justice 100 percent of the time, but they do expect those nominees to adhere to a standard. They want a constitutionalist, not a judicial activist, and at this point, they have no idea what rules she will follow if indeed she is confirmed.

All we can do is look at her record. Judge Jackson spent a lot of time defending her work. Tennesseans are just as worried about what she was trying to distance herself from. What did she want us to not know?

Associations are important. You can tell a lot about a person by looking at who their friends are, and, as it turns out, Judge Jackson has some pretty controversial friends.

Over the past few years, we have seen progressive activists use critical race theory to try and redefine our history and change the way Americans view their place in the world. It is a pernicious philosophical lens, and the effect it has on kids in the classroom is weighing heavily on the hearts of Tennessee parents.

Now, in her hearing, Judge Jackson brushed aside my questions about her views on CRT. She wrote it off as an ''academic theory,'' which it is, but my questions were about how she may or may not apply that academic theory to her decisions. Why does she choose to give that academic theory the same weight as administrative law or constitutional law when she is making those decisions?

One particular item she tried to distance herself from is her praise for the so-called progressive curriculum at Georgetown Day School, where she sits on the board. Here is what she said in the winter 2019 edition of the school's magazine.

Since becoming part of the GDS community 7 years ago, I have witnessed the transformative power of a rigorous progressive education.

As Judge Jackson pointed out, Georgetown Day is a private school—an elite private school. They can teach what they want, and parents can choose to take their kids out and go elsewhere if they don't like it.

But here is the wrinkle. It is getting harder for parents in Tennessee to do that because so-called progressive education is taking over public schools also. And part of that progressive education requires getting in between parents and their children.

Here is why it was so important to air this out during a confirmation hearing. We were examining a nominee who has spent nearly a decade on the bench yet cannot describe her fundamental approach to the law—not her approach to deciding cases or sentencing criminals but to reading and interpreting the Constitution.

So when Tennesseans hear a nominee refuse to answer these questions—when she gives an opening statement and talks about how she makes decisions by starting from a point of neutrality, by looking at the facts of the case, by looking at precedent, you have to say: Where does the Constitution fit into your decision?

At the same time that she is practicing that methodology of deciding cases, she is associating herself with philosophies meant to divide children from their parents. They feel entitled to know what role these associations are going to play in her decision matrix.

Questions are not attacks, and that is a point that needs to be made. To ask questions is not an attack. How do we keep our Nation free and strong? We do it by robust, respectful debate. That requires that you ask questions of individuals who come before you, that you ask questions of individuals who have a different opinion than you have or who hold a different political or governmental philosophy than you hold. Questions are not attacks.

Challenging the application of CRT in elementary school classes is not ''racism.'' Standing firm on the definition of ''woman'' is not ''transphobia.'' This isn't personal. We are talking about a lifetime appointment, and the people deserve to know who this nominee is and what she believes.

I thought it was so interesting that so regularly through the hearing, people would reference her background and her family and the strong connections as part of what makes her who she is and informs her decisionmaking and how important that is. The letters of support to her all mention that. But if you question some of this, then the media, then my Democratic colleagues

say that is an attack. No, my friends, it is not. It is not an attack because words have meaning. You don't leave words like ''parenthood'' and ''womanhood'' up for interpretation. You know what they mean.

Judge Jackson had 3 days to convince this country that her methodology—not her judicial philosophy but her methodology—can help her answer these questions. In my opinion, she failed at that task.

In this building, I don't speak for myself; I speak for the people of the great State of Tennessee. I cannot in good conscience give their endorsement to a nominee who by all accounts is legally and constitutionally adrift. What is her standard? We still don't know. What keeps her grounded in the law? We are not sure about that one either. What keeps her from infusing politics into her rulings? We don't have an answer for that. Those are things that, this weekend, Tennesseans would say: I want to know this.

My Democratic colleagues don't want to talk about this; neither does the media. They have spent their time whipping up people, looking for outrage, looking for click bait. But here is what I will say in conclusion: Every single one of Judge Jackson's contemporaries have been more than happy to answer these questions. They do regularly as they have come before us for Supreme Court confirmation hearings. So why will not Judge Jackson?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

BIDEN FAMILY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today, Senator JOHNSON and I begin a series of speeches on our investigations into the Biden family's financial deals. We will make these presentations with two themes.

First, we will refute and we will dismantle the talking points that the liberal media and our Democratic colleagues pushed onto the American people. Their talking points said that our investigations over the years advanced and spread Russian disinformation. On November 29, 2021; May 11, 2021; March 18, 2021; December 14, 2020; December 10, 2020; October 19, 2020; and September 29, 2020, I came to this Senate floor to rebut those false charges.

Now—or at least then—the liberal media and my Democratic colleagues ought to be ashamed of themselves for the outright lies that they peddled about our investigative work. As a result, Senator JOHNSON and I did what any good investigator would do: We gathered even more records to prove all these people wrong, which brings me to the second theme.

Senator JOHNSON and I will produce new records to show additional connections between the Biden family and the communist Chinese regime. Before we get to those records, I am going to discuss the background of our investigation.

We started this investigation last Congress. Then, I was chairman of the Finance Committee, and at that time, Senator JOHNSON was chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

It began in August 2019. I started at that time an inquiry into a transaction involving Hunter Biden that was reviewed by the Federal Government's Committee on Foreign Investment.

On September 23, 2020, Senator JOHNSON and I released our report. On November 18, 2020, we released our supplement to that report. Those reports were based in large part on Obama administration government records and also almost a dozen transcribed interviews of government officials.

In both reports, Senator JOHNSON and I made financial information public that hadn't ever been known before. Our report exposed extensive financial relationships between Hunter and James Biden and Chinese nationals connected to the communist regime. More precisely, these were Chinese nationals connected to the Chinese Government's military and intelligence service.

One of those individuals was a person by the name of Patrick Ho. According to reports, Hunter Biden said of Patrick Ho:

> I have another New York Times reporter calling about my representation of Patrick Ho—

Then Hunter Biden says the f-word—

> [denoting] the spy chief of China who started the company that my partner, who is worth $323 billion, founded and is now missing.

We will get into more detail with respect to Patrick Ho in future speeches. We will do the same with Gongwen Dong, another close associate of Hunter Biden's who was connected to the communist regime.

Now, Hunter Biden's reference to ''my partner'' is an apparent reference to Ye Jianming. Ye had connections to the People's Liberation Army. Ye had a company called CEFC, which had multiple variations. Today and in future speeches, Senator JOHNSON and I will simply refer to that company as CEFC.

Documents show that CEFC's corporate mission was ''to expand cooperation in the international energy economy and contribute to national development.'' Now, let me emphasize that word ''national'' in that quote, ''national development.'' CEFC existed for the communist state. Indeed, records show that CEFC is dedicating itself to serving China's national energy strategy, developing national strategic reserves for oil, and ''partnering with centrally-administered and state-owned enterprises.''

Records prepared by one of Hunter and James Biden's business associates, James Gilliar, say the following about this company, CEFC:

> At the time, China was hungry for crude, but its state-backed companies were having difficulty closing some deals abroad. The optics of China's state-backed giants marching into a country to buy and extract oil weren't great for central Asian politicians. This paved the way for private firms like CEFC, which can strike oil deals in Europe and the Middle East where Chinese State Owned Enterprises could bring political liabilities.

Documents also show that CEFC ''is building an energy storage and logistics system in Europe'' to connect China, Europe, and the Middle East. You may ask, why? Plainly, to serve ''China's ambitions to have overseas storage locations connected with world markets.''

The document further states that CEFC's investment bank division has investments in the energy sector ''which are in tandem with the government's 4 trillion dollar One Belt One Road foreign investment program.''

Then CEFC operated under the guise of a private company but was for all intents and purposes an arm of the Chinese Government.

Hunter Biden and James Biden served as the perfect vehicle by which the communist Chinese Government could gain inroads here in the United States through CEFC and its affiliates.

And these inroads were focused on Chinese advancement into the global and U.S. energy sector. Hunter and James Biden were more than happy to go along, of course, for the right price.

So now let's turn to the first poster, which shows bank records that haven't been made public before now. This is a portion of a document that we—meaning Senator JOHNSON and I—will release in full.

The topic of this poster shows a wire transaction on August 4, 2017, from CEFC to Wells Fargo Clearing Services for $100,000.

Now, look at the bottom of the poster. This is the underlying data of this transaction. It states:

> Further credit to OWASCO.

OWASCO is Hunter Biden's firm.

Now, there is no middleman in this transaction. This is $100,000 from what is, effectively, an arm of the communist Chinese Government direct to Hunter Biden.

So a second question, a question to the liberal media and my Democratic colleagues, who accused us, over the last 2 years, of distributing Russian disinformation: Is this official bank document Russian disinformation?

Now, beyond this document, in future speeches, Senator JOHNSON and I will show you more transfers between and among such companies as CEFC, Northern International Capital, Hudson West Three, Hunter Biden's OWASCO, and James Biden's Lion Hall Group.

In doing so, please keep in mind the players in this game: Hunter Biden, James Biden, Ye Jianming, Gongwen Dong, Mervyn Yan, and Patrick Ho, to name a few. All of these individuals mixed and mingled with related corporate entities over a period of years and with respect to millions of dollars.

Now, the next poster, those connections are illustrated by this second poster which I made public last November. It is an original bank record with one typographical error and all. Here

you have Hunter Biden, Gongwen Dong, and Mervyn Yan executing an assignment and assumption agreement together.

Now, a third question to those who accuse us of disseminating Russian disinformation, so especially to the liberal media who are the ones who ought to be policing our government system to make sure that everything is done honest—they shouldn't have to have Members of Congress giving all this information out—but is this official record Russian disinformation?

In our next speeches, we will show you more records that haven't been seen before, records that undeniably show strong links between the Biden family and communist China.

Today is just a small taste. I would like to note one thing before Senator JOHNSON takes over. He is going to describe to you the ridiculous attacks that we received, claiming that our reports were Russian disinformation.

On March 16 of this year, the New York Times unwittingly substantiated our reports by reporting on Hunter Biden's connection to foreign corporations and his potential criminal exposure.

So what Senator JOHNSON and I made public last Congress is now a prevailing fact pattern that even the liberal media can't ignore any longer and falsely label ''Russian disinformation.''

I will turn it over to Senator JOHNSON to provide additional examples of the media's attack last Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I first want to thank the senior Senator from the State of Iowa for his tenacity in pursuing the truth and ignoring all of the false attacks lobbed against us during the course of our multiyear investigations into corruption at the highest levels of the Federal Government.

Both of us have been firsthand witnesses and at the same time victims of the dishonesty of our Democratic Senate colleagues and their willing accomplices in the media.

When it comes to our investigation into the vast web of foreign financial entanglements of the Biden family, those attacks have had one goal in mind, to cover up the extent to which President Biden might be and almost certainly is compromised.

Over the course of our investigation into how Hunter Biden used his father's position and name to enrich himself and his family, the dishonest press published countless stories reporting on the Democrats' false charge that Senator GRASSLEY and I were soliciting and disseminating Russian disinformation.

Once we issued our September and November 2020 reports, which were based almost exclusively on U.S.-sourced documents and interviews with U.S. citizens, the media largely ignored it. When they did write a story, they declared that our reports found nothing new, a classic media coverup.

I have always said the bias in the media is revealed far more in what they don't report than what they actually do report. But all the false attacks did not deter us. We have continued to uncover the truth and, fortunately, our reports also served as a catalyst for others to come forward and for more investigative journalists to keep digging.

The American people deserve the truth. That is why we are presenting additional evidence today and over the next few days. For example, this is the first time this document is being made public. As Senator GRASSLEY described in detail, it shows that money from CEFC, which is effectively an arm of the Chinese Government, went directly to Hunter Biden.

Bank records like this piece of evidence are pretty hard to deny and sweep under the rug. Our reports were chockful of irrefutable evidence like this, and yet the media buried those details in an attempt to keep it hidden from the American people.

Because the mainstream media and our Democratic colleagues had no substance to refute our reports, they reverted to their time-honored tradition of lying, making false accusations against us, and engaging in the politics of personal destruction.

Again, their goal was to destroy the credibility of our reports before the American people even had a chance to read them. They were fully aware that the lie can travel halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to put on its shoes. For example, listen to what New York Times journalist Nicholas Fandos said about our report: ''lack of meaningful new information'' and, again, ''overlap [of the] Russian disinformation campaign.''

The then-Democratic minority leader was quoted saying about our report, ''as if Putin wrote it, not United States Senators.'' A Democratic Senator described our investigation as being ''rooted in disinformation'' from Russian operatives.

Separately, a Democratic Senator also said about our report:

> Bottom line: the Johnson-Grassley investigation is baseless. It's laundering Russian propaganda for circulation in the U.S.

But, of course, all those quotes were disinformation, disinformation designed to distract all of us from the truth. As Senator GRASSLEY reiterated, our reports were based almost exclusively on government records from the Obama administration and transcribed interviews of government officials.

So how did the Democrats and the liberal media allies carry out this false attack on us? We describe part of what they did in section 10 of our September 2020 report. Their disinformation and smear campaign against us in our reports was extensive, but in the interest of time, I will give you a shorter Cliff's Notes version.

On July 13, 2020, then-Minority Leader SCHUMER, Senator WARNER, Speaker PELOSI, and Representative SCHIFF sent a letter to the FBI to express a purported belief that Congress was the subject of a foreign disinformation campaign. The letter included a classified attachment that had unclassified elements that attempted to tie Senator GRASSLEY's and my work to Andriy Derkach, a Russian agent.

The Democrats speculated that, based on this unclassified information, Senator GRASSLEY and I had received materials from Derkach. This was false. Nothing could be further from the truth, but this information purportedly linking Senator GRASSLEY and I to Derkach was leaked to liberal media outlets to start a false narrative to smear us.

Until news reports of this false allegation surfaced, I had never even heard of Andriy Derkach. We immediately and forcefully denied the false allegation, but Democrats and the media continued to spread the lie. To this day, no one has ever apologized to either of us for spreading that lie, even though it was proven conclusively to be a lie and disinformation.

Next, my staff and Senator GRASSLEY's staff did a transcribed interview with George Kent. During that interview, Democratic staff members introduced Derkach's materials into our record. Then Democratic staff members asked Mr. Kent about it. He stated:

> What you are asking me to interpret is a master chart of disinformation and malign influence.

That was Mr. Kent's evaluation of the Derkach disinformation that Democrats were spreading that they entered into our record.

So the actual truth of the matter is that Democrats—not Senator GRASSLEY nor I—introduced known Russian disinformation into our investigatory record. They did the exact thing they were falsely accusing us of doing.

Again, not my staff, not Senator GRASSLEY's staff, Democrats were disseminating Russian disinformation just like they did with the Steele dossier. Then-Ranking Members WYDEN and PETERS sent me and Senator GRASSLEY a letter asking for an intelligence briefing relating to our investigation.

Now, such a briefing was completely unnecessary, but it was an effort by our Democratic colleagues to further falsely taint our investigation, hoping to discredit it and discredit the truth.

On July 28, 2020, Senator GRASSLEY and I reminded them that the FBI and relevant members of the intelligence community had already briefed the committees in March of 2020 and assured us that there was no reason to discontinue our investigation.

Then, in August 2020, Senator GRASSLEY and I were provided a briefing from the FBI, a briefing that we did not request that was also leaked to the press to further smear us.

This unsolicited FBI briefing was also not necessary and was completely

irrelevant to the substance of our investigation.

The FBI briefers did tell us that they weren't there to ''quash, curtail, or interfere'' in our investigation in any way.

No government entity ever warned us that our investigation into the Biden family's financial deals was connected to any kind of Russian disinformation campaign—because it wasn't.

But, again, the substance of that FBI briefing was later leaked and contorted to smear us, which was exactly why we suspect we were given the unsolicited briefing in the first place.

Those briefers promised confidentiality. Clearly, that confidentiality was breached and resulted in another smear operation on Senator GRASSLEY and me to deflect allegations of corruption and conflict of interest that could compromise a President Biden.

To date, we do not know who all was involved in this smear campaign, but even after repeated requests, Director Wray and Director Haines have refused to come in and fully explain who requested and directed this briefing and why it was provided.

I think we know why it was provided.

So to review, senior Democrats and liberal media cooperated to smear Senator GRASSLEY and me with false accusations of receiving and spreading Russian disinformation. They created documents, leaked them, asked for briefings, and then leaked those, too, and then they themselves disseminated Russian disinformation.

You can't make this up.

Fortunately, they failed to discredit our investigation because we stayed true to government records. We stayed true to the facts and the evidence. And the evidence is stunning, and it is growing.

Over the next few days, Senator GRASSLEY and I will come to the floor to present additional evidence that has not yet been made public. These records show extensive connections between the Biden family and elements of the communist Chinese regime. We are talking high-dollar transactions, some of which we have already highlighted in our September and November 2020 reports, but our speeches will introduce new financial documents into the record for all to see.

Now, we expect Democrats and the media to continue to use their power to smear us and cover up for the Bidens. But the truth has a power of its own, and we intend to continue to reveal the truth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to complete my remarks before the vote.

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

H.R. 4521

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor tonight happy that the Senate is going to move forward on substituting what is originally the Senate-passed Schumer-Young bill on the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. That is what we are going to be voting on and then sending that over to the House of Representatives to basically convey that that is our desire here in the Senate and, hopefully, get this process of going to conference and a response back from the House of Representatives so we can move forward on reinvigorating America's supply chain.

Madam President, I know you know how important this is, but the Senate bill, again, brought to us by Senators SCHUMER and YOUNG, I think, was quite prescient on the problems that we were going to face as it relates to supply chains. But I don't think that everybody really understands that the Senate position is really about the fact that we need to have technology transfer happen at a faster rate; that other countries, because the United States has been such a prolific publisher of information and content, actually have taken that content and information and been able to turn it into actual commercial applications.

So in the United States we want to do something to create, while still protecting NSF, the National Science Foundation, on basic research and advanced research and the Department of Energy on research, and also work faster at translating the successes of our science into true application and translating that into helping our manufacturers here in the United States of America.

This is so important because we know that in various sectors of our economy, we are seeing much of the supply chain controlled in other parts of the world. We see that Asia now controls much of the supply chain for pharmaceuticals.

We are having a big debate about how we are going to drive down the cost of pharmaceuticals. We are going to invest here in the United States, I think, in more biotechnology and synthetic biology to find new ways to discover and make lifesaving drugs, and it is very important that we do that research here.

In the Senate bill, we are very focused on: In what areas do we want to do faster translational science to help bring the supply chain back to the United States?

As we talked last week, we see that Taiwan makes more than 90 percent of the world's leading-edge chips which drive our national security and our economic security, and we want to do the research here in the United States through the acceleration with the Tech Directorate to invent the next generation of chips and build them here domestically.

And we have heard about the risk of Americans falling behind on advanced communications, like 5G or 6G, and so we have ideas here about how to translate that into faster deployment of technology that could help our manufacturing base.

So I am actually very excited about all of that innovation because if we all work together, we collaborate, we have done the R&D, and we actually work harder at getting it translated, I think there are lots of solutions that we can put before our manufacturers here to help them with their competitiveness on a worldwide basis.

That is what the Tech Directorate does. The Manufacturing USA Institutes, the technology hubs, and the technology centers are all parts of this legislation that would help us move technology out into the world at a faster pace and work collaboratively to solve these problems that, again, would bring the manufacturing and the supply chain back into the United States of America.

I get really excited about the issues related to the automobile sector and the grid. Coming from a State that has had cheap electricity for a long time, it has built our economy over and over and over again; that is, that people want to locate there because the electricity is so affordable.

It is one of the reasons why we have one of the highest deployments of electric vehicles in the country, because it really only costs you about a dollar a gallon to fill up versus the rising, well-above $4 a gallon that we are seeing today.

So people are very excited about an electricity grid and a supply chain here in the United States that would build here the battery technology, implement this faster integration into our economy, and get a grid that works and enables that kind of electrification of the transportation sector.

I guarantee you the United States could be world leaders in the deployment of this if we get this legislation passed and we continue to make investments in the National Science Foundation and the Tech Directorate.

Now, I know some of our colleagues have been concerned that this somehow takes away from the National Science Foundation's focus on basic research. I would tell you that it does both. The Senate bill that we will be voting on does both. It basically continues to invest in the NSF in their traditional role and also gets this idea of a Tech Directorate which focuses on the translational science—again, to help us get more of the supply chain back in the United States. It does both.

This underlying bill, also, as I said, is the Senate version which made the same investment in the Department of Energy, which was so important because the Department of Energy plays such an important aspect in this.

It also does something that my colleague Senator WICKER and I and others worked on, which is trying to make sure that we are getting more technology development in a variety of places; that is, that we are building on STEM and the amount of investment in STEM education—the fact that we want to have innovation everywhere so that opportunity is also anywhere.

And we also make more investments in the idea of our EPSCoR Program, which is helping areas of the United States that may not have as much tech investment, to continue to increase the investment in their institutions.

I hope this is something my colleagues understand, that this is about growing the capacity for us to innovate in many different parts of the United States and across many different sectors of our economy and with increasing the capacity of women and minorities to also participate in the kinds of programs that will help America be competitive.

So I encourage my colleagues to support the underlying Senate bill. Help us get it moved forward and to also send this over on the second vote to the House and continue the process to get us to real negotiations and get us working on these supply chain issues.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant bill 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 amendment No. 5002 to Calendar No. 282, H.R. 4521, a bill to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Duckworth, Mark R. Warner, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jack Reed, Tina Smith, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Mazie K. Hirono, Mark Kelly, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Ron Wyden, Margaret Wood Hassan, Maria Cantwell.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 5002, offered by the Senator from New York, to H.R. 4521, a bill to provide for a coordinated Federal research initiative to ensure continued United States leadership in engineering biology, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted ''yea''.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 108 Leg.]

YEAS—68

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

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Hawley	Rubio
Blackburn	Hoeven	Sanders
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Burr	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Ernst	Lummis	Tuberville
Fischer	Marshall	
Hagerty	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Blunt	Graham
Cotton	Kennedy

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 28.

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

The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in a few minutes, the Senate is going to take a final vote on the major bipartisan jobs and competitive legislation.

As we all know, it has been a long road to reach this point. I want to thank my Democratic and Republican colleagues for working in good faith on the bill. Nearly every Member of this Chamber has had a hand in shaping this legislation.

There are three important reasons for passing the bill. It will create more American jobs. It will lower costs for American families. It will help ignite another generation of American scientific research and innovation.

After we pass this bill, we will be one step closer to initiating a conference committee so we can resolve the House and Senate bills. I am hopeful we will be able to reach a conference committee before the end of this work period.

I thank all my colleagues for their good work on this bill and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the motion to commit falls, as inconsistent with cloture; and, under the previous order, the remaining amendments are withdrawn, amendment No. 5002 is agreed to, the cloture motion on the bill is withdrawn, and the bill, as amended, is considered read a third time.

The amendments (Nos. 5003, 5004, 5005, and 5006) were withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5002) was agreed to.

The cloture motion on the bill (H.R. 4521) was withdrawn.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted ''yea.''

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 109 Leg.]

YEAS—68

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

NAYS—28

Barrasso	Hawley	Rubio
Blackburn	Hoeven	Sanders
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Burr	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Toomey
Ernst	Lummis	Tuberville
Fischer	Marshall	
Hagerty	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Blunt	Graham
Cotton	Kennedy

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 28.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for passage of this bill, the bill, as amended, is passed.

The bill (H.R. 4521), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. 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.

REMEMBERING ROBERT JULIANO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last fall, Robert Juliano passed away at the age of 80 after a lifetime of fighting on behalf of the restaurant workers of America. For decades, he shaped and shepherded nearly every piece of legislation that helped restaurant workers in the United States. Along the way, he made extraordinary friendships with Members of congress of both parties, Capitol Police, congressional staff, and many of the people who make things work around here. Bob was to some Bobby, others Cool Bobby J, and even Uncle Bobby, but most of all, I, like so many others, called him our friend. In April, his union that represents 300,000 hotel, restaurant, and other service workers across the United States—known as UNITE HERE—will gather to celebrate the man who, even with so many powerful friends, never stopped thinking of himself as ''a kid from Taylor Street in Chicago.''

Bob was born in the City of Big Shoulders—Chicago—on the West Side, to Emil and Mary Salvaria Juliano. He attended Saint Ignatius College Preparatory, on Roosevelt Road, and Loyola University in Chicago. Both are Catholic Jesuit institutions that taught him the importance of service to one's community.

As a young man, he got his start as an elevator operator, eventually working his way up to become the personnel manager of the legendary Palmer House Hilton Hotel in downtown Chicago. Through his work at the Palmer House, Bob met labor leaders and union members. This included Edward Hanley, the leader in Chicago of HERE, which later became UNITE HERE, representing the workers of the Palmer House. In 1973, Hanley became the International President of HERE.

It was around this time that Bob met then-Mayor Richard J. Daley through then-Chicago Alderman Vito Marzullo. These were the days when Mayor Daley was a true political force. Mayor Daley immediately learned a lesson we all have in the decades since. You could not help but like Bob. The mayor called then-House Majority Leader Tip O'Neill and endorsed Bob going to Washington, DC. With the support of Daley and O'Neill, one of then-President Hanley's first acts was to name Bob as HERE's first full-time legislative representative. He had no lobbying experience, but Daley told him, ''Go to Washington. Everything's going to be fine. You're in your mother's arms.''

It was the beginning of four decades of Bob's work on nearly every major piece of labor legislation. He was proud to help guide the passage of the Black Lung Benefits Act of 1972 that ensured coal miners had access to the same health plan as Federal employees. Bob received numerous honors throughout his life, and he was especially proud of his honoree status with the Sons of Italy Foundation.

Bob was one of a kind; he was friends with such different people as Senators Bob Dole, Ted Kennedy, Orrin Hatch, Sam Brownback, and myself. We disagreed on a lot, but we could always agree on Bob. What made Bob special was that he knew everyone—everyone from the chiefs of staff, to the front desk assistants, to the food service workers, the Capitol Police, and everyone in between. Bob cared about them, and he was known to talk their ear off for an hour from time to time. From his days at the Palmer House to his days in the Capitol, his hospitality was a feature of who he was. Bob directly connected with people. He never learned how to use a computer, but he was successful because of how he treated people.

The late Cardinal Joseph Bernadin of Chicago called Bob his lobbyist. All kidding aside, Bob's love of people is a great representation of faith. Bringing people from all walks of life together with kindness is something we all should work toward.

I will miss the kid from Taylor Street in Chicago. They do not make them like Bob anymore, and we are lesser for it.

Robert E. Juliano is survived by his son, Robert E. Juliano, Jr.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, last week Tuesday, I tested positive for COVID–19 during weekly surveillance testing. As per the CDC's guidance, I left the Capitol and began a period of isolation.

As a result of that isolation, I missed a number of votes. I take seriously my duties in service to the people of Pennsylvania, including voting on policies and nominations. Accordingly, I wish for the record to show that, had I not been absent due to a COVID infection, I would have voted yea on the following votes: yea on vote No. 98, on the confirmation on the nomination of Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of California; yea on vote No. 99, on the confirmation on the nomination of Victoria Marie Calvert, of Georgia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia; yea on vote No. 100, on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4521; yea on vote No. 101, on the confirmation on the nomination of Julie Rebecca Rubin, of Maryland, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Maryland; yea on vote No. 102, on the confirmation on the nomination of Hector Gonzalez, of New York, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; yea on vote No. 103, on the confirmation on the nomination of John H. Chun, of Washington, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Washington; yea on vote No. 104, on the confirmation on the nomination of Cristina D. Silva, of Nevada, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Nevada; yea on vote No. 105, on the confirmation on the nomination of Anne Rachel Traum, of Nevada, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Nevada; yea on vote No. 106, on the confirmation on the nomination of Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit; and yea on vote No. 107, on the confirmation on the nomination of Andrew M. Luger, of Minnesota, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota.

I am grateful to have only experienced mild symptoms of the virus as a result of being fully vaccinated and boosted. I encourage anyone who has yet to be vaccinated to do so and to get boosted if they are eligible.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER SAMANTHA FAORO

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, we have all heard the phrase ''law enforcement family.'' This law enforcement family is a diverse family with representatives from all walks of life. This family is not bound by traditions of race, religion, color, or sex. This family is all inclusive. Today, I want to provide an example of this family and how they came together to save the life of a fellow law enforcement officer.

On January 28, 2022, Kentucky State Police Trooper Michael Sanguini was shot multiple times, while conducting a traffic stop in Harrison County. According to the preliminary investigation, he was struck six times, of which three shots were stopped by his ballistic vest. One shot struck his portable radio, and another struck his issued taser, with one shot striking his body.

Although many officers from multiple agencies responded to assist the injured trooper, I want to recognize Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Officer Samantha Faoro for her quick response and actions of assistance. Officer Samantha Faoro is a native of Colorado, who move to Kentucky to pursue her career with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. She graduated from the police academy in February 2021 and was assigned to work in Harrison County. Officer Faoro comes from a family of first responders, continuing the life of service to protect the great Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Officer Faoro was working in the area of Cynthiana, KY, when she heard Trooper Sanguini state he had been shot. Without hesitation, Officer Faoro responded directly to the scene to provide assistance to a fellow officer in need. Upon arrival to the scene, she observed the wounded trooper and quickly transported him to the hospital. Trooper Sanguini quickly received medical treatment for his gunshot wounds because of the quick action of Officer Faoro.

It is my privilege to stand here today and recognize another great officer such as Officer Samantha Faoro. She

exemplifies the law enforcement motto, ''To Protect, and To Serve.''●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Vice President announced that on today, March 28, 2022, she has signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 55. An act to amend section 249 of title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a hate crime act.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 6968. An act to prohibit the importation of energy products of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7108. An act to suspend normal trade relations treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other purposes.

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–3452. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Calcium Sulfate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9536–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 15, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–3453. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2021 Annual Nuclear Weapons Stockpile Assessments from the Secretaries of Defense and Energy, the three national security laboratory directors, and the Commander, United States Strategic Command (OSS–2022–0217); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3454. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations, and Environment), transmitting, pursuant to law, an interim response to a reporting requirement relative to identifying the status of efforts to remediate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances at certain military installations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–3455. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of three (3) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

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–120. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas supporting requests for federal grant funding for companies creating innovative technologies that benefit Arkansas' agricultural value chain through mitigating bio-security risks; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1001

Whereas, agriculture is Arkansas' largest industry contributing nineteen billion four hundred million (19,400,000,000) in value added dollars to the state economy in 2019; and

Whereas, Arkansas ranked eleventh in the nation in cash receipts for animal and animal products, valued at five billion one hundred million dollars ($5,100,000,000); and

Whereas, in Arkansas, one (1) in every seven (7) value added dollars totaling more than three hundred seventy-eight million dollars ($378,000,000) is contributed by agriculture; and

Whereas, Arkansas is the third-highest ranked state for food processing according to a report by Business Facilities shared by the Arkansas Economic Development Commission; and

Whereas, the Fort Smith-Fayetteville region is the number two (2) area for food processing in the United States; and

Whereas, Arkansas is the home of the world's largest food retailer and the largest meat processor in the United States, supplying sustenance to billions of people worldwide; and

Whereas, in 2020, forty-two percent (42%) of all Arkansas land was comprised of farms; and

Whereas, agriculture provides two hundred fifty-four thousand five hundred (254,500) jobs in Arkansas; and

Whereas, ninety-seven percent (97%) of Arkansas' forty-nine thousand three hundred forty-six (49,346) farms are small to medium-sized family-owned farms and contribute significantly to the state's economy; and

Whereas, the impact of respiratory and hemorrhagic pathogens tend to impact small and medium-sized farms more heavily; and

Whereas, wet protein rendering supply chains tend to be optimum propagation channels for respiratory and hemorrhagic pathogens; and

Whereas, the University of Arkansas is an agricultural industry leader in animal science education, innovation, research, and development; and

Whereas, in 2019, African swine fever (ASF) resulted in the loss of millions of pigs in China, the world's largest producer and consumer of pork, with a total economic impact of seventy-eight hundredths percent (0.78%), equating to one hundred eleven billion dollars ($111,000,000,000), of the country's gross domestic product in 2019 and longitudinal analyses estimating an impact upwards of two and seven-tenths percent (2.7%), equating to three hundred eighty-five billion dollars ($385,000,000,000), gross domestic product based on the current trajectory; and

Whereas, agricultural economists at Iowa State University estimate that the economic impact of a potential African swine fever (ASF) outbreak in the United States could result in a loss of fifty billion dollars ($50,000,000,000) over ten (10) years; and

Whereas, the United States Department of Agriculture has dedicated five hundred million dollars ($500,000,000) in Commodity Credit Corporation funds for prevention of and preparation for African swine fever (ASF); and

Whereas, a federal order suspending the interstate movement of all live swine, swine germplasm, swine products, and swine byproducts from Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands to the mainland United States has been implemented; and

Whereas, action by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas is necessary to prevent worldwide food value chain disruptions and to increase food security for all Americans in order to build a strong foundation for businesses, consumers, and agricultural producers within the State of Arkansas: now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Third General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, the Senate Concurring Therein:

That the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, support requests for federal grant funding for companies creating innovative technologies that benefit Arkansas' agricultural value chain through mitigating bio-security risks; and be it further

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy be provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to each member of the Arkansas congressional delegation, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and Governor Asa Hutchinson.

POM–121. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Colorado requesting that the United States Congress allow the Colorado Department of Transportation to conduct an analysis of increasing the gross vehicle weight limit for the Interstate Highway System in Colorado to harmonize it with other state highways where 85,000 pounds is the maximum weight; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 22–1002

Whereas, Trucking and truck drivers have been essential during the COVID–19 pandemic in delivering critical goods, such as food, fuel, medical supplies, and much more; and

Whereas, Trucking is critical in the movement of goods and products for agriculture, ranchers, manufacturers, grocers, and fuel suppliers, with over 80% ofthe manufactured products in Colorado being moved by truck; and

Whereas, 79% of the communities in Colorado are served solely by truck for their freight needs; and

Whereas, The state's and nation's supply chains have been greatly stressed due to a range of issues that include a truck driver shortage, which is anticipated to continue into the future, along with increasing freight demands from our growing state that have led to shortages, delays, and higher prices for the movement of goods within the state; and

Whereas, For over 40 years, Colorado state law has authorized a maximum gross vehicle weight of 85,000 pounds for all state highways, with the only exception being the Interstate Highway System; and

Whereas, Federal law authorizes a maximum gross vehicle weight of 80,000 pounds for the Interstate Highway System; and

Whereas, The different gross vehicle weight standards between interstate and state highways causes routing issues for the state's transportation system; and

Whereas, The Interstate Highway System is constructed to a higher design specification than most state highways and should be more capable of handling higher weights than other state highways; and

Whereas, An interstate highway may be the most direct route for many trips, but transporters instead travel on other state highways to avoid the lower weight restriction; and

Whereas, During the COVID–19 pandemic, Governor Polis, with the support of the United States Department of Transportation, approved an emergency waiver that temporarily raised the maximum weight of trucks allowed on Colorado interstate highways from 80,000 to 85,000 pounds in order to

move essential goods and supplies, and there was no discernible increase in truck accidents on the Interstate Highway System in Colorado; and

Whereas, Increasing the gross vehicle weight for the Interstate Highway System to match that of other state highways may result in fewer trucks, less vehicle miles traveled, and lower emissions of greenhouse gases, and this helps the state to meet its greenhouse emission rules and comply with emission standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

Whereas, Governor Polis, the Colorado General Assembly, the Colorado Department of Transportation, and the Colorado State Patrol may be best positioned to determine if it is in the best interests of the state to harmonize the maximum gross vehicle weight for the state's Interstate Highway System with other state highways; and

Whereas, A study performed by the Colorado Department of Transportation considering safety, environmental, mobility, and economic factors is the best way to assess the benefits and costs of changing the maximum gross vehicle weight for trucks on Colorado interstate highways; and

Whereas, Such a study should engage a broad range of stakeholders both from the public and private sectors to ensure that all perspectives are considered; and

Whereas, if approved by the United States Congress and if the study finds that it is in the best interests of the state to raise the maximum gross vehicle weight on the Interstate Highway System to 85,000 pounds to harmonize it with other state highways, the state of Colorado, with the approval of the General Assembly and the Governor, would move forward with a change to state statute: 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. That the Colorado General Assembly requests:

(1) That Congress allow the Colorado Department of Transportation to conduct an analysis of increasing the gross vehicle weight limit for the Interstate Highway System in Colorado to harmonize it with other state highways where 85,000 pounds is the maximum weight; and

(2) That if the completed study determines that it is in the best interests of Colorado to harmonize the weights for the Interstate Highway System and other state highways, the Colorado General Assembly and the Governor be permitted by state statute to increase the gross vehicle weight limit to 85,000 pounds for vehicles traveling on the Interstate Highway System in Colorado, and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Colorado's congressional delegation.

POM–122. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Hawaii condemning Russia's attack on Ukraine and supporting swift and severe economic sanctions imposed on Russia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 28

Whereas, Ukraine declared independence from the Soviet Union on August 24, 1991; and

Whereas, in February and March of 2014, Russia invaded and subsequently annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine; and

Whereas, more than 14,000 people have been killed, tens of thousands wounded, and more than a million displaced due to Russian conflict since 2014; and

Whereas, over the past three decades, the Russian Federation has illegally seized Ukrainian land in Crimea, armed Russian-backed separatists leading to thousands of deaths, interfered in elections, used chemical weapons to attempt assassinations, carried out cyberttacks and disinformation campaigns abroad, and violated international arms control agreements; and

Whereas, from March to November 2021, the Russian Federation deployed a massive troop and weapons buildup on the border with Ukraine; and

Whereas, on February 21, 2022, President Vladimir Putin officially recognized the Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics, violating the Minsk Agreements, and ordered Russia's military to deploy troops there on a mission; and

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, without provocation, justification, or necessity, the Russian military launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, including sending troops into the country and bombing seven major cities; and

Whereas, Hawaii is home to a strong and vibrant Ukrainian community; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, That this body condemns the Russian Government under the leadership of Vladimir Putin for their violent attacks on the people of Ukraine and strongly-supports the swift and severe economic sanctions that President Biden's administration has imposed on Russia; and be it further

Resolved, That this body calls for an immediate cease-fire and the full withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory; and be it further

Resolved, That this body supports the right of the Russian people to protest, including the current protests against Putin's unprovoked war against Ukraine, and demands the immediate release of all those who have been unjustly detained in Russia for expressing their desire for peace; and be it further

Resolved, That all state agencies are urged to cease any business or government contracts with the Russian Government or Belarussian Government, or contractors of either government; and be it further

Resolved, That all state officials and employees are urged to suspend all work-related travel to Russia or Belarus; and be it further

Resolved, That this body calls for the State of Hawaii and cities in Hawaii to cut any sister-city or sister-state relations with any Russian or Belarussian cities or provinces; and be it further

Resolved, That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, President of the United States Senate, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Minority Leader of the United States Senate, all members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation, Governor of Hawaii, Mayor of Honolulu, Mayor of Maui, Mayor of Kauai, Mayor of Hawaii, and members of the Honolulu City Council, Hawaii County Council, Kauai County Council, and Maui County Council.

POM–123. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Missouri recommending to the President of the United States and the United States Congress to reaffirm our country's unwavering support for Ukraine's freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 3658

Whereas, Ukraine is a sovereign and independent nation located in Eastern Europe and an ally, under a bilateral investment treaty of the United States; and

Whereas, Russia, a transcontinental country spanning Eastern Europe and Northern Asia, has launched an all-out invasion of Ukraine by land, air, and sea; and

Whereas, Russian forces have dramatically escalated their offenses by deploying a forty-mile long convoy of tanks and other military equipment advancing south to attack the people of Ukraine, including the City of Kyiv; and

Whereas, Russia's invasion of Ukraine is the largest invasion of a sovereign nation in Europe since World War II; and

Whereas, the combat is directly responsible for massive civilian casualties, including a Russian mortar attack on a children's hospital that inflicted devastating loss of life; and

Whereas, Russia's attack on Ukraine was unprovoked and unjustified; and

Whereas, as the attack intensifies, the humanitarian crisis could reach unprecedented levels, with the United Nations estimating that between one million and five million people will be in need of urgent health care, safety, and security; and

Whereas, Ukraine's President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, declared that Russia had ''embarked on a path of evil, but [Ukraine] is defending itself and won't give up its freedom . . .'': Now therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, Second Regular Session hereby:

(1) Proudly stand alongside Ukraine, its people, and its leaders during this horrific and unnecessary war and vow to support Ukraine and hold Russia fully accountable for its catastrophic decision to invade;

(2) Condemn, in the strongest possible terms, Vladimir Putin's violent attack on the people of Ukraine and strongly endorse the swift and severe economic sanctions and stringent export controls that President Biden's administration has imposed on Russia;

(3) Urge Russia to immediately cease its violent, illegal, and immoral assault upon Ukraine, end the needless bloodshed, and return to diplomacy and the rules-based international order that has ensured peace and prosperity for so many; and

(4) Recommend to the President of the United States and the United States Congress to reaffirm our country's unwavering support for Ukraine's freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters; and be it further

Resolved, that the United States should take prudent and responsible measures to ensure that the required force posture is present in Europe to deter and, if necessary, defeat Russian aggression against any NATO member; and be it further

Resolved, That the United States should immediately strengthen additional sanctions on Russia by restricting the Russian banking and financial sectors, cybersecurity, and other key industrial sectors; and be it further

Resolved, That the United States should immediately bolster energy connectivity in Eastern Europe; and be it further

Resolved, That the United States should expand the target list of Russian officials under the Magnitsky Act, which would implement a greater range of targeted sanctions aimed directly at Russian officials responsible for violating Ukrainian freedom

and sovereignty, including the freezing of financial assets and the imposition of visa bans; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

POM–124. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine and standing with the people of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 547. A resolution recognizing the 201st anniversary of Greek Independence and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3932. A bill to establish the Downeast Maine National Heritage Area in the State of Maine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3933. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an income tax on excess profits of certain corporations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3934. A bill to permit policyholders under the National Flood Insurance Program to elect to have previous premium rates remain in effect until the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency satisfies certain conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 3935. A bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics to submit to Congress a report relating to individuals granted bail and pretrial release in State courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3936. A bill to provide for the use of seized Russian assets to provide support to citizens of Ukraine who have been made refugees as a result of the illegal invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 3937. A bill to establish a home-based telemental health care demonstration program for purposes of increasing mental health services in rural medically underserved populations and for individuals in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 3938. A bill to reauthorize the READ Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 3939. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to provide small issuers with a micro-offering exemption free of mandated disclosures or offering filings, but subject to the antifraud provisions of the Federal securities laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3940. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use to award grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements for planning, establishing, or administering programs to prevent and address the misuse of opioids, related drugs, and other drugs commonly used in pain management or injury recovery, as well as the co-use of one or more such drugs with other substances, by students and student athletes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3941. A bill to amend subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, regarding prevalent wage determinations in order to expand access to affordable housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. Res. 558. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on when the economic relationship between the United States and the Russian Federation should be considered to return to the level of that relationship before the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation that began on February 24, 2022, and on the actions that should be taken at that time; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 331

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 853

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 853, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the age of eligibility for children to receive benefits under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, and for other purposes.

S. 1175

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1175, a bill to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification System.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1590, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to enhance direct certification under the school lunch program.

S. 1704

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1704, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the exemption for telehealth services from certain high deductible health plan rules.

S. 1912

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors 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. 2178

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2178, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel employed by States or their political subdivisions, and for other purposes.

S. 2512

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2512, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices and judges of the courts of the United States.

S. 2664

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2664, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve program requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 2706

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2706, a bill to improve diversity in clinical trials and data collection for COVID–19 and future public health threats to address social determinants of health.

S. 2937

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2937, a bill to authorize humanitarian assistance and civil society support, promote democracy and human rights, and impose targeted sanctions with respect to human

rights abuses in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 3236

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3236, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to reform the contribution system of the Universal Service Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 3424

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3424, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow early childhood educators to take the educator expense deduction, and for other purposes.

S. 3517

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3517, a bill to amend the Red River National Wildlife Refuge Act to modify the boundary of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes.

S. 3771

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3771, a bill to prohibit United States persons from engaging in transactions with foreign persons that purchase or transact in gold from the Russian Federation.

S. 3817

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3817, a bill to improve the forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, and for other purposes.

S. 3854

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3854, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3883

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3883, a bill to authorize the construction of the project for navigation, Brunswick Harbor, Georgia.

S. 3902

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3902, a bill to prohibit agencies from maintaining or sharing information relating to religious affiliation, and for other purposes.

S. 3903

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3903, a bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities.

S. 3904

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3904, a bill to enhance the cybersecurity of the Healthcare and Public Health Sector.

S. 3915

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3915, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 43

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 43, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Treasury and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services relating to ''Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Updating Payment Parameters, Section 1332 Waiver Implementing Regulations, and Improving Health Insurance Markets for 2022 and Beyond''.

S. RES. 377

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 377, a resolution urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 3938. A bill to reauthorize the READ Act; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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. 3938

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 ''READ Act Reathorization Act of 2022''.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 4(a) of the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act (division A of Public Law 115–56; 22 U.S.C. 2151c note) is amended by striking ''during the following five fiscal years'' and inserting ''during the following ten fiscal years''.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 3941. A bill to amend subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, regarding prevalent wage determinations in order to expand access to affordable housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3941

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 ''Housing Supply Expansion Act''.

SEC. 2. UPDATES TO WAGE RATE CALCULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3142(b) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or from geographic groupings other than civil subdivisions of the State (which may include metropolitan statistical areas or other groupings determined appropriate by the Secretary)'' after ''in which the work is to be performed''.

(b) CHANGES TO SURVEY METHODOLOGY.—Section 3142 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) SURVEY INFORMATION COLLECTION.—By not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Housing Supply Expansion Act, the Secretary shall—

''(1) review the Secretary's method of collecting survey information for determining prevailing wages for purposes of subsection (a); and

''(2) revise how such survey information is collected, following a public notice and opportunity for public comment, by—

''(A) including surveys that allow for reliable and objective sources of data and a defendable methodology, which may include information collected through Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys; and

''(B) improving the percentage of businesses choosing to participate in prevailing wage determination surveys and ensuring proportional representation of businesses represented by labor organizations and businesses not represented by labor organizations in the prevailing wage determination surveys that are completed.''.

SEC. 3. MULTIPLE WAGE RATE DETERMINATIONS.

Section 3142 of title 40, United States Code, as amended by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) FEDERAL HOUSING ACTS.—A determination of prevailing wages by the Secretary of Labor applicable under section 212(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715c(a)), section 104(b)(1) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4114(b)(1)), section 12(a) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437j(a)), or section 811(j)(5) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(j)(5)) shall be limited to 1 wage rate determination under subsection (b) of this section that corresponds to the overall residential character of the project.''.

SEC. 4. DAVIS-BACON MODERNIZATION WORKING GROUP.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group'' means the working group established under subsection (b)(1).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall establish within the Department of Labor, a Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group to recommend the update and modernization of certain requirements under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, as described in subsection (c).

(2) DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT.—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall be considered established on the date on which a majority of the members of the Davis-Bacon Working Group have been appointed, consistent with subsection (d).

(c) DUTIES.—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall—

(1) recommend whether, and if so by how much, the residential classification can be applied to affordable housing units with 5 stories or more for purposes of prevailing wage determinations under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code;

(2) develop administrative and legislative recommendations of ways, and for what specific circumstances in which, the prevailing wage rate requirements under subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, could be waived or streamlined for certain affordable rental Federal Housing Administration new construction projects; and

(3) review the potential positive and negative outcomes of directing the Bureau of Labor Statistics to determine prevailing wages (rather that the Secretary of Labor under section 3142(b) of title 40, United States Code), in a way that would not rely on the collection of voluntary surveys from businesses but rather on data that is already collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(d) MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall be composed of the following representatives of Federal agencies and relevant non-Federal industry stakeholder organizations:

(A) A representative from the Department of Labor, appointed by the Secretary of Labor.

(B) A representative from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, appointed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(C) A representative of a housing construction industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(D) A representative of a financial services industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(E) A representative of an affordable housing industry association, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(F) A representative of a State public housing agency, as defined in section 3 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a), appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(G) A representative of a tribally designated housing entity, as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103), appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(H) A representative of a labor organization representing the housing construction workforce, appointed by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) CHAIR.—The representative from the Department of Labor appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall serve as the chair of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group, and that representative shall be responsible for organizing the business of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(e) OTHER MATTERS.—

(1) NO COMPENSATION.—A member of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall serve without compensation.

(2) SUPPORT.—The Secretary of Labor may detail an employee of the Department of Labor to assist and support the work of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group, though such a detailee shall not be considered to be a member of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(f) REPORT.—

(1) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group is established, the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall submit a report containing its findings and recommendations under subsection (c), including recommendations resulting from the review under subsection (c)(3), to the Secretary of Labor, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

(2) MAJORITY SUPPORT.—Each recommendation made under paragraph (1) shall be agreed to by a majority of the members of the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(g) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group.

(h) SUNSET.—The Davis-Bacon Modernization Working Group shall terminate on the date the report is completed under subsection (f)(1).

SEC. 5. NATIONAL HOUSING ACT.

Section 212(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715c(a)) is amended by striking ''similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended (40 U.S.C. 276a—276a–5)'' and inserting ''residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed''.

SEC. 6. HOUSING ACT OF 1959.

Section 202(j)(5)(A) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q(j)(5)(A)) is amended by striking ''similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act)'' and inserting ''residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed''.

SEC. 7. NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 1996.

Section 104(b)(1) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4114(b)(1)) is amended by striking '', as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act; chapter 411; 46 Stat. 1494; 40 U.S.C. 276a et seq.),'' and inserting ''for corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction of a residential character, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed''.

SEC. 8. CRANSTON-GONZALEZ NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT.

Section 811(j)(5)(A) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(j)(5)(A)) is amended by striking ''similar character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Act of March 3, 1931 (commonly known as the Davis-Bacon Act)'' and inserting ''residential character, as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed''.

SEC. 9. UNITED STATES HOUSING ACT OF 1937.

Section 12(a) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437j(a)) is amended by striking '', as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the Davis-Bacon Act (49 Stat. 1011)'' and inserting ''for corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction of a residential character, as predetermined by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, that is applicable at the time the application is filed''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 558—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON WHEN THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO RETURN TO THE LEVEL OF THAT RELATIONSHIP BEFORE THE INVASION OF UKRAINE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION THAT BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 24, 2022, AND ON THE ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN AT THAT TIME

Mr. CASSIDY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 558

Whereas the United States has a responsibility to uphold the values of freedom, democracy, and human rights across the globe;

Whereas there are several universal declarations promoting human rights, laws of war, and upholding the dignity of individuals;

Whereas the preamble to the United Nations Charter states that member countries ''reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights [and] in the dignity and worth of the human person'';

Whereas the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, ''Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms'';

Whereas the Russian Federation, as the former Union of Soviet Socialists Republics, joined as an original member of the United Nations on October 24, 1945, and as such has a duty to abide by the conditions of the United Nations Charter;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin, members of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, and President Putin's military commanders have severely undermined the international rule of law through their various actions;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin violated the sovereignty of Ukraine and used military force to seize control and unlawfully occupy Crimea and eastern Ukraine, indiscriminately targeting and killing thousands of innocent civilians since 2014;

Whereas rebel forces supported by the Russian Federation were deemed responsible for

a missile attack on January 24, 2015, in Mariupol, Ukraine, that indiscriminately targeted civilians, resulting in the death of at least 30 people and injuring many more;

Whereas intelligence assessments have concluded Vladimir Putin and his regime have destroyed the rule of law in the Russian Federation and engaged in countless crimes against humanity, including ordering the poisoning of Alexi Navalny, the poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skripal, and the false imprisonment and torture ultimately leading to the death of Sergei Magnitsky;

Whereas armed forces of the Russian Federation, under the leadership of President Vladimir Putin and the Security Council of the Russian Federation, initiated an unprovoked war against Ukraine based on false security claims and threats in February 2022;

Whereas President Vladimir Putin has allegedly committed war crimes in his reckless quest to decimate Ukraine and the people of Ukraine, including civilians, children, and women;

Whereas the people of the Russian Federation are suffering economic hardship from global sanctions as a direct result of President Vladimir Putin's erratic, illogical, and irrational actions;

Whereas the United States Government seeks the most productive relationship possible with the people of the Russian Federation for the sake of their own liberty and prosperity; and

Whereas the United States Government should use its voice, vote, and influence to pursue war crimes allegations against Vladimir Putin and his military commanders in international institutions of which it is a member and encourage other allies and partners to do the same: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the economic relationship between the United States and the Russian Federation should be considered to return to the level of that relationship before the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation that began on February 24, 2022, only when—

(A) the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and proxies of such forces withdraw from all territory of Ukraine such forces or proxies have occupied since February 24, 2022, and that withdrawal is verified by a supervision mission of the United Nations in Ukraine;

(B) the Government of the Russian Federation has ceased engaging in cyberattacks and disseminating anti-Ukraine, pro-Russian Federation propaganda and has committed to not engaging in such attacks or disseminating such propaganda in the future; and

(C) a free and fair election is held in the Russian Federation, as determined by the Secretary of State;

(2) as soon as possible after the date of agreement to this resolution—

(A) the President should direct the United States Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to immediately promote the establishment of an international justice mechanism for alleged war crimes and other alleged crimes of the Russian Federation against Ukraine and to prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes committed during the period of conflict in Ukraine;

(B) in the event that the United Nations is unable or unwilling to establish a mechanism described in subparagraph (A), the President should convoke and convene the world's democracies for the purposes of establishing a regional or international justice mechanism for crimes described in that subparagraph;

(C) in working with other countries to establish such a regional or international justice mechanism, the United States should assist all partners in that effort to develop judicial procedures that enable the fair and open prosecution of persons accused of perpetrating such crimes;

(D) the United States should encourage, support, and collect any and all information that can be supplied to a justice mechanism described in subparagraph (A) or (B) for use as evidence to support the indictment and trial of any persons accused of crimes described in subparagraph (A), including the crime of aggression in Ukraine, as an immediate priority; and

(E) the United States should urge all other interested countries to apprehend and deliver into the custody of a justice mechanism described in subparagraph (A) or (B) persons indicted for crimes described in subparagraph (A) and urge all interested countries to provide any and all data and information pertaining to such crimes to that mechanism; and

(3) when the economic relationship between the United States and the Russian Federation returns to the level of that relationship before the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, as described in paragraph (1)—

(A) the President should organize and lead a presidential summit on Eastern European peace and security with the head of the successor government of the Russian Federation, which should include topics such as arms control and existing international fora such as the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Minsk Group, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization;

(B) the Secretary of State should—

(i) begin a formal, consultative process with the United Nations Secretary General and all member countries of the United Nations to reimagine the United Nations Security Council; and

(ii) initiate talks with all Western allies regarding the reconstruction of Ukraine and humanitarian support to those affected by the war waged by President Vladimir Putin;

(C) the Senate should establish a special, interdisciplinary commission to make recommendations for the reimagination of a post-war, long-term collective security strategy for Europe, which includes consideration of the security concerns of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and other non-treaty partners; and

(D) the United States Government should call on the successor government of the Russian Federation to release all political prisoners held under the authority of the Russian Federation.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have one request 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 THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor, again today, to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine. This is the seventh week in a row I have come out here to talk about the atrocities being committed by Russia and what more the United States and this Congress can do to support Ukraine in its fight for survival.

It has now been more than a month since Russia's assault on our ally Ukraine, an independent sovereign democracy, a democracy that just wants to live in peace.

Earlier today, Russia continued its cowardly and brutal bombing attacks on civilian targets in Ukraine. Some civilians, like those trapped in and surrounding Mariupol, are dying due to a lack of access to water and food.

Russia continues its assault on humanitarian corridors which are designed to allow safe passage for civilians fleeing the conflict and for lifesaving humanitarian aid to come in to those who can't get out.

You may recall the theater in Mariupol, where people were taking refuge in the basement and using it as a bomb shelter. The words ''children'' in Russian were emblazed with huge letters clear enough to see from the sky so that it would not be a target, but it was.

We just learned Friday that roughly 300 Ukrainian civilians were killed in that basement when the theater was hit by Russian bombs about a week ago—mostly women and children.

Vladimir Putin's war has resulted in death and destruction not seen in Europe since World War II. Thousands of civilians have been killed. Roughly, 10 million people have been displaced from their homes, and 3.6 million refugees, almost all women and children and the elderly, have fled the country they love, while men have stayed behind to fight the invaders.

In my recent visit to the Polish-Ukrainian border with three colleagues, I talked to dozens of refugees. Through their tears, they spoke of their apartments or houses that were destroyed. They spoke about their friends or family members who were injured or even killed. They talked about the pain of being separated from their husbands or fathers or brothers who had stayed behind to fight, not knowing their fate.

They pleaded for us to do more—to stop the missiles, stop the bombs, and they all said they wanted to return to their homeland as soon as they possibly could.

President Biden is just back from the region where he, too, met with refugees, and I am glad he went. He was clearly moved by what he saw and heard. I thought his speech in Poland Saturday was a powerful indictment of Russia's invasion and a strong statement of support for Ukraine, as well as a reminder that this battle in Ukraine is about the larger issue of freedom and democracy versus tyranny and authoritarianism.

Unfortunately, a compelling speech was overshadowed by an off-the-cuff remark at the end, saying of Putin that ''this man cannot stay in power.''

This was read as supporting regime change in Russia. There is no question in my mind that the world would be a better place and a safer place without Vladimir Putin as President of Russia, but this remark unfortunately played into Russia's propaganda efforts from the start, that NATO, Ukraine, and NATO support of Ukraine are all threats to Russia and attempts to overthrow the Russian Government.

None of that is true, of course. All Ukraine wants to do is live in peace with its neighbor. NATO is a purely defensive pact, not offensive in any respect—simply countries pledging to defend one another from attacks. Regime change is neither our policy in this instance or our broader strategic objective.

I can imagine that having met with the refugees and having heard their heartbreaking stories that the President was expressing his frustration. I get it. But the President's words and the reaction to them reminds us that this is a true national security crisis, and in this sensitive moment, it requires the United States to speak with clarity and to speak, wherever possible, in unity with our allies in NATO and beyond.

Unfortunately, that did not always happen on this trip, whether it was the President talking about our response to the use of chemical weapons, U.S. troops who may end up in Ukraine, or regime change.

But tonight I want to focus on another positive aspect of the President's trip that relates to sanctions and offer a few ideas of where we go from here.

With regard to our sanctions on Russia, I believe there are a number of additional steps we can and should take. I was glad to hear on March 24 that the Treasury Department issued sanctions against dozens of defense companies, 328 members of the duma legislative body, and the chief executive of SberBank. Gold-related transactions involving Russia may be sanctionable by U.S. authorities, the Treasury Department has also said in a statement. We should do that.

But we should also expand full blocking sanctions to all Russian banks, revoking international tax and trade agreements that give Russia privileges not appropriate for a pariah country; seizing, not just freezing, assets from Kremlin supporters; keeping oligarchs from laundering money through expensive art and more.

I have introduced legislation on some of these ideas. I have advocated for all of them here on the floor of the Senate and elsewhere, and I will continue to do so, but tonight I want to focus on what I think is the single most important sanction, the one that could make the biggest difference.

Our top priority should be cutting off Russia's No. 1 source of income that fuels the war machine, and that is receipts from energy. Energy is, by far, Russia's biggest export. It accounts for roughly half of Russia's entire Federal budget. Over the past year, the average oil revenues going back to Russia from their exports to the United States alone was about $50 million a day.

Under pressure from Congress, the administration changed its view and chose to block Russian oil, natural gas, and coal imports. And that is good. It made no sense for to us to help fund the Russian war effort, especially when we have our own natural resources here in North America that we can gain access to and actually do so in a way that is better for the environment than Russian oil, that is produced in a way that emits more methane and CO_2, and, of course, has to be shipped by sea to our shores, causing more emissions.

I recognize that sanctioning Russian energy is far more difficult for some of our allies in Europe which are far more dependent on Russian energy than we were. But the same argument applies. We can't be funding this brutal war.

I welcomed the announcement during the President's trip on the creation of a joint United States-European Union task force to help reduce Europe's dependence on Russian energy and strengthen Europe's energy security.

Specifically, this initiative will help provide at least 15 billion cubic meters, bcm, of LNG exports from the United States, liquefied natural gas, this year, with the goal of shipping 50 bcm of U.S. LNG to Europe annually through at least 2030.

This is a very positive step forward because it is telling the Europeans you can cut your dependency on Russia and stop spending money that goes into the war machine and we will back you up. The United States has plenty of natural gas; it is produced in a cleaner way, by the way; and we are happy to back you up.

This agreement is not a silver bullet, but it is a step in the right direction. It is smart to support our domestic energy producers as a means of supporting our national and our economic security but also as a way to support our allies in Europe.

And in light of this Russian invasion, the importance of the United States having a robust, ''all of the above'' approach to power our Nation, which includes fossil fuels, renewable energies, carbon capture technologies, nuclear power, hydrogen, that cannot be overstated.

For context, Europe imported approximately 155 bcm of gas from Russia in 2021 and approximately 22 bcm from the United States through LNG. So 50 bcm from the United States on top of that will lead to a significant increase in U.S. LNG exports and really help Europe.

But if this is to work, the administration is going to have to follow through on these commitments to help get more hydrocarbons on the global market to consumers in Europe.

If the price is higher in Europe, as predicted, some of the LNG supply will go to Europe instead of Asia, and that will help. That will be based on market forces, but in order to ensure that we meet this increased supply to Europe, we have to increase our production here at home and develop the associated infrastructure, such as pipelines and terminals, to get that natural gas to market.

Unfortunately, we aren't off to a great start. The President's tax proposals released with their fiscal year 2023 budget request to Congress eliminates important tax provisions used by our domestic producers, like the deduction for intangible drilling costs, or IDCs, which allows natural gas and oil producers to deduct costs that are necessary for the drilling and preparation of wells.

This includes things like wages, fuel, survey work. Taxpayers get to deduct their cost of doing business. IDCs are one such cost for energy companies, and shortsighted proposals like those in the budget would only serve to discourage domestic energy production at a time when we need it.

On Friday, I spoke at a natural gas seminar in Ohio and met with energy producers that are working in the Marcellus and the Utica shale in Ohio. We are now a major gas-producing State, thanks to those Utica and Marcellus shale finds, and the producers in Ohio had a lot of thoughts about what was going on that day in Europe.

They were glad about the agreement between the EU and the United States, but they drove home to me the key point that we have energy here in the ground, but the current administration's policies have made it very difficult to get that product to market, both domestically and internationally.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration has consistently sent a message to these producers and others that one of their goals is to phase out the use of fossil fuels altogether. This rhetoric, combined with actions like canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline, suspending new leases on Federal lands and waters, redefining waters of the United States, or WOTUS, which makes it harder to permit energy projects, has led to a lot of uncertainty within the oil and gas industry, which has a chilling effect on domestic energy production—again, at a time when we need it. We need ''all of the above.''

In light of this new LNG initiative with the European Union, the Biden administration's actions must now meet its commitments. An important part of building out our domestic energy infrastructure for gas, renewables, and everything in between is streamlining the Federal permitting process, whether it is a wind power project, solar power project, or a natural gas project. Historically, it can take a decade or more for the Federal Government to issue permits to build pipelines and other necessary infrastructure.

I coauthored a law called FAST–41, which improves the permitting process for these big projects by requiring Agencies to work together to set out a plan and a timeline for permitting projects.

It also created the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, which can help resolve disputes over the permitting process and get a green light on a project much more quickly. FAST–41 has worked. It has helped projects save billions of dollars and years of time, all while upholding environmental standards.

The bipartisan infrastructure bill expanded the Council's authorities and made it permanent, and the recent fiscal year 2022 government funding bill included $10 million for the Council to help support its operations. I urge the Biden administration to use this FAST–41 process to reduce bureaucratic redtape in permitting these projects so we can deliver the liquefied natural gas to Europe, as we promised, in a timely fashion so that we can begin to reduce their dependency on Russian oil and stop sending billions of dollars to fund the Russian war machine.

This is where energy security and national security come together. We need to lead our European allies in doing all we can to sanction Russian's energy sector.

We have talked a lot about cutting off the natural gas and the revenue that fuels the war machine in Russia, but we also need to tighten up these bank sanctions as they relate to energy. As an example, it is simply unacceptable that sanctions against Russia's biggest banks, including VTB Bank, do not apply to energy transactions until June 24. This is simply too late. We need to act much more quickly.

While President Biden was in Poland, inside Ukraine, Russian missiles were striking cities all across the country, including the western city of Lviv, not very far from the Polish border.

President Biden must lead the alliance to redouble their efforts to stop this madness to ensure Russia is not rewarded for its war crimes. It is one thing to keep the alliance together; it is another to lead the alliance out of its comfort zone to a more aggressive stance to actually win this war.

So in addition to the energy and other sanctions we have discussed tonight, what more can we and our allies do to help Ukraine win this war? And note I say ''win this war'' because if we act swiftly, I think we can help Ukraine actually win and keep Ukraine as a viable democracy and save thousands of lives. But they need our help, especially to stop the missiles and artillery that are raining down on civilians every day and every night. As we talk here tonight, this is happening in Ukraine.

The Ukrainians have made it very clear they desperately need more air defense. President Zelenskyy talked about it again in the last 24 hours. Based on the news media reports, the United States is providing some SA–8s, an older, Soviet-era defense system, to Ukraine. I was glad to hear that. However, the media reports also say that the more capable S–300 Soviet-era systems we have in our inventory are not being sent. If this is true, this is a big disappointment and shows a lack of urgency.

While I commend the President for the strong speech he delivered over the weekend, the actions of the administration have to match that rhetoric. There are additional weapons that they are desperately needing that we are not yet providing, particularly these anti-air systems and more munitions for their own anti-air systems. Often it is a matter of us facilitating the transfer of these weapons from former Warsaw Pact countries that are all along the border—the Eastern European, Central European countries that are close to Ukraine and can provide these incredibly important military anti-air systems, but we need to help them. We need to facilitate that and backfill their needs at home.

They have asked for our help across the board, but specifically for tanks, for anti-ship systems, which is really important right now because so many of these missiles are coming from these ships in the Black Sea.

President Zelenskyy needs to be listened to. He knows what they need. He says: We need more, and we need it more quickly.

We must also keep sending Stinger missiles, which are effective at shooting down Russian helicopters and planes at lower altitudes.

We must find ways to quickly provide Ukraine with more armed drones, such as the Turkish TB2s and one-use loitering munitions, which the Ukrainians know how to use and have been very effective on the battlefield with.

Two weeks ago, it was announced that we were sending 100 so-called Switchblade loitering munitions. One hundred will go very quickly. We need to send more, and we need to send them quickly.

To our Israeli friends, I would ask them to sell to us or other countries, and we should agree to buy, their Harop drones, which Ukraine could really use right now. The bottom line is we need to flood the zone when it comes to providing Ukraine with military assistance.

They are not asking us to fight for them, but they are asking for the tools to be able to defend themselves, particularly with regard to this endless bombing. And they have a chance to win if we do that. There should be no gaps in our weapons transfers. We need to lead the NATO allies and others when it comes to providing and coordinating support.

There are loopholes in the sanctions we talked about tonight. We need to do more to ensure that those are closed. We need to do more to ensure that the weapons are being received.

We should act fast to let the people of Ukraine know with certainty that we do stand with them. The popular Ukrainian national rallying cry ''Slava Ukraini'' when translated into English is ''Glory to Ukraine.'' The response to it is ''Glory to the Heroes,'' ''Heroyam Slava.''

In the midst of this atrocity, there are so many heroes, and we need to back them up. There are so many heroes to glorify in Ukraine: the soldiers, professionals, and civilians who have taken up arms; the doctors and the nurses and the firefighters; and the volunteers providing food and water and blankets. We pray for them all, and we pray for their families. Godspeed to them in their simple quest, a battle for a free and independent Ukraine, a country that can chart its own course.

America needs to stand with the people of Ukraine. We must show the world, both our adversaries and our allies, that we stand with Ukraine.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The majority leader.

NOMINATION OF LISA DENELL COOK

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in a few moments I will file a discharge petition to move forward on the nomination of Lisa DeNell Cook to serve on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

Not very long ago, a nominee like Ms. Cook would have sailed toward final confirmation. She serves on the advisory board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She is a professor of economics at Michigan State and has served on the White House Council of Economic Advisers. She would also be the first Black woman to sit on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

Sadly, every single Republican in the committee voted in lockstep against Ms. Cook—that was in the Banking Committee—providing no good explanation for obstructing this qualified and historic nominee.

Nonetheless, the step I am taking now will make sure Ms. Cook's nomination will move forward, setting up a vote as soon as tomorrow.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 672.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 672, Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2025.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie K. Hirono, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy.

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. 764.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of January Contreras, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 764, January Contreras, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie K. Hirono, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy.

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. 667.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 667, David Weil, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

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, Mazie K. Hirono, Christopher A. Coons.

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 senior assistant 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the 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, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie K. Hirono, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy.

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. 717.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2028.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 717, Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2028.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie K. Hirono, Brian Schatz, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory A. Booker, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Christopher Murphy.

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. 716.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 716, Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Charles E. Schumer, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Elizabeth Warren, Chris Van Hollen, Raphael G. Warnock, Jacky Rosen, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tammy Duckworth, Alex Padilla, Tammy Baldwin, Mazie K. Hirono, Gary C. Peters, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for cloture motions filed today, March 28, be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session.

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

The motion was agreed to.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Banking Committee being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Banking Committee from further consideration of Lisa Denell Cook, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, 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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 816, 817, 818, and 819; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

There being no objection, 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 Christy Goldsmith Romero, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the remainder of the term expiring April 13, 2024; Kristin N. Johnson, of Michigan, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2025; Summer Kristine Mersinger, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the remainder of the term expiring April 13, 2023; and Caroline D. Pham, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2027, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 29; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Coloretti nomination; that the cloture motions filed during Thursday's session ripen following the disposition of the motion to discharge the Cook nomination; and that the Senate vote on the motion to discharge the Cook nomination at 11:45 a.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the Coloretti nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. and that the Senate recess following the cloture vote until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate vote on cloture on the Kang nomination at 2:15 p.m. and that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be considered expired following the disposition of the Coloretti nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:35 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 10 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination under the authority of the order of the Senate of 01/07/2009 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

*ROBERT PHILLIP STORCH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.

*Nominee has committed to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 28, 2022:

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

CHRISTY GOLDSMITH ROMERO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2024.

KRISTIN N. JOHNSON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2025 .

SUMMER KRISTINE MERSINGER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2023.

CAROLINE D. PHAM, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 13, 2027 .