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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, May 27, 2022, at 9 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal redeemer, the Father of mercies, You are our help in time of need. Lord, as we mourn the senseless tragedy at Robb Elementary School in Texas, guide us with Your grace.

Lord, sometimes prayers seem so useless. Yet in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, You told us to pray without ceasing. We lift our voices again to You. We pray because You have helped us in the past. We pray because You are our hope for the years to come. Strengthen us to pray and work until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Inspire our lawmakers to strive to become islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference. Lord, use our Senators to build a more safe nation and world.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 25, 2022.

To the Senate:

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

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, there is a plague—a plague—upon this Nation, a plague of gun violence that has taken over this country. Two weeks ago, that plague claimed the lives of 10 Black Americans who were massacred in broad daylight while shopping at a grocery store in Buffalo. They were Black, and they were in a grocery store. That is the reason they were shot by an 18-year-old with an AR–15.

And then, yesterday, just 10 days after Buffalo, that plague struck again in Uvalde, TX, where 19—19—innocent children and 2 teachers were gunned down at Robb Elementary in the middle of the school day, just before the start of summer when these kids were looking forward to having such a wonderful time with their family and friends.

Gone. They are gone.

The shooter crashed his truck near the school, overpowered the police already at the scene, and reportedly began shooting inside a fourth grade classroom. Nineteen kids, two teachers, forever gone in the blink of an eye.

America's gun epidemic is unmatched by any of our peer nations in the world. No American is safe from it, and the American people are sick and tired of it. But we also have a problem—a big problem—here in the U.S. Senate—a big problem in the U.S. Senate. The problem in the Senate is simple: Too many Members on the other side of the aisle are disconnected from the suffering of the American people. Too many Members on that side care more about the NRA than they do about families who grieve victims of gun violence.

As I said, the American people are sick and tired of mass shootings. They are sick and tired about active shooter alerts. They are sick and tired of children—children: 9-year-olds, 10-year-

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

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olds, 11-year-olds—being shot, gunned down in their schools.

When I read the news of yesterday's shooting, I ached for the families and then thought: What if it was one of my children? I imagined what I would feel if this happened to one of them. The mere thought—just thinking about it—was a gut punch in my stomach. The fear sent ripples down my spine.

To my Republican colleagues: Imagine if it happened to you. Imagine if this was your kid or your grandkid. How would you feel? Could you ever forgive yourself for not supporting a simple law that would make these mass shootings less likely?

Please, please, please—damn it—put yourself in the shoes of these parents for once. Maybe that thought, putting yourself in the shoes of these parents instead of in the arms of the NRA, might let you wriggle free from the viselike grip of the NRA, might free you to act on even a simple measure for the sake of these children—these 9-year-olds, these 10-year-olds, these 11-year-olds, these beautiful children. Please—damn it—think if it were your child or grandchild.

Now, Madam President, it wasn't always this way in Congress. Nearly 30 years ago, I was proud to be the author of the Brady Bill and a leader of the assault weapons bans. These were major legislative accomplishments, and they worked because they were good, commonsense laws, and they passed because both sides of the aisle worked together. And because they became law, tens of thousands—hundreds of thousands, perhaps—of lives were saved: children, elderly people, people of color, you name it, people now walking the streets who might have been dead had we not passed these laws. But today the NRA has made it all but impossible for even the bare minimum to move forward in Congress, and the other side is all too ready to bow in obeisance to the NRA, in service of their whims.

Madam President, these types of shootings used to be rare—so rare, in fact, that each occurrence stood apart as a singular event. But now these shootings happen so frequently that the Nation can barely keep up, barely mourn the 10 people shot in the grocery store in Buffalo before being rocked to our collective core by the slaughter of 19 elementary schoolchildren in the predominantly Latino community of Uvalde, TX.

These shootings happen everywhere: movie theaters, churches, synagogues, concerts, nightclubs, grocery stores, college campuses, high schools, elementary schools—elementary schools, with beautiful children getting ready to move out into the prime of life.

Honestly, I thought Sandy Hook 10 years ago would be the breaking point. I thought that that would be the tragedy that forced Republicans to examine their conscience and think: Oh, God, we can't allow schoolchildren to be slaughtered.

Well, I was wrong. The slaughter of 20 elementary schoolchildren in Sandy Hook didn't move them. We heard about their thoughts and their prayers—but no action. Then came Aurora. And the Navy Yard. Then, after Charleston, I thought: Maybe this—maybe this is the moment. Nine Americans shot in a church during Bible study? This has to move the Republicans here in the Senate.

Nope. It didn't. They gave a few more thoughts, a few more prayers, no real effort to solve the problem.

So, Madam President, it continued on and on and on: San Bernardino; Orlando; Las Vegas; Sutherland Springs; Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School; Thousand Oaks; the Pittsburgh synagogue; Santa Fe, TX; the El Paso Walmart; Dayton; Virginia Beach; Boulder; Buffalo; and now Uvalde.

When will it end? We must act to have it end, not thoughts and prayers—action.

After the shootings in El Paso and Dayton 3 years ago, the Republican leader promised that red flag laws and background checks would be front and center in a Senate debate. He was then majority leader, but then the Republicans did nothing. They ensured there was no debate, just as they wanted. They don't want to debate this issue. Indeed, all we hear from Republicans are thoughts, prayers. And now there is a new phrase. Now some of my Republican colleagues want to ''lift up'' the community. That sounds heartening, but it does absolutely nothing—nothing—to prevent the next family from having to grieve their loss, and it won't do a single damn thing to prevent another life from being taken. It won't do a single damn thing to prevent another child from being shot at school—a 9-year-old, a 10-year-old, an 11-year-old—beautiful children.

Madam President, you may have noticed that when they aren't offering thoughts and prayers to distract from their inaction, many of my Republican colleagues focus on the motives of the shooters instead of focusing on the obvious common denominator. They talk about the real villain being mental illness and say nothing of the fact that we are a nation suffocated by firearms. Rates of mental illness are more or less the same across the developed world. The United States is not an outlier on mental illness, but we are an outlier in the sheer number of guns available in this country. That is why we have so many shootings and other Western countries don't. If mental illness were the simple cause, you would see mass shootings happening all over the developed world, but you don't.

What you do see here in America are enough guns to give every man, woman, and child in this Nation a firearm and still have nearly 70 million guns left over. What you do see is that it is far too easy for people to access weapons in this country and then to use them to slaughter people, to slaughter children by the dozens—by the dozens.

Again, America doesn't stand out when it comes to the rate of mental illness, but we are unique among the world's developed nations in that today, the leading cause of death among children is no longer a car accident; it is no longer illness or malnourishment. The leading cause of death among children is a firearm. The leading cause of death of children—do you hear that, my Republican colleagues?—is a firearm.

Clearly, many of these shooters had different motives, but at the end of the day, does the motive really matter to the family with an empty seat at their dinner table? Children who lost parents don't just care whether the shooter was mentally ill; they care that the shooter had ready access to a gun. Spouses who lost their partners don't just care that the shooter had a grudge or an agenda or a grievance; they care that the shooter had ready access to a gun. Americans who lost friends and coworkers and parishioners, who lost fellow worshippers don't just care whether the shooter wrote a manifesto; they care that the shooter had ready access to a gun. They care that their loved ones had been taken from them by someone who had access to a gun—taken from them while some Members of this body refuse to do what it takes to prevent those losses, refuse to focus on the denominator to every single one of these shootings, refuse to even do the bare minimum as they bow in obeisance to the wretched NRA.

What do we do about it? If the slaughter of schoolchildren can't convince the Republicans to buck the NRA, what can we do? There are some who want this body to quickly vote on sensible gun safety legislation—legislation supported by the vast majority of Americans, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike. They want to see this body vote quickly so the American people can know which side each Senator is on—which side each Senator is on.

I am sympathetic to that, and I believe that accountability votes are important. But, sadly, this isn't a case of the American people not knowing where their Senators stand. They know. They know because my Republican colleagues are perfectly clear on this issue, crystal clear. Republicans don't pretend that they support sensible gun safety legislation. They don't pretend to be moved by the fact that 90 percent of Americans, regardless of party, support something as common sense as background checks, that the vast majority of gun owners support the background checks bill. They don't pretend that they want to keep guns out of the hands of those who might use weapons to shoot concertgoers or movie watchers or worshippers or shoppers or children. They don't pretend at all.

Just listen to them when they show up in obeisance to the NRA at the NRA's convention in Houston—the same State as Uvalde—on Friday. They

will offer their thoughts and prayers. They will say they want to lift up the community. And then they will go back to their smoke-filled rooms and ensure the NRA and gun manufacturers that nothing will change, that they have the NRA's back.

No, Madam President, no, this isn't a case of Republicans hiding their position. They proudly tell the American people which side they are on, and America is much worse off for it. And if nothing does change, we are condemned to find ourselves right here once again very, very soon.

As I was reading the reports of the tragedy in Texas, I saw that Amanda Gorman, the young woman who mesmerized the Nation at President Biden's inauguration, tweeted:

The truth is, one nation under guns.

''One nation under guns.'' That is simply heartbreaking—heartbreaking—to think that this is the legacy that older generations are leaving behind for young Americans: ''one nation under guns.''

It doesn't have to be that way. Our parents don't need to drop their kids off at school and wonder if their kid will be next. That is in the thoughts of millions of moms and dads right now. Our citizens don't have to endure the fear of getting groceries while constantly keeping an eye behind their backs. Again, millions of Americans are worried about that right now.

Americans can make a choice. Americans can reject the Republican ''guns at all cost'' doctrine, obeisance to the NRA, not even voting for the most simple, sensitive, positive, and popular gun legislation. Americans can cast their vote in November for Senators or Members of Congress who reflect how he or she stands with guns, with this issue—this issue—at the top of the voters' lists.

In the meantime, my Republican colleagues can work with us now. I know this is a slim prospect—very slim, all too slim. We have been burned so many times before. But this is so important, and I have such a firm belief—taught to me by my late father, who passed away in November—that if you do the right thing and persist, justice will eventually prevail. But you have to keep persisting, and we will.

For that reason alone, we must pursue action and even ask Republicans again to join us—maybe, maybe, maybe. Unlikely. We have been burned in the past. But their hearts might see what is happening and join us and do the right thing. They know it is the right thing. They can work with us to craft legislation that would prevent needless loss of life. It is their choice.

As majority leader, I haven't been shy about putting bipartisan legislation on the floor for a vote, but bipartisan means both parties must engage in crafting a bill, like what happened in the House and Senate 30 years ago with the Brady law and the assault weapons ban.

Democrats have been trying to work hard with Republicans—Senator MURPHY, Senator MANCHIN—on legislation that will eventually pass and become law. The other side has refused. There are so many options available to us, so many ideas. We just need some brave Republicans to stand before history and yell ''stop,'' to think, if it was your child, your grandchild, how you would feel. Would that move you to do something—something—about this plague of guns?

Like my colleague Senator MURPHY, I refuse to believe that we cannot find a path forward. Make no mistake about it, if we can't find a good, strong bill that has bipartisan support, we will continue to pursue this issue on our own. We have no choice. It is too important. Lives are at stake.

I accept the fact that most of my Republican colleagues are not willing to do what it takes to prevent this needless loss of life. The NRA will have a hold on them. That is just a reality, unfortunately. But it is unacceptable to the American people to think that there are not 10 of my Republican colleagues, just 10—1 out of 5 over here—who would be ready to work to pass something that would reduce this plague of gun violence.

It is unacceptable that there are not 10 Members of the Republican caucus willing to save lives, find a way to do it. Yet that is where we are. That is where we are. Another week, another American community devastated by a mass shooting. All of us thinking of these 9- and 10- and 11-year-old children just shot, gone. Another American community, Uvalde, which will never recover, like the other communities before it. Will it be yet—Uvalde—another example of Republicans unwilling to do what it takes to keep Americans safe?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3807, H.R. 3967, H.R. 6833, H.R. 8, AND H.R. 1446

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3807) to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 6833) to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish requirements with respect to cost-sharing for certain insulin products, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 8) to require a background check for every firearm sale.

A bill (H.R. 1446) to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objections having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, our country is sickened and outraged by the senseless evil that struck Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX, only yesterday. According to early reports from authorities, it appears that a deranged young man tried to murder his own grandmother, then crashed his car, and then ran into an elementary school and began killing.

At least 19 young children and 2 teachers were murdered—murdered—for no apparent reason at all. These innocent kids were simply going to school. They put on their backpacks, said goodbye to their parents, and headed off for another day of learning and friendship. There were only 2 days left before summer break. And because of this maniac, at least 19 of these kids never made it home.

One of the victims was a 10-year-old girl whose father described her as ''full of life, a jokester, always smiling.'' A 10-year-old boy who loved sports and art had just received his honor roll certificate a few hours earlier. His mother says he was thrilled—thrilled—about moving up into middle school next year.

It is literally sickening—sickening—to consider the innocent young lives that were stolen by this pointless, senseless brutality; to consider the parents and families who sat waiting at the civic center, waiting to either be reunited with their son or their daughter or to learn they never would be.

The investigation is still underway. The authorities will continue to learn exactly what happened and how. In the meantime, we are also praying for the Border Patrol officer who, according to reports, was wounded after he responded to the scene, and for all the law enforcement, paramedics, and first responders whose dedication yesterday saved lives.

Most of all, the entire Nation's hearts are broken for the victims and for their families. Words simply fail.

Yesterday, the Uvalde school superintendent said:

We're a small community [and] we're going to need your prayers to get us through this.

We pray fervently that in the midst of this nightmare of grief, our Heavenly Father will make manifest to

those families his promise in Psalm 34 that ''the Lord is near to the broken-hearted.''

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of Sandra L. Thompson, of Maryland, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I just had heard the minority leader say he was sickened by what happened in Uvalde.

Tomorrow, we have a bill coming to the floor that addressed the last shooting, the one in Buffalo. Will he join us in allowing a debate and amendments to that bill that will address the gun plague in America?

Thoughts and prayers are not enough. We need action.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I had originally, before yesterday, planned to speak today at length about the fact that in 36 days children across the country are going to lose healthy meals they have been getting in the summer, as well as meals during the school year, and schools are going to be put in a very difficult situation—up to one-third of the schools may not be able to offer school meals at all.

So that was my intent in coming to the floor, but after what happened, the horrible situation in Texas, 19 more children, a teacher, a grandma dying, now I wonder if it is how many more kids will be killed in the next 36 days.

We don't have to live like this. We don't have to live like this where we are begging for 8 more Republicans to join us, 52 of us, who want to make sure kids get healthy meals. We don't have to live like that, and we don't have to live in a situation where parents are afraid—where people are afraid to go to their place of worship or they are afraid to go to the grocery store, where they are afraid to just live because of some random shooting by somebody who got a hold of a—of a gun, a military assault weapon or didn't have to go through a background check and went to a gun show or whatever it is, whatever it is that is causing the carnage in our country related to guns and mass shootings.

It is not happening in other countries—it is not happening in other countries, and they have as many challenges as we do. But in other countries, that may be somebody going into school with a knife and the kids get hurt, but they live. Here, it is assault weapons. It is shooting children indiscriminately in an elementary school. We don't have to live like this. We don't have to live like this.

The question is, how many Republicans would join us to save children's lives from gun violence? How many? Can we just get started? You know, Leader SCHUMER has put two bills on the calendar related to background checks: the bipartisan Background Checks Act—closing the gun show loophole, requiring background checks for gun purchases made through private unlicensed dealers—and the Enhanced Background Checks Act, which would provide a national background check system, enough time to thoroughly review gun sales.

Now, these are not controversial. Neither is feeding children by the way. These are not controversial. Ninety percent of the public says, duh, of course, of course.

Now, the folks that don't want us to do it are the folks that make the guns. They make a lot of money. They are trying to pit us against each other. They put out all kinds of crazy theories. They are funding our Republican colleagues to stop anything from happening because, God forbid, if the profits of the gun manufacturers would go down because maybe there were a few less guns that were on the street.

This is not rocket science. We know what to do. I grew up in a northern Michigan community surrounded by legal gun ownership—my own family, my friends, my relatives. You know when the assault weapon ban went in for 10 years, nobody in my family stopped hunting. Nobody in my family had to say, oh, well, we can't do what we want to do because military assault weapons aren't available.

That was put in by Democrats. It was then repealed by Republicans. And we saw violence—violent shootings that had gone down tremendously, suddenly go up. So there is a lot of different things that we could do. And the question is, will we come together on any of them? Will we start with comprehensive background checks? That is the question.

Will we have Republicans joining us? Every action we take—or inaction—relates to our values, and it relates to our will to do it.

We can do anything if we want to do it. I mean, last week we came together on this floor to address baby formula for the WIC program, and we did it together. It was great. One of the fastest things I have ever seen move through here, and I appreciate that. I appreciate Senator BOOZMAN joining me in that.

But why can't we then extend that, first of all, to making sure in the summer, kids get healthy food that they are going to start losing in 36 days and that during the school year we are supporting our schools to provide healthy meals for all of our children in a time of supply chain breakdowns, costs going up.

And what happens when we start hearing in the fall from those schools that have to stop all school meals because somehow we couldn't come together and prioritize feeding children?

And on top of that—I mean, I hate to say feeding children is, you know—all of this is important, but their lives—we can't even come together around basic commonsense measures that will begin to address what is happening with the random shootings and the killings of our babies, of our children. We can do better than this. We have to do better than this. We have to do better than this.

We only need 10 Republicans—we need 8 Republicans to help us feed healthy kids in the summer and on into the—give kids healthy meals this summer and in the fall, 8. We only need 10, we only need 10 Republicans to join us on background checks, closing the gun show loophole.

We don't need everybody. We don't need everybody. Some folks can go run and stand with the gun manufacturers and what has become incredibly extreme NRA dangerous positions.

Folks, we just need 10—10 people to stand up and go: This is too much. This has gone too far. We can do better than this.

Because if not now, what is the number? I would like to ask Leader MCCONNELL, what is the number?

How many children will he describe and how much sympathy will he show for dead children on the floor of the U.S. Senate before it is enough? How many? One hundred more? Two hundred more? A thousand more? When is it enough, when too many children have been killed? When is it enough?

It is past enough right now. We can do better than this for our kids, and I hope this is the moment that Republicans in the U.S. Senate will step up and join us.

THE CALENDAR

Ms. STABENOW. As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills, en bloc: Calendar No. 185, H.R. 767; Calendar No. 186, H.R. 1170; Calendar No. 187, H.R. 1444, Calendar No. 189, S. 2932; Calendar No. 325, S. 3825; Calendar No.

326, S. 3826; Calendar No. 328, H.R. 735; Calendar No. 329, H.R. 1298; Calendar No. 330, H.R. 2324; Calendar No. 332, H.R. 3579; Calendar No. 333, H.R. 3613; and Calendar No. 334, H.R. 4168.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bills en bloc be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The bills were considered and passed, en bloc, as follows:

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 767) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the ''Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building'', was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

TUSKEGEE AIRMAN LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT J. FRIEND MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 1170) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the ''Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building'', was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PATSY CLINE POST OFFICE

A bill (H.R. 1444) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the ''Patsy Cline Post Office'', was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CAPTAIN ROBERT C. HARMON AND PRIVATE JOHN R. PEIRSON POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (S. 2932) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the ''Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building'', was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2932

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

SECTION 1. CAPTAIN ROBERT C. HARMON AND PRIVATE JOHN R. PEIRSON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, shall be known and designated as the ''Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building''.

RON WRIGHT POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (S. 3825) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3903 Melear Drive in Arlington, Texas, as the ''Ron Wright Post Office Building'', was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3825

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

SECTION 1. RON WRIGHT POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3903 Melear Drive in Arlington, Texas, shall be known and designated as the ''Ron Wright Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Ron Wright Post Office Building''.

GARY JAMES FLETCHER POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (S. 3826) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, as the ''Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building'', was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3826

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

SECTION 1. GARY JAMES FLETCHER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, shall be known and designated as the ''Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building''.

ARTURO L. IBLETO POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 735) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 502 East Cotati Avenue in Cotati, California, as the ''Arturo L. Ibleto Post Office Building'', was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

TECHNICAL SERGEANT MARSHAL ROBERTS POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 1298) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1233 North Cedar Street in Owasso, Oklahoma, as the ''Technical Sergeant Marshal Roberts Post Office Building'', was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

D. EDWINA STEPHENS POST OFFICE

A bill (H.R. 2324) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2800 South Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the ''D. Edwina Stephens Post Office'', was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

JEREMY L. RIDLEN POST OFFICE

A bill (H.R. 3579) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 East Main Street in Maroa, Illinois, as the ''Jeremy L. Ridlen Post Office'', was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

CORPORAL JEFFREY ROBERT STANDFEST POST OFFICE BUILDING

A bill (H.R. 3613) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 Trumbull Street in Saint Clair, Michigan, as the ''Corporal Jeffrey Robert Standfest Post Office Building'', was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS CHARLES JACKSON FRENCH POST OFFICE

A bill (H.R. 4168) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6223 Maple Street in Omaha, Nebraska, as the ''Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Jackson French Post Office'', was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 5 minutes.

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

ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise to speak about yesterday's horrific tragedy in Texas, and I won't be long; I know we have votes coming up.

But I wanted to start by expressing, I think, both the grief and the outrage that we see all across the country that,

yet again—and not just another tragedy. In this case, the death of the 19 children and 2 adults, at least that is the latest reporting, but also indicating that the deaths took place because an armed gunman came into a school with body armor protecting him from the response from any law enforcement.

So we have another example, in barely less than a week, where a gunman goes into a setting in a grocery store in Buffalo, NY, and now into a school where second graders, third graders, and fourth graders are killed because he has a high-powered weapon, and he is fully protected from any law enforcement or any other response. And we are supposed to just get used to this, I guess. That seems to be the response here in Washington.

Now, this isn't a problem of Congress, more broadly, or the executive branch of our government. This is a problem—the failure to address this problem, even to pass something as simple as background check legislation—this is a problem in the Senate of one side. You have got 50 U.S. Senators who are Republicans who have refused now for years to pass anything remotely resembling commonsense gun measures.

I would support a whole series of bills that we could talk about. We don't have time today. But at least the U.S. Senate should be able to pass a background check bill supported by 90 percent of the American people.

And you have to ask, why is that? And it is not simply that you have so many Republicans who are beholden to the gun lobby. That is obvious. That is right in front of us.

The other problem is—and I think it is related to the question of the power of the gun lobby in one party—you have got a whole party that seems to want to surrender to this problem, to throw up their hands and say: ''There is nothing the most powerful Nation in the world can do, nothing at all the most powerful nation in the world can do to stop the killing, over and over again, of Americans,'' and especially in the context of the horror—the unspeakable horror—yesterday of second, third, and fourth graders being gunned down in a manner that is so horrific that some of them can't be identified because of the power of the weapon and the number of bullets that can be discharged in a matter of seconds. So even if law enforcement gets there and isn't confronting body armor, no law enforcement is fast enough to get to a scene in seconds to prevent a horrific mass shooting.

So we are supposed to accept the fact, as Americans—I guess this is what the Republican position is—that we should surrender to this problem. The most powerful Nation in the world can't stop second, third, and fourth graders from being murdered in schools. The most powerful country in the world, I guess, can't prevent the shooting we saw in Buffalo. And you can go down the list of other tragedies.

This is a uniquely American problem. No other country that is similarly situated—has an economy like ours as a country even close to what we have—no other country has this problem and has any kind of change or reform or action being blocked by one side. And I know there is work that has to be done at the State legislative level and all that.

But right here, we could vote this week on a background check bill, and it would be supported overwhelmingly.

But think about this, and I will end with this. Think about if we had the same attitude about 9/11. What if someone said right after 9/11: ''You know what, there is really nothing we can do as Americans to stop a foreign terrorist from taking an airplane into a building or crashing an airplane into the Pentagon or the plane that went down in Pennsylvania. There is nothing we can do about that so we just have to get used to that reality of terrorists doing that to our country''? No one would say that—then or now. We created an entire new Agency, the Department of Homeland Security. And guess what, a lot of those reforms that we made to protect Americans against terrorism worked. Just like no one said years ago, when we had these viruses and the potential of pandemics, that we shouldn't do anything about it even though we have the knowledge and the skill to create a vaccine.

We invested. We did what Americans do—confronted a big problem and did something about it.

What if during World War II, what if everyone stood up and said: ''You know, the Axis nations are pretty powerful. Those nations are pretty powerful. They have the most well-funded, sophisticated armies in the world, and there is nothing we can do in 1941 to take on the Axis powers''? We didn't say that.

It is un-American to surrender—to surrender to a problem. Now you have an entire political party in this Chamber that has not just surrendered to the lobby—that is objectionable and insulting enough—but they surrendered to the problem; that there is nothing we can do about it. That, I would submit, is un-American. And it is about time that the Republicans in the Senate begin to be part of the solution to do something that Americans do all the time—confronting evil, like we did after 9/11; confronting terrorism or disease or whatever it is; and in this case to confront gun violence and do something about it, not sit around and pretend that there is nothing we can do. That is un-American.

We don't surrender. We are Americans. We take on tough problems like our entire history has shown. But we haven't taken on this problem.

What we should be saying to these families, in addition to offering our sympathy, is: Your government has failed you. Your government at the Federal level and your government at the State level, it has failed you. And in this case and in this Chamber it has failed because one side will not even entertain the idea of passing any gun measures. They have surrendered.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Evelyn Padin, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

VOTE ON PADIN NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

(Mr. WYDEN assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. PADILLA assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. BENNET assumed the Chair.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 200 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—6

Cornyn	Merkley	Reed
Cruz	Murkowski	Van Hollen

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Charlotte N. Sweeney, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

VOTE ON SWEENEY NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 201 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—6

Cornyn	Merkley	Reed
Cruz	Murkowski	Van Hollen

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 806, Sandra L. Thompson, of Maryland, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Sherrod Brown, Tammy Duckworth, Tina Smith, Jacky Rosen, Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, Robert Menendez, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Thomas R. Carper, Patty Murray, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono.

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 the nomination of Sandra L. Thompson, of Maryland, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 202 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—6

Cornyn	Merkley	Reed
Cruz	Murkowski	Van Hollen

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF SANDRA L. THOMPSON

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support Sandra Thompson's historic nomination to be the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Ms. Thompson is an exceptional nominee, with decades of experience in mortgage markets and Federal financial regulation.

Since June 2021, Ms. Thompson served as Acting Director at FHFA, where she has played a vital role in promoting access to mortgage credit, to overseeing and supervising Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the 11 Federal Home Loan Banks, and to protecting the safety and soundness of the housing finance system.

Before being designated as Acting Director, Ms. Thompson served for 8 years as a Deputy Director for the Division of Mission and Goals at FHFA, so she is clearly very qualified.

She spent 18 years at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. While there, she worked for seven different chairpersons, obviously, from both political parties and in senior-level positions.

She will be the first woman. She will, notably, be the first Black woman confirmed to lead FHFA.

For the first time, we have an administration and a Senate Banking and Housing Committee that understand how important it is to have economic leaders who reflect the country, who look like the country and think like the country—people who make it work.

She will join a growing list of experienced, talented Black women who have come through our committee—MARCIA FUDGE, who was my Congresswoman in Cleveland. She is now Secretary of HUD; Cecilia Rouse, Chair of the Council on Economic Advisers at the White House; Reta Jo Lewis, a CEO of the Export-Import Bank; Lisa Cook, first Black woman ever in 109 years—109 years, the first Black woman—at the Federal Reserve; Alanna McCargo; Alexia Latortue, just to name a few.

Ms. Thompson has proven she will work and she will listen to lenders, and consumers, and both sides of the aisle.

Before the pandemic, housing was too expensive and too hard to find, even before the pandemic. Whether you are looking to rent or to buy, FHFA has an important role to play in bringing

down housing costs and empowering more families to be able to afford a safe and stable home.

I strongly urge my colleagues in supporting Ms. Thompson's nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The senior Senator from Iowa.

PESTICIDES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, farmers across Iowa are finishing their planting of corn and soybeans. As for the Grassley farm, Robin and Pat Grassley finished planting last Thursday.

Most people have never stepped foot on a family farm, let alone know all about the complexities that go into planting, growing, and harvesting a bountiful crop. That is why I often use my social media to show my followers what is going on in farming—hashtag ''corn watch,'' hashtag ''soybean watch.'' I like to show how only 2 percent of the population raises food for the other 98 percent, plus exporting one-third of our production to feed people overseas. Food doesn't just magically appear on grocery store shelves.

When so few people know what it takes to produce food, we often run into obstacles at policymaking tables here in Congress and around Washington, DC. I often quote something Dwight Eisenhower said, and he said it best:

> Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field.

There has never been a more important time than right now for farmers to have a successful year. We are facing a world threatened by food shortages and food insecurity the likes of which we haven't seen since the Arab Spring a decade ago, in large part today because of Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

The productivity of the American farmers and ranchers this crop season will have a big impact on the security and prosperity of countries around the world, as well as to make sure we don't get into a devastating shortage of food.

With so much at stake, Washington, DC, must provide farmers across the country a consistent policy when it comes to regulation of inputs and crop protection products. One State out of fifty can't go another direction without bringing harm to food production.

When it comes to the regulation of these products, public policy must be based on the best science available to make informed decisions. Science-based decisions shouldn't surprise anybody in this town because science was the Golden Rule in every coronavirus decision made in the Trump administration and still being made in the Biden administration.

The best science is why Congress enacted, in 1972, the regulation that goes by the title of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act or FIFRA for short. Since 1972, FIFRA has expressly preempted State law, vested the EPA with final authority over pesticide labeling and the usage of that pesticide. Specifically, FIFRA gave the EPA authority over pesticide labeling and the usage of that pesticide. Under FIFRA, it is the EPA's responsibility to undertake very extensive scientific review of regulated products and then determine what disclosures, if any, must be on the product labels. FIFRA provides that EPA conduct studies to determine product safety.

Congress intended that there be a Federal regulatory regime that would impose warnings, impose disclosures, and impose restrictions on the use of products under FIFRA. Congress made it very clear that Congress wanted science-based certainty and predictability for farmers and the resulting benefit that is to the farm entire economy.

Unfortunately, we have seen politically motivated environmentalists pushing for restrictions on regulated products that the EPA has determined are not necessary. This fundamentally undermines trust in the EPA and trust in Federal regulation of these products used in farming.

Make no doubt about my stand or anybody's stand here in the U.S. Senate, we all strongly support thorough vetting of regulated products to ensure public safety. However, I strongly support ensuring Iowa farmers have the supplies they need to feed families across America.

I hope President Biden would agree with me. His administration should be putting forward policies and taking positions that protect public safety, while ensuring farmers can produce the food that we need here in America and that we are able to supply one-third of our production for overseas. As we look at the world with a growing shortage of food—as I emphasized, partly because of what is going on in Ukraine—we must then ask ourselves what more we can be doing to support farmers.

Unfortunately, some recent decisions just made by this administration do just exactly the opposite. I said ''just made by this administration'' because 2 weeks ago, President Biden's Solicitor General filed a brief in a case involving widely used pesticides. In that brief, the Solicitor General flipped the government's long-held position that FIFRA preempts State law and instead argued against EPA's authority. So it looks to me like politics overcomes science.

You would think such a significant change would be firmly based on the law and science, just as I said. However, the Solicitor General explained this astounding change wasn't based on science because it was based on politics. Perhaps that is why the EPA general counsel's name doesn't appear on the brief.

I heard from many constituents about how serious of an impact the position taken by Biden's Solicitor General would have on the farming industry at-large. If the Court, meaning the Supreme Court, effectively adopts the Solicitor General's position and that of the lower court decision, it will fundamentally disrupt the Federal regulation of use and of warnings under FIFRA related to substances such as these that farmers rely on every day in production agriculture.

It is clear that it wasn't the intent of Congress when it enacted FIFRA for there to be 50 State standards in addition to Federal standards because we all know the purpose of FIFRA was to create a uniform regime with authority vested in the EPA to set such standards, and that has never been questioned until now.

It is shocking that President Biden chose to put forward an argument that undermines the public trust in the EPA by putting politics ahead of the longstanding and consistent EPA regulation that enables farmers to grow the food that we and the world need. This abrupt change in the administration's position will have serious implications for the farm economy and our food supply.

Again, there needs to be a consistent regulatory regime to ensure the public's trust and to support U.S. agriculture so farmers can produce food, again, I say, that the Nation needs and the world needs.

So I hope the Solicitor General reverses her position, and even if she doesn't reverse her position, I hope the Supreme Court of the United States will be willing to hear this case.

I want to now quote Dr. Norman Borlaug, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, I think, in 1970. This winner was born and raised in Iowa:

> If you desire peace, cultivate justice, but at the same time cultivate the fields to produce more bread; otherwise there will be no peace.

I think what he is referring to there is—at least what I believe and I have heard—that societies are only nine meals away from revolution. In other words, if you are a father and a mother and you can't feed your kids for 3 days, you will go to almost any end to make sure they get the food. So if you want social cohesion in America and around the world, we have to have enough food to feed our people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Delaware.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, like a lot of other Americans, I didn't sleep much last night, didn't sleep much at all. I couldn't shake the overwhelming feeling of sorrow that I felt for the community of Uvalde, TX. Nineteen innocent children, fourth graders, were gunned down in their classroom 3 days before summer break—3 days. Two teachers were murdered as well. Countless children witnessed their classmates and teachers shot and killed as they climbed through windows to try to escape the massacre. Twenty-one families are living every parents' worst nightmare—the loss of a child. Instead

of planning their summer vacations, those families are now planning their children's funerals. Their nightmare is our national nightmare.

Though my own boys are now grown adults, I can't help but think when my wife and I used to help them with their homework and tuck them into bed at night. I can't help but think of when they were the same age of the 19 elementary children gunned down at their school yesterday. Like millions of American parents across our country, my wife and I are brokenhearted today.

Millions of Americans dropped their children off at school this morning, and my guess is they probably hugged them extra tightly. They said goodbye and watched those kids walk into school. And they left to hope and pray today that their children will be there, alive, at pickup at the end of the day or that they will be on the bus ride coming home at night. They are left to hope and pray that they never get the shattering call that those families in Uvalde received yesterday.

We are the only country in the world where parents have to hope and pray that their children will not be murdered at school by a gunman. We are the only country in the world where a fourth grade classroom can be turned into a battlefield by a madman with an assault weapon.

This has to stop. We can't go on this way. We are mourning this tragedy, and I refuse to accept inaction. I refuse to accept that the mass slaughter of children in their fourth grade classroom is somehow normal. This has to stop. We can't go on this way.

For as long as I have been in this Chamber—that is some 21 years—we have been failing to address the epidemic of gun violence in this country. This has to stop. We can't go on this way. I refuse to believe that Congress can't reform our gun laws in a way that the American public broadly support. I refuse to believe that changing our laws won't reduce gun violence and make these tragedies less likely from recurring in the future.

We are long overdue to make commonsense reforms to our Nation's gun laws. To put it bluntly, this is not going to be easy. I know it. I think we all realize that.

Many of our friends in this Chamber revere the Second Amendment and respect the tradition of lawful gun ownership in this country. I myself am a gun owner and have been one since I was 12 years old when I bought my first BB gun. However, the Second Amendment does not give us the right to murder children at school or gun down worshippers at church or kill African Americans at a grocery store.

In our Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote these words that we all remember. He wrote:

> All men [and women] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

These 19 children were denied the right to life, to liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

So in Uvalde, there is no little league game this weekend. There is no fifth grade next year. They will never get to be teenagers, go to the prom, graduate, go on to college, have a career, or have children of their own, and, if lucky, maybe grandchildren someday. Their lives were stolen from them by a gunman; and, tragically, we can never bring them back.

What we can do though—what we can do though—is to try hard, really hard to prevent this from ever happening again.

We need to be able to say to the American people: We have had enough. This has to stop. We can't go on this way. We won't go on this way.

Today, we are a nation in mourning. We also need to be a nation working together to address this epidemic, working to reform our gun laws, and doing whatever it takes to prevent another massacre in an American school, in a place of worship, or in a grocery store.

May God bless the community of Uvalde. May the Lord be with those 21 families during this time of unfathomable heartache and anguish.

I yield the floor.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 111

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, today America grieves. There is nothing partisan about being a parent and grandparent. I cannot imagine—I cannot imagine—the grief felt by the parents of those children. Unless you have experienced it, none of us can.

What is the solution? There is no one solution. Let's be honest about that. Following Sandy Hook, following Parkland, I met with the parents of those horrific and senseless tragedies. I have been blessed to get to know three parents quite well: Tom and Gina Hoyer, and Max Schachter. Tom and Gina are the parents of Luke Hoyer; Max is the father of Alex Schachter—two of the 17 victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School slaughter in Parkland, FL, that occurred on February 14, 2018.

In getting to know Tom and Gina and Max, you get some sense of the level of grief. I mentioned there is nothing partisan about grief. I listened to President Biden's remarks last night, I think the point he made that pierced my heart, because President Biden has known tragedy, is when he said that those parents in Texas, they are asking themselves will they ever sleep again.

So we all grieve. We are all looking for solutions. The good Senator from Delaware said: ''We must take action.''

So what I have always valued about Tom and Gina and Max is these are three individuals, parents who do know the pain, that still grieve the loss of their sons, and yet they have not approached trying to find solutions in any partisan way whatsoever. They are trying to find areas of agreement.

They advised the Federal Commission on School Safety. They came up with a pretty commonsense action. It may not solve all the problems, but it is a good idea. It is such a good idea that as chairman of the committee—Subcommittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, we codified it, we passed it unanimously out of our committee in November of 2019. It is called the Luke and Alex School Safety Act. It is pretty simple. It just creates a clearinghouse of information of the best practices for school safety.

It involves numerous Departments—Department of Health and Human Services, Justice, Homeland Security. All must approve what these best practices are. It ensures the parents, teachers, school officials, other stakeholders have input into what those best practices are. It doesn't allow the clearinghouse to mandate any school take any certain action.

And maybe, most importantly, it publishes the available grant programs and Federal resources available for school safety. Again, it passed out of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs twice, unanimously, once under my chairmanship, once under the chairmanship of Senator PETERS. There is nothing partisan about this bill whatsoever. It is just a good idea that can save lives.

It was such a good idea that under the previous administration, they set up that clearinghouse. It is up and it is operating. So all this bill does at this point is serve as a model for what is happening. All this bill does now is codify it, to make sure this clearinghouse stands the test of time, that it will always be there to provide those best practices on school safety.

Now, I am very sensitive to the moment in time we are sitting here right now. We should let the Nation and those parents grieve. I don't want to politicize anything about this moment.

So I called up Max, I called up Tom and Gina and asked them what would you like me to do? They have been trying to get this codified, passed into law for 4 years. I can't explain why it is not law. Just last month, the Senate passed the Pray Safe Act, which was basically it took that bill, the Luke and Alex School Safety Act and just applied it to churches. That passed by unanimous consent—no objection.

I tried to attach this bill to that bill, but for whatever reason, somebody is objecting. I have no idea why. None.

Again, it passed our committee unanimously twice. It is a good idea. It could save lives. It is an action when people are calling for action following this tragedy.

So I know I see the Senator from Florida that would also like to speak to this bill before I ask consent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. When I heard the horrific news from Uvalde, TX, yesterday, I immediately thought of two things, my grandchildren, most of

whom are in elementary school, and the 17 lives we lost in Parkland, FL, 4 years ago. Our hearts are shattered at the loss of these small children—19 children that are just in fourth grade and two teachers. It is infuriating and heart-wrenching.

I can't imagine losing a child or a loved one. Unfortunately, there are 17 families in Florida who don't have to imagine it. They know that pain and live it each and every day. There is seldom a day that goes by that I don't think about the families that lost their children and loved ones that day. No community should feel the pain that families in Parkland and Uvalde now feel. We will never be able to prevent every vicious crime, but we can and must act.

There are solutions to be found at the State level and the Federal level, and today, we can take action in the Senate to make our schools safer.

I want to thank Senator JOHNSON for leading this bill and Senators RUBIO, RISCH, and GRASSLEY for their strong support of this legislation and other efforts to keep our kids safe.

This bill, the Luke and Alex School Safety Act was named in honor of Luke Hoyer and Alex Schachter. Luke and Alex were taken from us in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018, in Parkland, FL.

Since that horrible day, I have worked closely with many of the victims' families as Governor and now as Senator to do everything possible so that no child, educator, or family has to experience that again.

There is clearly a lot more work to do. This legislation, the Luke and Alex School Safety Act, codifies a Federal school safety clearinghouse by informing parents and educators on expert recommendations and best practices that schools can implement to improve school security. This bill builds on our work to keep schools safe and prevent another tragedy.

Today, we can get something done that creates safer schools for our kids and our teachers. I appreciate the work again of Senators JOHNSON, RUBIO, RISCH, and GRASSLEY and all of our colleagues.

As we continue to pray for Uvalde and the families that have suffered this tremendous loss, I urge the Senate to pass this good bill and take a step in the right direction that keeps our kids and teachers safe.

Mr. JOHNSON. I thank the Senator from Florida for those comments.

I just want to again emphasize the fact that I just spoke with Max and Gina and Tom. These are parents of children who lost their lives in a school shooting. These are parents that have come up with a solution—a nonpartisan solution—got it recommended by the Federal Commission on School Safety.

They told me that the day after Parkland, had a parent from Sandy Hook had a piece of legislation that they had been trying to get passed but couldn't, it would help. They would have been 100 percent supportive of that piece of legislation, come to the floor, and pass it by unanimous consent, irrespective of the timing.

They asked me to come to the floor today to ask my colleagues to lay aside partisanship, to do something for these families, provide them some measure of comfort by passing a completely nonpartisan bill that could make a difference, that could save a life. There is no reason not to pass this bill today in this Chamber at this hour.

So, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 102, S. 111.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the American people have had to endure two of the worst mass shootings in recent history in just the span of 10 days. One of them happened to be in my home State of New York in the dear city of Buffalo; the other happened yesterday in Texas, the worst school shooting since Sandy Hook, and we can't get out of our minds—I can't—the picture of 10, 11, and 9-year-olds being shot, killed, just ready to burst into the adolescent and adult phases of their lives.

What the American people want is real solutions to our Nation's gun violence epidemic. We have had too many moments of silence, too many thoughts and prayers. Americans are sick of it. Many in this Chamber are sick of it.

Here is the sad truth about what happened yesterday and why I plan to object to my colleague's UC: hardening schools would have done nothing to prevent this shooting. In fact, there were guards and police officers already at the school yesterday when the shooter showed up. One was a school police officer, two were from the Uvalde Police Department. The shooter got past all of them with two assault weapons that he purchased. They couldn't stop him.

The bill would not have protected those children. More guns won't protect our children. That is the wrong answer. There are too many guns and too many options for the wrong people to get guns.

So I plan to object to passing this measure today through consent, but I would tell my colleague from Wisconsin, tomorrow we can begin voting on a bill that will take us—that will let us take action on guns, and we could consider amendments like this then, along with others.

Tomorrow, the Senate is scheduled to take the first step—the first step—in responding to the shooting that happened in my home State of New York 2 weeks ago and so many other mass shootings over the years that have been motivated by race.

The Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act, which I set in motion earlier this week, is a necessary and timely step to honor the memories of the dead in Buffalo and to make sure mass shootings motivated by race don't happen again.

I urge all my Republican colleagues to vote to get on the bill. All we are asking is a vote ''yes'' on the motion to proceed.

I urge my colleague from Wisconsin to vote yes on that bill.

If Senator JOHNSON helps us get on the domestic terrorism bill, we could consider amendments related to guns—his and others' who have a different point of view. If Republicans can vote with us to get on that bill, we can have a debate on considering commonsense, strong gun safety amendments, hopefully with bipartisan support. The Senator from Wisconsin says his bill is bipartisan. There are five Republican sponsors.

The bottom line is, if you want to have bipartisan debates, you don't just say: My bill must pass by unanimous consent, and no other bill can pass. I am providing a path that we can have a debate on these amendments.

Let me be clear. We are going to vote on gun legislation, and the Republicans could let us start doing that as soon as tomorrow if they simply vote yes on the motion to proceed, and I give them a pledge that we will then start debating gun amendments—Senator JOHNSON's and many others' who have a different point of view. I repeat, though, we are going to vote on gun legislation. The American people are tired of moments of silence, tired of the kind words offering thoughts and prayers.

We can use the domestic terrorism bill tomorrow to begin—I repeat, to begin—considering gun safety amendments, and we can consider the proposal he brings to the floor today. So we won't just have this amendment; we will have a lot of amendments to debate. That seems perfectly fair and, in fact, bipartisan. Alone, the Johnson bill is not in any way, shape, or form a sufficient solution, and so I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. As chairman of Homeland Security, I have passed more than 300 pieces of legislation out of committee, and over 130 of those became law. Very few of those—almost none—were partisan in any way, shape, or form. The approach I used to have that kind of legislative success is, rather than focus on issues that divide us, I concentrated on areas of agreement.

Today, I brought to the Senate floor a nonpartisan bill, a bill crafted by the parents—the parents—who lost their sons in one of these horrific tragedies. It passed out of our committee twice unanimously. Those parents asked me

to come today to please pass this bill; take some action; provide some comfort to all the parents who are grieving, to a nation that is grieving.

So I came to the floor today, and I will not engage in partisanship other than to say it is just sad—it is just sad that this body can't pass this bill when, about a month ago, they passed an identical bill that applied to churches. This one applies to schools. Yet it is inappropriate, according to the majority leader, to pass this nonpartisan bill by unanimous consent? This is a very sad day for the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

NOMINATION OF HENRY CHRISTOPHER FREY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, gas prices have set new alltime record highs every day for more than 2 weeks. Overall inflation is the worst it has been in more than 40 years. And the Biden administration is preparing to follow their botched Afghanistan retreat with a disastrous nuclear deal that would help Iran and hurt America.

But this week, the Senate Democrat majority is not taking action on any of those things; the Senate is instead spending the week cramming more far-left bureaucrats into the executive branch, where they will keep making these problems even worse.

Later today, Senate Democrats want to confirm as Assistant Administrator for EPA someone who has previously researched the environmental impact of football tailgating and concluding it would be best for the environment if the authorities—listen to this—banned charcoal grills and gas generators. This is no joke. Dr. Christopher Frey literally coauthored a research paper that argued that ''the most environmentally responsible policy would be . . . a universal ban on idling, charcoal grills, and old generators''—just the nominee the American people need confirmed by Memorial Day weekend.

So, honestly, where do they find these people? The same nominee wrote in defense of the illegal, job-killing so-called Clean Power Plan. As a past chairman of the EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, he worked to politicize its work from outside.

Things aren't going any better at the committee level. This morning, the HELP Committee deadlocked on the nomination of Kalpana Kotagal, whom President Biden wants to put on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Ms. Kotagal is a liberal plaintiff's lawyer who is best known for rewriting Hollywood legal contracts to push movie casting toward racial quotas, gender quotas, and sexual orientation quotas. The President has found the one person in America who thinks liberal Hollywood is not woke enough.

The nominee also has a record of hostility to American energy. She has been both an official spokeswoman and a registered lobbyist for a far-left group that wants to eliminate fossil fuels. She is on the board of another organization that has frivolously sued the State of West Virginia over energy issues.

The American people know Washington Democrats' policies hurt working families. They have seen that in our colleagues' legislation. And it is more of the same when it comes to the nominees they are picking to design and carry out their tsunami of regulations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, as ranking member of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, I rise to oppose the nomination of Dr. Chris Frey due to the consistent lack of responsiveness from the EPA on our critical oversight matters.

The Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, just talked about Dr. Frey's research on gas grills and grilling out, but over the past 16 months, my objections are that the Biden EPA has repeatedly slow-walked responses to reasonable oversight requests for Agency briefings and documents related to implementation of policies with huge, huge implications for our economy and our constituents' lives.

We cannot adequately oversee the Agency's programs—including historic levels of drinking water infrastructure funding made possible by the bipartisan IIJA—without this transparency. Until the EPA heeds congressional oversight requests, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing Dr. Frey's nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, as we heard from previous speakers, we will shortly vote to invoke cloture on the nomination of Dr. Christopher Frey to be Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Research and Development. I rise today in strong support of his nomination.

Chris Frey, as he is known to his friends and colleagues, is an outstanding public servant, a deeply respected scientist, and an excellent choice to fill this leadership role at EPA.

The Office of Research and Development provides the bedrock of scientific analysis upon which we establish our Nation's critical environmental protection regulations. The EPA is able to fulfill its responsibilities to protect our air that we breathe, to protect the water that we drink, and the land we build our communities upon because of the robust scientific research provided by what is called O-R-D, the Office of Research and Development.

Dr. Frey's nomination received a bipartisan vote in the Committee on Environment and Public Works. He has the experience, intellect, and integrity to lead this indispensable office. I am eager to see him confirmed.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting cloture on his nomination. This is about restoring science as the guiding force in EPA's work.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON THOMPSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Thompson nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 203 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—5

Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cruz	Murkowski	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the

Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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. 651, Henry Christopher Frey, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, John W. Hickenlooper.

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 the nomination of Henry Christopher Frey, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Arkansas (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 204 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—6

Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cruz	Murkowski	Whitehouse

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Henry Christopher Frey, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Is this a proper forum to do a unanimous consent request?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, the Department of Veterans Affairs needs a steady hand to guide the Veterans Health Administration, this Nation's largest integrated healthcare system that delivers quality care and timely care to our veterans, if they have a leader.

I rise today because Dr. Shereef Elnahal is that person. He has an impressive record of leading healthcare systems and health agencies.

Most recently Dr. Elnahal served as president and CEO of University Hospital in Newark, NJ, and previously as New Jersey's 21st health commissioner. But, more importantly, he is committed to caring for the more than 9 million veterans in VA care, a commitment he has carried out as assistant deputy undersecretary for health and quality, safety, and value at the department. It is no secret that VHA and healthcare systems of providers nationally are going through a challenging time.

VA is continuing to battle the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic, with veterans' cases, hospitalizations and death on the rise again. And VA staff are dealing with burnout and increasing turnover in our VA system.

So I am going to tell you, if the people of this body want to help—want to help veterans, holding this nominee is not the way to help veterans. And I will tell you what, they are actually doing a disservice to veterans and their families by playing political games and preventing permanent healthcare leadership at the VA, which is so critically important.

In the past, this body has been able to rise above politics to install qualified individuals at the VA, responsible for getting vets the healthcare and the benefits that they not only need but they have earned. And today, we must do that again.

We must act without delay to confirm Dr. Elnahal as VA's next undersecretary for health.

So with that, I would ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule 22, the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 902, Shereef M. Elnahal, to be undersecretary for health of the Department of Veterans' Affairs; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the record.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The junior Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Reserving the right to object.

Throughout his presidency, Joe Biden and his administration have shown an inability to place qualified and competent people in many positions of power across the Federal Government. We have had crisis after crisis due to the failed leadership of President Biden and his appointees.

Americans have been left with no faith in President Biden's ability to lead or appoint qualified individuals to serve in these important roles. And this nominee, who will be in charge of critical healthcare programs in the Department of Veterans Affairs, is no different.

I cannot and will not consent to allow this nominee to move forward in an expedited manner.

We should take a vote so every Senator can get on the record with their support or opposition to this nominee.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The senior Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, this individual—through the Chair—has been President and CEO of University Hospital in Newark, NJ. He has been New Jersey's 21st health commissioner. Why do you think—Senator from Florida, through the Chair, why do you think that makes him unqualified? Would the Senator from Florida like to respond?

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I don't think we should do this in an ex parte manner.

Mr. TESTER. What is that? I couldn't hear you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I don't think we should do this in an ex parte manner. I think everybody should be on the record.

Mr. TESTER. So we had a hearing on Mr. Elnahal. If my memory serves me correct, he went out by voice, because he was so very, very good.

I would really appreciate it if the Senator from Florida would at least stay here rather than turn his back on the veterans of America and walk out the door, turning his back on the American veterans, the people who have served this country, the people who have fought. We are coming up to Memorial Day. I hope that the Senator from Florida doesn't walk into Memorial Day services and talk about what a

great friend he is of our veterans because he is not.

All I am asking for is to give the VA the tools they need to be able to provide our veterans with the healthcare they have earned.

This isn't the first time I have been on the floor for a unanimous consent request with the Senator from Florida. But this is an excuse that doesn't hold water. I didn't see the Senator from Florida at the committee hearing. Even though he is not a member of the VA Committee, if he was so concerned about this person, why wasn't he at the committee hearing to hear the responses that Dr. Elnahal gave?

I am going to tell you what this is. With all due respect to the Senator from Florida, this is obstruction at the worst because this obstruction stops our veterans from getting the healthcare they need.

You want to talk about why the American people think the U.S. Senate is dysfunctional? The Senator from Florida could look in the mirror.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UKRAINE

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, at the end of April, I had the honor of traveling to Germany, Poland, and Lithuania to meet with American servicemembers and hear from high-level government officials on the state of democracy in Europe as Russia wages war against Ukraine. I returned to the United States with the reassurance that the commitment of our partners and allies to defending freedom and defeating tyranny has only grown stronger. I also returned with three important takeaways that I believe must be central in America's response to Russia's murderous invasion of Ukraine and must define our commitment to supporting our NATO allies and preserving democracy.

First, America and our freedom-loving partners across the world must renew our commitment to ''never again,'' support the massive humanitarian efforts underway to aid Ukrainian refugees and those who are helping them, and forcefully condemn the genocide occurring at the direction of Vladimir Putin in Ukraine.

Let me say that again. First, America and our freedom-loving partners across the world must renew our commitment to ''never again,'' support the massive humanitarian efforts underway to aid Ukrainian refugees and those who are helping them, and forcefully condemn the genocide occurring at the direction of Vladimir Putin in Ukraine.

In 2005, my wife, daughters, and I spent 2 days visiting the Auschwitz Memorial and Museum in Poland. Anyone who has had the opportunity to walk the grounds of that place will tell you how overwhelming it is to confront the horrors that occurred there. It is out of these horribly dark places that the phrase ''never again'' was born.

Following the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, the world pledged to never again allow genocide to take the lives of innocent people, but today, Putin is choosing that path.

When I returned to Poland last month, I had the solemn honor of participating in a Holocaust memorial ceremony alongside U.S. Ambassador to Poland Mark Brzezinski in what was formerly the Warsaw ghetto and laid a wreath there to honor the Jewish people who fought the Nazi occupation. I also visited a refugee center serving the thousands of Ukrainians forced from their homes and who have been welcomed with open arms by the Polish people.

During the ceremony and as I walked through the refugee center, my thoughts constantly turned to the atrocious attacks on Mariupol. The leveling of that city and the mass graves found there in Bucha cannot be ignored or dismissed as part of the war. These are crimes against humanity. Children are dying. Families are dying precisely because they are Ukrainian and won't do what the dictator Putin wants them to do. This is genocide.

World leaders promise ''never again,'' but they are failing.

I thank God for the incredible hospitality of the Polish people to welcome these Ukrainian families. I am grateful, too, for what other European countries are doing to help them.

We must do everything in our power, using our voices, actions, and resources, to support these humanitarian missions and forcefully condemn Putin's genocide in Ukraine.

Second, we must continue to show full support to Ukraine and do everything in our power to help it win in this war. That includes approving delivery of the MiG–29 fighter jets that President Zelenskyy has been requesting for months.

President Biden's blockade of these aircraft is an act of weakness and makes no sense. If we want to prevent putting American men and women on the battlefield, we need to give Ukraine every military and intelligence resource it needs to fight and win this war. Most of our NATO allies agree with this, but Joe Biden insists on standing in the way and is actively helping Putin maintain dominance in the skies.

Vladimir Putin is a murderous thug. His unjust war intentionally targets civilians and has taken thousands of innocent lives. This is genocide.

The Ukrainians have shown that they are willing and able to fight this war themselves and can defeat Putin. We need to let them do it. When the war is over, accountability must be demanded and secured. Putin and his thugs in Russia and Belarus must be tried for their crimes in a war tribunal. They should never see another day of freedom as long as they live.

Third and finally, we must recognize the importance of energy and industrial independence from tyrannical and genocidal regimes like Russia and communist China.

I have long advocated for American businesses to decouple their operations from communist China. In March, I appealed directly to American business leaders and urged them in an open letter to begin the process of cutting ties with communist China and our dependence on its supply chain and realign American businesses with U.S. values.

Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine shows exactly why decoupling from evil regimes is so important, and Europe now understands this better than anyone else. That is why we should applaud businesses that have taken steps to end their relationships with these regimes and applaud nations like Lithuania, Estonia, and Poland, which have taken aggressive action to end their reliance on Russian energy.

Lithuania has also boldly stood up to communist China and supported Taiwan. Their bravery is exemplary and deserves our support.

These nations are the exception to the rule in Europe, but their leadership in forming partnerships with democratic neighbors like Norway has proven critical to freeing them from the Kremlin's threats of withholding resources.

To protect democracy and sovereignty from the influence of evil leaders like Putin and Xi, we must commit to preferring to do business with fellow democratic governments as much as possible. That is why I have been demanding that Biden take immediate steps to put America back on the path to energy independence, stop his appeasement policies with the world's dictators, and end all trade talks with Venezuela and other evil regimes.

I recently secured a commitment from Energy Secretary Granholm that the United States would not import any oil from Venezuela or Iran. She said so in an open and public hearing in the Senate Armed Services Committee. President Biden needs to publicly reaffirm that commitment.

Our attitude should always be America first, but if it can't be made in America, it must be made by a democratic partner or at the very least one who seeks mutual benefit with us instead of our downfall.

Decoupling from Russia and communist China and other tyrannical regimes will not be easy for many businesses or governments, America included. This move won't occur overnight, but it is absolutely necessary as these despots advance their plans for world domination and continue to carry out assaults on sovereignty and democracy in Europe and Asia, as well

as support dictators in Latin America like Maduro, Ortega, and the Castro/Diaz-Canel regime. If America and our freedom-loving partners are going to truly stand for democracy, we cannot do so while lining the pockets of those who seek to actively destroy liberty and independence wherever it exists.

Whether we like it or not, we need to recognize the evil in our world. It exists in the Governments of communist China, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Russia. They want a different world, one where the enemies of democracy, human rights, and sovereign nations issue the orders and the United States and our allies do what we are told. They will bully and crush anyone in their way if they are allowed. I, for one—and I know I am not alone—will not accept this.

Out of this terrible conflict, America has an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the security and independence of democratic nations, strengthen our energy and industrial independence and partnerships was fellow democracies, and stop genocide, renewing the promise of ''never again.'' We cannot allow this moment to pass without creating this need to change. The survival of democracy and the United States depends on it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to just share candid emotions about yesterday's tragic shooting of schoolchildren who were 2 days from the end of the school year in Texas—19 deaths of little ones and 2 teachers and others injured. This is rough. I don't have any notes because I am really emotional about it. These shootings kind of give me PTSD, I have to admit.

I was the mayor of Richmond, and our city had the second highest homicide rate in the United States. At a much younger period of my life, I found myself going to too many funerals, to too many wakes, to maybe the most memorable crime scenes, then also to homicide victims' family support group meetings in church basements in my city.

Then I got to be the Governor of Virginia. In April of 2007, my wife and I landed in Japan while leading a trade mission, and we went to a hotel and immediately got a phone call saying that there was a shooting underway on the campus of Virginia Tech University and that I should turn on CNN, which I did, in Japan.

As I saw the events unfold, I said: Take us right back to the airport.

We had flown 14 hours. We were in the hotel for about an hour but went right back to the airport and flew all the way back home to what was the worst day of my life in trying to comfort 32 family members who had lost kids or their spouses who were faculty members—and that process went on for years—in the days right after the horrible tragedy but then commissioning a study about what went wrong and then trying to find an appropriate settlement with these families that would honor their loved ones.

I had to deal with State police officers—hardened, hardened law enforcement veterans—who walked into the classrooms at Virginia Tech, to find carnage and on each body a cell phone ringing because a parent had seen it on television and wanted to call to make sure it wasn't one of their children who had been killed. My law enforcement officers talked about how those rings that would never be answered just haunted them, haunted them.

So when there are these shootings at a school, at a nightclub, at a concert, in a grocery store, in a church, in a synagogue, I feel like I am back in April of 2007, experiencing those emotions for the first time.

I was analyzing my own emotions for the first time last night. Why have I not been able to reach a point of more—I don't know—emotional equilibrium about this after 15 years? I realized that the reason was that my emotional reaction that is kind of a PTSD thing is not just because of the shootings, not just because of the deaths, not just because of the promising lives cut short; it is compounded by a realization that, here in this body, we have done nothing.

It would be bad enough to experience the violence and be reminded of that most painful time in my life, but to experience it as a U.S. Senator, as a Member of a body, and to say, ''Well, what have we done? We didn't do anything at the Federal level after Virginia Tech, and we didn't do anything after Pulse, and we didn't do anything after Las Vegas, and we didn't do anything after Sandy Hook, and we didn't do anything after one tragedy after the next,'' then that compounds in some ways, and that is the thing that makes the emotional reaction a reaction that is as fresh today as it was in April of 2007. It is a wound that can't heal until we do something to heal the injury, to heal the problem.

I was thinking about this last night, and I was trying to, you know, think, what is some wisdom that I can derive to make me feel less down and less despondent? And I just thought of two things that I wanted to share. One is a spiritual insight, and the other is a practical reason not to lose hope.

So, as a spiritual insight, a few years ago, Pope Francis was kicking off a yearlong effort to encourage the revitalization of parish life—not the life of the big, universal church but the life of parishes. He challenged parishes, but this challenge could go for people, and it certainly could go for political leaders. He challenged parishes to be (statement made in Spanish) ''islands of mercy in the midst of a sea of indifference,'' and I thought, what an interesting challenge.

The thing about that challenge that I thought was so beautiful and a little bit unexpected is he didn't counterpose mercy to evil or mercy to cruelty or mercy to hatred; he contrasted mercy with indifference—with indifference.

There is evil in the world, and there is hatred in the world, and there is cruelty in the world. Yet usually those forces are not strong enough to succeed for very long unless—unless—there is widespread indifference. We are challenged not to be indifferent.

If we assess why the Senate, this great deliberative body, has been unwilling to act for 15 years, I don't think it is cruelty or evil; it is indifference. It is the very thing that Pope Francis was warning us to avoid.

We should be merciful. We should not be indifferent. Evil doesn't thrive for very long absent indifference. Yet, despite what we often say after tragedies like this, with our thoughts and our prayers and our sincere emotions, if we don't demonstrate by more than just words that we are touched by these tragedies, then we are committing the sin of indifference.

I hope very much that the tragedy of these little children's deaths may push us out of the indifference that we have been sunk in at least on this issue. I really hope that it will.

Then, finally, there is a practical reason I am not going to give up hope that it will. I mentioned that I was the mayor of Richmond, dealing with a homicide problem, and that I was the Governor during what was at the time the worst mass shooting in the history of the United States. Sadly, it has been eclipsed. The Virginia Tech shooting is no longer the most tragic shooting in history. Others have eclipsed it in terms of the numbers of those killed.

I felt that same despair then, and I threw myself into trying to make changes. I made the changes in the Virginia laws that I could make as the Governor by executive action, but there are some things I couldn't do by executive action. I needed the support of my legislature to do a comprehensive background check bill because, in the case of the Virginia Tech shooting, Seung-Hui Cho, the disturbed 19-year-old who committed that crime, was legally barred from owning a weapon, but weaknesses in the background check system didn't catch that, and he was able to get the weapons that led to that carnage.

I couldn't get my legislature, even in the aftermath of the worst shooting in the history of the United States, to be willing to take action, but we never gave up. We kept pushing. We kept pushing in Virginia, the headquarters' State of the National Rifle Association. We kept pushing and pushing and pushing, and in 2019, 12 years after the tragedy at Virginia Tech, my legislature passed a set of commonsense gun safety rules: one handgun a month, a ban on certain kinds of weapons that nobody needs, a comprehensive background check, mental health support—a series of initiatives. My legislature did pass it in 2019, and my State is safer as a result, but 12 years was a

long time to wait. There were a lot of tragedies that happened between 2007 and 2019.

Thank God for the Virginia Tech family members and for the other advocates who said: We will wait. We are not going away. We are patient. We are discouraged. Each loss we feel afresh, but we are not stopping until we make that happen.

In my first months in the Senate, we voted on the floor on a comprehensive background check bill. I think that was the last time we had a meaningful debate about gun safety policy on the floor of this body—9 years ago. It is like there is a gag rule here. You know, it used to be, in Congress, you were not allowed to have debate or to vote about issues dealing with slavery during the 1830s. It is like we have a gag rule about debating gun safety on the floor of this body.

But I remember voting that day, and it was on the anniversary of the shooting at Virginia Tech that we voted on a bipartisan background check bill in this body in 2013. The Sandy Hook families were sitting in the Galleries, and many of the Virginia Tech families had come up to join them to offer them support. I was reminded of the Scripture and the letter of Paul to the Hebrews being surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. And here we were on the floor, trying to respond to this tragedy and do something to ease their grief, and we fell a couple of vote shorts. We couldn't get to 60. I think we had 57 votes that day for a background check bill. That was painful. It was painful. It was especially painful to fall short in the view of all of these grieving family members.

But I draw hope from this. If we can make progress on this issue in Virginia—the headquarters of the NRA—we can make it in the U.S. Senate. It may not happen as quickly as I want, and it may not happen while I am still here to see it, but there is no reason to give up. If we can do this in Virginia, we can do this in the U.S. Senate, and we ought to. There is nothing we can do to bring back the lives of these young people, but if we can act to decrease the chance that this will ever happen again, they will at least have the ability to grab on and say: Our advocacy made a difference, and kids who go to school will be safer in the future.

This is the last thing I will say, and I will sit down. I was walking around the building this morning, and because I am fluent in Spanish and people around here know it—a lot of the Capitol staffers are Latinos, and they talk to me in Spanish—I passed by a longtime Capitol staffer who said in Spanish: Senator, what is going on? What is going on with this country?

I said: I know what you are asking me about, and it is such a tragedy.

Then she said this to me. She is from El Salvador. She said: My country is a mess, and the violence is awful, and the homicide rate is unacceptable, but no children in schools feel unsafe. No people going to church services feel unsafe. What is going on, Senator?

I didn't have a good answer for her. I didn't have a good answer for her.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, last night, as I was doomscrolling—as they say one does at 2 in the morning when you can't sleep—what I was looking up were places to buy ballistic protective backpacks for my daughters, who are 4 and 7, and places to buy ballistic protective white boards, which could be donated to my girls' school, that would act as shields should a shooter go to their school. It is bad enough that I felt I had to do that, but the fact of the matter is, those pages were already bookmarked because it was not the first time that I have had to look them up.

Just 10 days, 240 hours, less than 2 weeks is all it took. It took just 10 days from the racially motivated domestic terrorism attack in Buffalo before we had to mourn the loss of yet more Americans—this time, 19 babies and 2 teachers—to a senseless, horrific, and, importantly, preventable mass shooting in Uvalde, TX. These were children gunned down at their school, with their small bodies mangled, utterly destroyed by lethal weapons of war that are designed to quickly kill adults.

So, last night when I got home, I held on to my two babies so tightly. They didn't know why, but I wasn't going to let them go. I was just so grateful they came home from school.

Today, there are at least 19 more families in our country that will never be able to forget the horrific site of what happens to a baby's body, to a child's body when shot at close range with an AR–15 or similarly styled rifle meant for battlefields and not schools.

I come to the floor today because, as a mother, I am beyond angry. I am furious, heartbroken, and fed up. I am sick to my stomach thinking about what those parents are feeling right now. They sent off their babies to school yesterday morning, just like I did. They packed their lunch, like I did. They argued with their babies about hurry up, the bus is coming. You are going to miss the bus. No, you really do have to wear a sweater. I know that you don't think it is cold, but you have to wear a sweater or today is PE day, and you have to wear your tennis shoes. But unlike my daughters, those babies never came home again. They will never laugh their beautiful laughs again. They will never smile their wild, silly, gorgeous smiles again. That is a hell on Earth I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy.

As a Senator, I ask my colleagues: How many more children will you allow to be murdered on your watch? How many more? How many more tiny bodies have to be ripped apart by weapons of war before you will stand up to the gun lobby and the NRA? How many more children will you allow to go to school each day traumatized, fearing for their lives; children, terrified of being gunned down in their classrooms, practicing active shooter drills instead of studying their ABCs and 123s. When will it be enough for you to do something, anything, to simply do your job? When will children's lives matter more than your check from the gun lobby? When?

Last night, my colleague from Connecticut Senator MURPHY came to the floor to ask our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, ''What are we doing?'' But my Republican colleagues know exactly what they are doing. They know exactly what they are risking, whose lives they are endangering when they refuse to lift a finger in the wake of yet another mass shooting.

When the assault weapons ban was allowed to expire, the number of mass shooting deaths tripled—tripled. We know that the ban works, and we need to reinstate it.

Republicans are yet again pushing for nothing to be done, falling back on the old line that only one thing stops a bad guy with a gun, and that is a good guy with a gun, knowing full well that there were good guys with guns at both Uvalde and Buffalo. And here we are, mourning dozens of lives anyway.

And I have even heard some of them say let's equip the teachers with guns. I would rather equip teachers with more pieces of chalk and more learning tools than guns because even if those teachers had had a gun in the classroom, they didn't have a chance to react to go grab that gun, and they are dead today.

They pretend like all we can do is send thoughts and prayers or they say it is too soon to talk about politics. But they know that we don't have any time to wait. This time, we didn't even have 10 days to wait from Buffalo.

It is their job to do more than send thoughts and prayers. It is their job—our job—to prove that we care even the least little bit about those little bodies and the giant heartbreaks they leave behind.

We know how to stop these attacks from happening as often as they do. Heck, the entire rest of the world has figured it out. We all know there will be another and another and another attack in the weeks and months ahead if we do nothing. More innocent lives will undoubtedly be lost.

So if you are not willing to act, if you are not willing to do the most basic part of your job to prevent the senseless loss of innocent life, then again I ask, why are you here?

The Senate should immediately, at a 50-vote threshold, vote on the commonsense gun safety reforms that the American people have demanded for so long. And don't tell me this is about the filibuster because we have, time and again, voted at the 50-vote threshold on things that matter, like raising the debt ceiling or the defense budget. Yet the lives of our babies, the right of

our babies to not be torn apart by weapons meant for war is not worthy of that?

We are talking about universal background checks. We are talking about the kind of reforms that widespread majorities of Americans support. And in the face of yet another moment of unimaginable, unbearable, unfathomable grief, let's show the Nation that we value children's lives more than an arcane Senate procedure rule. Let's do what adults are supposed to do. Let's protect our kids, the most vulnerable, the most innocent. Let's do our jobs. Let's do what we were sent here to do, what our children are depending on us to do.

We owe it to each victim of this tragedy and every tragedy before it and their loved ones to finally act. Enough was enough a very, very long time ago. May those babies rest in peace, those little angels now in Heaven.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maine.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, shortly, the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, will come to the Senate floor and attempt to have a live unanimous consent request for a nominee to be the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. When he does so, Madam President, I intend to object to that request, and I want to explain why to my colleagues. Senator WHITEHOUSE has been delayed in getting to the Senate floor, so I am going to outline my objections prior to his making the request.

Madam President, in all of the time that I have served in the U.S. Senate, I don't ever recall coming to the Senate floor to object to a unanimous consent request. I say that because it demonstrates how unusual it is for me to be standing here objecting to one of my colleague's unanimous consent requests. Indeed, as I said, I don't believe I have ever done this in all of the time I have served in the Senate.

So let me give the Presiding Officer and my colleagues some background. On May 1, despite the objections of the entire Maine congressional delegation and its Democratic Governor, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, better known as NOAA, imposed onerous new regulations on Maine's lobster industry.

Now, Madam President, if I asked you what is the first thing you think of when I say the State of Maine, you probably would say lobster, our iconic industry. We have more than 4,500 lobstermen and -women, each of whom is self-employed. They have been good stewards, always, of the lobster resource. They have taken care over the decades to make sure that the lobsters are large enough, for example, to keep. They throw back egg-bearing lobsters. There are all sorts of rules and regulations that the lobster industry has worked with the State of Maine over decades to preserve the precious resource.

But, now, in comes NOAA. NOAA is imposing onerous, possibly impossible new regulations that do not reflect the reality in the Gulf of Maine with regard to the right whale. The final rule imposed on May 1 does not even come close to reflecting the reality of the Maine fishing and lobstering industry and the endangered right whale.

NOAA's focus on the State of Maine's lobster industry is flawed and unfair. In fact, Madam President, the Agency's own data show that there has never, never been a right whale entanglement death attributed to the Maine lobster fishery.

NOAA denied an entirely reasonable request to at least delay the implementation of these onerous new regulations for just 2 months until July 1. The entire delegation, plus our Governor, asked for this delay, this 2-month delay, because our lobstermen cannot even find enough of the gear, the new gear that is being mandated by NOAA. Just a 2-month delay would have helped to prevent huge losses to these small business owners.

Now, this isn't the first request that NOAA has refused. We have worked over more than a year with NOAA to try to prevent these regulations from going into effect in the first place because they are not relevant to preserving the right whale. Nobody wants to see the population of right whales decimated, but if you look at the data, here is what is happening, Madam President. It is ship strikes that have been responsible for the death of right whales. They have occurred in the St. Lawrence Seaway in Canada, not even in the State of Maine.

In addition, there is evidence that there is some gear that is used for the Canadian snow crab that has been found to entangle the right whale. That is different from our lobster gear. And as I said, there has never been a right whale entanglement death attributed to the Maine lobster fishery.

So these regulations make no sense in the first place, but at least—at least—in response to a plea from the lobster industry, from the Maine Department of Marine Resources, from the Democratic Governor of Maine, from the entire Maine delegation—at least NOAA could have answered our plea to delay these onerous regulations for 2 months—2 months—during which time maybe this brandnew, very expensive gear would have become more available. But, no. Once again, NOAA refused.

This really is outrageous, and the industry is expected to lose out on $7 million due to lost fishing time during these 2 months.

Now, perhaps the Senator from Rhode Island and others do not believe what the Maine delegation, the Democratic Governor of Maine, the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and many experts are saying about the impact of these regulations and the lack of availability of this new gear and the fact that the data show that we are not the problem in the State of Maine. As I said, it is fish strikes and due to warming waters, which I know is of great concern to the Senator from Rhode Island, as it is to me.

The right whale are actually moving and following their food supply into Canadian waters. In fact, I have talked to many lobstermen and -women who have never seen a right whale—never—in all the time that they have been lobstering. But as I said, maybe NOAA just thinks that we are just automatic advocates for an iconic industry, despite the extraordinary record of stewardship by the lobster industry.

So let me give you another source. Denying this 2-month extension conflicted with the recommendations of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, an independent voice for small business within the Federal Government. The office of advocacy asserted that NOAA was putting lobstermen and -women in ''an impossible scenario,'' and went on to say:

> If they are not granted a short delay of the compliance deadline, they may stand to lose significant amounts of revenue, or in some instances, their entire business.

This isn't just the Maine delegation. It isn't just our Governor. It isn't just the Maine Department of Marine Resources. This is another government agency. It is the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy which is saying this.

Maine harvesters are justifiably worried about what they are going to do and I don't know what more the Maine delegation can do. We have had countless meetings with the Department of Commerce, with NOAA. I met with the Fisheries Administrator in NOAA. I asked for his help. He promised to work with us. Instead, things have gotten only worse. And now our lobster industry worries that NOAA will continue to steadily whittle away at their livelihoods while ignoring not only their on-the-water expertise, the expertise of the State of Maine, but the impartial advice of the Federal Government's Small Business Advocate as well.

The entire agency, all of NOAA, needs to recognize that the practice of implementing management decisions based on incomplete, imprecise, inaccurate data—especially when those decisions have a harmful effect on a fishery that is known for its conservation methods and on the communities that this fishery has supported forever in the State of Maine—cannot continue.

So that is the situation in which we find ourselves, and that is why I believe, for the first time in all the years that I have served in the Senate, I have come to the floor to object when the unanimous consent request is made.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I do not want to keep the distinguished Senator from Maine on the floor any longer than we have to, so I am going to move rapidly to the unanimous consent motion.

But I do want to tell the Senator that I am actually rather sympathetic to her concerns. In Rhode Island, we have had issues regarding the black sea bass, which NOAA scientists have known for more than a decade were moving up into our waters, yet the fisheries regulation and the allotments have not moved accordingly. We have problems with evanescent species like butterfish and loligo squid that replicate more rapidly than the regulatory regime can keep up, so the information is really nonsense. And we have an urgent need to enhance electronic monitoring on our boats so that human monitors don't have to be taken out on the boat.

Yes, we have frustrations with NOAA about its pace in a lot of these areas, but I simply think that an understaffed NOAA is not a solution to those problems.

If I may, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 768, Jainey Kumar Bavishi, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Ms. COLLINS. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, let me just say I hope we can find a way to move forward. Ms. Bavishi is needed to fill a very important position. Those of us in coastal States know the problem with Oceans and Atmosphere is profound. Perhaps my favorite new figure is called the zettajoule, the joule being the unit of heat energy by which we measure energy. The zettajoule is a joule with 21 zeros. It is a very, very big number. It is twice the complete full energy production and use by human species on the planet. All of our energy, our cars, our trucks, our homes, our factories—everything is half a zettajoule. For the price of that, we add 14 zettajoules of heat into the ocean every single year—every single year. It is the equivalent of three or four Hiroshima-sized atomic bombs being set off in the ocean every second and the ocean having to absorb that heat energy.

As the Senator from Maine knows, the Gulf of Maine is one of the fastest heating bodies of water on the planet, and she sees it as her fisheries and her lobster fisheries, in particular, move northward.

I am eager to find a way to make sure that Bavishi can get in place. She is a leading climate expert who worked in the New York Mayor's Office of Climate Resiliency and, before that, in the CEQ at the White House.

I respect the concerns that the Senator from Maine has indicated. As I said, I have my own. I just have a different view as to whether stopping the Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Administration position from being filled is conducive to getting those concerns met.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1787

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I rise again today in support of the bipartisan State Antitrust Enforcement Venue Act. This is an overwhelmingly bipartisan bill. In fact, 99 Senators support passing this bill. Only one—oddly, the lead cosponsor of this bill—has objected.

Now, the nature of the objection was that passing this bill would somehow reduce the chances of passing that Senator's own wholly unrelated bill, a different bill, a bill not touching the subject matter of this bill. But the idea that it must be all or nothing is silly, and it highlights one of the more vexing problems facing Congress. The idea that unless Congress will pass all of what a particular Senator wants, that no one else can pass anything is something that is a cause of great dismay and frustration.

Making it easier for State attorneys general to enforce the antitrust laws is good policy, but it is, of course, not a silver bullet. I agree we still need meaningful reform at the Federal level. Passing this bill would, in no way, shape, or form, set back that project. It would just allow State attorneys general to bring antitrust suits now rather than worrying that Big Tech companies will be able to slow them down by requesting that courts combine them with private litigation.

This UC is precisely what happened in the Texas v. Google case. In fact, unanimously passing this bill will only strengthen momentum in Congress for meaningful, much-needed antitrust reform. It will be a proof of concept of sorts, one that indicates that we can set aside our egos and partisan differences in order to achieve a shared goal—in this case, a goal that I believe is shared by all 100 Members of this body.

Standing in the way of that achievement accomplishes nothing. In fact, it only plays into the hands of Big Tech. Big Tech would love nothing more than to see antitrust reform suffocate and die on the Senate floor, yet another victim of this ''all or nothing'' mindset, of this mindset that would suggest unless we pass all of what I want now, you can't pass anything, even something that I support.

It is important that we pass this bill. All 100 Senators support it. There is only one who has been objecting, and the basis of that objection has nothing to do with the merits of the legislation; it has only to do with the misguided and, ultimately, incorrect assumption that this would somehow interfere with that Senator's wholly unrelated bill.

To that end, Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 261, S. 1787; I further ask that the Lee amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. As chairman of the appropriate jurisdictional committee and on behalf of Senator KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I appreciate the longstanding friendship I have with my friend and distinguished colleague, the Senator from Illinois. I know he has no objection to passing this bill in this fashion. In fact, it was after a long negotiation process culminating with an agreement between me and the Senator from Illinois that we made modifications to this legislation—modifications I didn't want to make but I made in order to get this passed.

It was represented to me in good faith by the Senator from Illinois that it would pass the hotline; it could pass by unanimous consent, if it happened. Had it all gone according to how we had every reason to believe and how the Senator from Illinois had every reason to believe at the time, this would have been passed by now.

What we didn't anticipate was that the lead cosponsor of this legislation who had herself been a part of these negotiations, been a part of the conversation about how we were going to get it passed, and been a part of the conversations about the very modification that might be necessary in order to get it passed by unanimous consent, would then suddenly decide to object.

Again, this is based not on a substantive objection to the bill, of which she is the lead cosponsor; it is based solely on her assessment that this might somehow jeopardize her chances of passing another antitrust bill, an antitrust bill that does not contain any provision like this one, an antitrust bill that does not preclude consideration of this one nor would this preclude consideration of that one. It is, in short, folly, to say the least, to object to this under these circumstances.

It is also bad faith, I believe, to object at the very last minute after many, many months of negotiation on this issue as the lead cosponsor of the legislation. It is unfortunate that she is unwilling to agree to that.

It is unfortunate, also, she is not willing to be here to raise the objection on her own but insisting on doing so through a third party—through no fault of his own—who is here at her request, being a good colleague, as he is, doing as she had requested.

This is unnecessary. This is petty. We are better than this. We need to pass this bill. I will be back. I am not going to quit until this thing is passed, because the fact is, all 100 Senators agree that this is good legislation, including the objecting absent party.

We should never get to the point where egos get in the way. And egos, alone, prevent us from passing legislation that all 100 Senators agree would make things better. I can tell you, there is no one who would be happier about this than Big Tech. So if the objecting Senator, who is absent today, wishes to make sure that Big Tech is held accountable, then she should allow this to pass forthwith without her objection. If, on the other hand, she wants to make it easier for Big Tech, then this objection would be the way to go.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. As cosponsor of both pieces of legislation that are being debated here, I would say to the Senator from Utah: Keep the faith. The day will come. This legislation will see the light of day, and I believe should become law along with Senator KLOBUCHAR's bill. I believe both are good pieces of legislation.

This is not the appropriate moment, but that moment will come.

ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Madam President, I cannot imagine what it was like last night in Texas in the homes of the 19 or 20 children who lost their lives in that Robb Elementary School gun massacre. Those are the longest, loneliest nights of your life as a parent when you have lost a child. And for each of them, it came as a stunning shock: a child sent off to school, nearing the end of the school year, probably happily anticipating summer camp, a visit with relatives, a family vacation, whose life was taken away in an instant.

The freedom and joy of youth was ripped from every single one of those 19 children, and 2 of the heroic teachers who sought to protect them when they were murdered in cold blood by this gunman.

Today, instead of thinking about vacation and summer, the parents are sadly making funeral arrangements for their babies. Others are sitting down with their children and trying to explain why their playmates are not at school.

It is not even June, and this year alone there have been more than 200 mass shootings in the United States. My colleague CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut said last night there had been more mass shootings than days in this last year.

Now families across America are stepping forward to offer their condolences, to donate to the families who lost these precious, precious children, and to demand that this Senate act to prevent something—do something to prevent the appalling acts of mass murder that we see way too often.

The Members of the Senate have to make a choice: Will we listen to the American people in their overwhelming numbers calling on us to set politics aside and stop the killing of children and other innocent Americans or will we cower in front of the gun industry?

The lives of countless children, and I might add, grandchildren, depend on our answer to that question.

It was 21 years ago—hard to imagine—but 21 years ago this September when we lived through 9/11.

That morning, I was in this building, down the hall at a meeting at 9 in the morning called by Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle. We had just heard that a plane had crashed into a skyscraper in New York, and we didn't know much more. We quickly turned on the television to see another plane crash into an adjoining building. It was obvious that something horrible had happened. And it wasn't long after that that we looked out the window and looked west down the Mall to see black smoke billowing in. We learned it came from the Pentagon, where another plane had crashed into that building.

That was a day none of us will ever forget, nor should we. It was a day when America changed in so many ways. That was the beginning of TSA security checks at airports. Things that have become commonplace in our life were initiated because of 9/11.

And did we ever mount an effort to stop international terrorism against the United States. We were serious. It was a deadly serious issue, 3,000 innocent people losing their lives on 9/11. We were bound and determined—so determined that this Senate declared war on al-Qaida and called for the invasion of Afghanistan.

I voted for that because I felt then and feel now, no one should attack the United States with impunity. There is a price to pay. And so we made a decision which for 20 years guided our foreign policy in Afghanistan and other decisions by the scores around the world that really fought international terrorism.

We learned something recently. Last year, we had the Director of the FBI come before us, and I asked him about domestic terrorism. What about the terrorists in America itself who are killing innocent people? His report to us was sobering. He said it is a real threat, and it is a threat that is metastasizing. We know that horrible word from the disease of cancer. It means that the cancer itself is advancing in a deadly way. That is the way the FBI Director described domestic terrorism.

As we mourn yesterday's mass shooting in Uvalde, TX, we have a bill coming before the Senate tomorrow that responds to the mass shooting that took place in Buffalo just 11 days ago, in which a gunman killed 10 Black Americans in a racist act of violence.

Tomorrow, we will vote on my bill, the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act. I first introduced it in the year 2017, and that passed the House on a bipartisan basis last week.

This legislation will help law enforcement combat the serious and lethal threat of domestic terrorism. It will authorize offices within the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the Department of Homeland Security that are squarely focused on this threat.

And these offices will be required to regularly assess domestic terrorism risk and provide training and resources to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement.

The bill will also establish an interagency task force to combat White supremacists' infiltration of the uniformed services and Federal law enforcement.

Like gun safety reform, the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act is long overdue. I first held a hearing on domestic terrorism 10 years ago after a White supremacist marched into a Sikh gurdwara in Oak Creek, WI, opening fire and killing seven people.

In the 10 years since, violent White supremacists have massacred Americans with their sickening attacks. In 2015, a White supremacist shot and killed nine Black worshippers at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC.

At the time, it was the deadliest attack in a place of worship in recent American history, a horrifying record that sadly was surpassed just a few years later.

In 2018, an anti-Semitic terrorist killed 11 people at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. Think about this for a moment. There are members of that synagogue who actually survived the Holocaust in World War II, only to be targeted by the same hate nearly 80 years later in America.

A year after that, a far-right extremist killed 23 people at the Walmart in El Paso, TX, targeting immigrants and members of the Hispanic community. Some of these gunmen subscribe to the same racist conspiracy theory as the shooter in Buffalo a few days ago, the so-called ''great replacement theory.''

It has become the great rallying cry for White supremacists. Each of these acts of hate-fueled mass murder has torn apart a community, traumatized the Nation, and left unimaginable grief and pain in its wake.

And so it was over a year ago that FBI Director Christopher Wray testified to domestic terrorism metastasizing and growing in the United States.

Well, I think it is time that we take action to stop this threat. Time and again, the Senate has failed to take any meaningful steps to prevent violent extremism. When exactly did stopping mass murder become a partisan issue? It wasn't like this after 9/11.

Twenty years ago, Republicans and Democrats joined in common cause to confronting international terrorism threatening America.

After that horrific act of mass murder on 9/11, we worked together on a bipartisan basis to reconfigure our entire national security apparatus. We created a new Agency, the Department of

Homeland Security, designed to prevent the next 9/11.

To be sure, there were moments when we went off in the wrong direction. Over the years, we worked to rein in legislation like the PATRIOT Act and protect civil liberties of the American people.

As lawmakers, our responsibility is to enact sensible solutions and save lives while also protecting our Constitution. That is exactly what the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act is all about. It will improve data collection on incidents of domestic terrorism and strengthen Federal coordination to combat it.

That is why it makes no sense to me that there are Republicans who oppose it. The same Republicans who once took bold steps to prevent terrorism on an international basis now won't even allow us to debate a bill to prevent terrorism at home.

There are actually Republican Members of the House who are cosponsors of my bill, the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act, who just last week voted against it, cosponsors. What exactly is the reason for this Republican opposition?

Well, one Senate Republican claimed that the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act would be ''the PATRIOT Act for American citizens.'' That is phony and wrong.

First of all, as I just mentioned, the PATRIOT Act was flawed. It was an excessive policy response to a nation in panic. I should know because I voted for it and then led the effort to change it. Here is why the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act is different.

Unlike the PATRIOT Act, it will not provide any new law enforcement or surveilling power to the government. It also does not establish a single new criminal offense. Let me repeat this. The bill that comes before us on domestic terrorism does not create any new Federal crime, period. This is a modest bill with a simple goal: ensure that the Federal Government devotes existing resources and authorities to what has been identified by the FBI as the most significant domestic terrorism threats.

Who supports this bill? The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the Arab-American Institute, the NAACP. All of them and more support the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act.

I hope our Republican colleagues will join us in a bipartisan effort to keep America safe. Last week, I spoke to the courage and sacrifice of Aaron Salter, a retired police officer who was working as a security guard in that Buffalo grocery store at the time of the attack.

When the shooter entered the store, Officer Salter jumped into action. He fired multiple shots at the attacker, but his skill and courage were not enough. He was outgunned. He had a pistol. The shooter had an assault rifle and a tactical vest. It is a scenario that, sadly, is becoming too common. We saw it yesterday in Texas.

The attacker in yesterday's school shooting in Uvalde was also carrying an assault rifle and wearing a tactical vest. He reportedly shot two officers before entering the school and wounding a Federal law enforcement official.

Can the Members of this Senate say in good conscience that we have done enough to protect the lives of police officers and the children in communities like Uvalde? Of course not. They were killed by people who never should have had a gun in the first place.

With the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act, this Senate can take the first step of many steps needed to save lives and reject hate. The next step is finally closing the loophole that allows guns to fall into the wrong hands. Ten years ago, after 26 little children, God bless them, were murdered by a disturbed gunman in Sandy Hook Elementary School, we voted to close gaps in the gun background check system, and we fell short.

Will we finally close those gaps now after another school filled with little babies and children was targeted in a mass shooting? The CDC reported last week that for the first time in more than 60 years, car accidents are no longer the leading cause of death for kids and teens. As of 2020, the leading cause of death of children and adolescents in America is guns—guns. Guns are the No. 1 threat to our children.

When will we finally find the courage and the spine to pass commonsense changes to our gun laws that the vast majority of Americans support?

Well, this Friday, the National Rifle Association is holding its annual meeting in, of all places, Texas. A few of the politicians who are scheduled to speak at that gathering were among the first to send their thoughts and prayers to Uvalde. Well, I hope and pray they will find the courage to stop cowering before the gun lobby and take action to save our children's lives.

Let me address one last misconception about this bill. A number of my colleagues have said: Well, why did you have to use the words ''White supremacists'' or ''neo-Nazis'' in the bill? Why did you want to focus on that?

Let me make it clear that we are focusing on domestic terrorism, and that is why we mention White supremacism. The bill requires reports to Congress on all domestic terrorism activity, with a breakdown by specific category.

The bill requires that White supremacist terrorism be one of those specific categories. We include this requirement because during the Trump Presidential administration, the FBI was ordered to stop tracking White supremacist attacks as a separate category of domestic terrorism.

Remarkably, the FBI stopped tracking White supremacist attacks in the middle of the spate of White supremacist violence, including the lethal attack at the 2017 Charlottesville ''Unite the Right'' rally and the 2018 Tree of Life synagogue shooting.

This decision also came after an unclassified May 2017 joint intelligence bulletin from the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security that found ''white supremacist extremism poses [a] persistent threat of lethal''—lethal—''violence,'' and that White supremacists ''were responsible for 49 homicides and 26 attacks from 2016 . . . more than any other domestic extremist movement.''

I am not making this up. People are dying because of these extremists. We are asking the FBI and other Agencies to identify the incidents of violence so that we can track them, find if they are growing or receding; train local law enforcement to recognize it.

This bill does not require collecting of data on First Amendment-protected speech at all, no matter how vile that speech may be. It only requires the FBI to provide a report to Congress on violent domestic terrorist activity that the FBI is already investigating.

In fact, this bill does not provide any new law enforcement or surveillance powers to the government. It does not establish any new criminal offenses.

This morning there is an outrage over the violence that took place in Texas. The question is, Can we channel this outrage into an active, productive effort to pass legislation to make America safer?

We know what the problem is. We know what the challenge is with domestic terrorism. The question is, Can we gather the information to put an end to it? Isn't that our responsibility, what comes to our responsibility as Senators and as citizens in this country?

In the U.S. Senate, let's start with this bill. Domestic terrorism is for real. We saw a form of it in Buffalo, NY, and we are going to see it again, I am afraid, unless we take it very seriously.

Fighting terrorism used to be a bipartisan effort, and I hope it will once again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each prior to the scheduled votes: MURRAY, WYDEN, and BROWN.

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

NOMINATION OF LISA M. GOMEZ

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to support the nomination of Lisa Gomez as the Assistant Secretary for the Department

of Labor's Employee Benefit Security Administration, or EBSA.

EBSA has the massive task of helping retirees recover the benefits they are entitled to and forcing protections for people who get their healthcare coverage through their job, and overseeing millions of retirement plans, health plans, and other welfare benefit plans.

We need a strong leader at EBSA who will protect families' savings and futures and make sure people get the benefits they deserve under Federal law.

We need someone like Lisa Gomez. Ms. Gomez is a highly respected professional in the field of employee benefits law, who has represented a wide range of health plans, retirement plans, and more. And I am confident as Assistant Secretary she will fight to hold employers accountable to the law, ensure workers get the benefits they are owed, and protect families' financial security, and I strongly urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm her.

ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Madam President, I can't leave the floor of the Senate today without talking about the heartbreaking shooting that took place at Robb Elementary School in Texas yesterday.

Nineteen children, two teachers at an elementary school. These were kids who were excited for summer, playdates with their friends—murdered by weapons of war.

This carnage is happening right here in America in fourth grade classrooms.

My heart breaks for the family and loved ones of these kids and their teachers, not to mention the kids and educators who will carry the trauma of that day with them for the rest of their lives.

But I am also furious. A lot of people have characterized this tragedy as ''unthinkable.'' But at this point, this kind of tragedy is not unthinkable. Parents in Washington State and everywhere else in America think about this all the time. They think about it every day when they drop off their kids at school. How can you not? They thought about it after the shooting in Buffalo at a grocery store 10 days earlier. They think about it every time there is another mass shooting, which is far, far too often—3,865 times since the Sandy Hook school shooting 10 years ago, to be exact.

What is unthinkable is that every time this happens, nothing changes. Every time, Republicans stand in the way of meaningful action. That is not just unthinkable; it is unacceptable.

But we don't have to live like this. This is a solvable problem. Republicans need to have the courage, the decency, the basic concern for the lives of our kids to work with Democrats on commonsense gun safety reforms.

They need to decide should school be a place where our kids and teachers feel safe, where they can talk about homework and class projects, where they can be kids and laugh about whatever happened during lunch or art class? Or will they continue to be a place where school shooter drills are as routine as recess or algebra for our kids?

I want my colleagues to consider that.

What message are you sending to parents and kids, to teachers and students if you won't even allow a debate on commonsense measures like universal background checks?

I have heard Republican lawmakers talk about the need to have police officers at every school. I wish it were that simple, but we know it is not.

We saw yesterday that having an armed officer onsite at schools will not solve this crisis, despite the best efforts of law enforcement.

Some Republicans have suggested arming teachers. Are you kidding? Can you hear yourself? Teachers did not sign up to be soldiers, and guns have no place in our classroom.

Some Republicans will say: Well, this is a mental health issue. So let me be clear: America is facing a mental health and substance use disorder crisis. It is serious. It requires urgency, and I am actively working on bipartisan legislation to expand access to prevention and treatment and recovery services.

But I want to make this plain: The majority of people with mental illness do not commit violence against others.

Treating gun violence as a mental health issue rather than a gun issue will never get us to the root cause of these horrific shootings.

If we want to get at the heart of really stopping gun violence, I beg my colleagues to pull their heads out of the sand and finally start talking about what can really address this crisis of gun violence: commonsense gun safety legislation—and there is no getting around it—universal background checks and an assault weapons ban.

Now, I am ready to work with any Republican to make any kind of meaningful progress here. States like mine have made good progress on gun safety measures to keep our communities safe, but we cannot count on a patchwork of laws where one State requires background checks and another one right next door does not. We need Federal action. We need to get something done.

To my constituents in Washington State and the American people, I know and understand it can be disheartening to parents around the country to see the continued Republican obstruction on gun safety in Congress. Change is not easy, but let me be clear: Doing nothing and letting this continue to happen is the most extreme option on the table.

I have come to the floor of the Senate countless times to call for action to keep our kids and our families safe from gun violence, just to have Republicans block our efforts again and again. It is frustrating. It is infuriating. But I will keep pushing for gun safety laws that the majority of Americans do support because we cannot give up. That is what the NRA and other extremists want us to do. The vast majority of Americans have made clear, they want an end to gun violence.

And I refuse to let Republicans get away with this yet again, to dance around the real issue, to distract us with conversations about arming teachers or tripwires outside elementary schools. Enough. Enough.

We need to force Republicans to bear witness to the tragic consequences of their inaction. We need people and families across the country to do the same. No one gets to look away. No one gets to change the subject. I promise all of the students and parents, grandparents, teachers, everyone in Washington State that despite the obstruction and silence from my Republican colleagues, I will not stay quiet and I will keep pushing for change and I really hope the American people will do the same.

Using our voices and our votes, we can change things. We can hold Republicans accountable, and we can make progress to end gun violence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, it seems very appropriate that Senator MURRAY, our chair of the HELP Committee—she and I—I am the chair of the Finance Committee—often work together on these issues. As Northwest colleagues, we see how serious and how incredibly damaging the last 24 hours have been to our country.

I am going to speak in a few minutes about a Health and Human Services nomination, but I want to pick up where Senator MURRAY left off with respect to guns and specifically talk about the atrocity—the atrocity—that took place yesterday in Texas.

I think Senators can barely begin to imagine the pain the families in Texas are feeling at this moment. They are living every parent's worst nightmare.

This morning, around the country millions and millions of parents dropped kids off at school, and they were fearful. In a country that we all believe is and must continue to be the greatest country on Earth, parents drop their kids off at school in fear that a gunman would walk into their classrooms and murder them.

Let's think about that.

And it has been going on for decades—decades—in our country. We can remember the sinking, empty feeling after Sandy Hook. For a few days, there was a glimmer of hope that the Senate would do something on a bipartisan basis, but then the other side caved to the gun lobby. Congress has done nothing in response to all this carnage in our schools, in our grocery stores, in our churches. Atrocity after atrocity after atrocity, and yet people still live in fear that their kids are next. They live with hopelessness due

to the fact that their elected officials are unwilling to act.

There are no excuses left. This happened in a State that is flooded with guns. There was armed security at the school and still 19 kids and two teachers are dead, still their families are broken. No excuses.

Perhaps that is why I have heard multiple Republicans say today that there is nothing you can do to stop the shootings; that they are just going to happen. That is the way it is. They are going to happen regardless.

I just believe with all my being that is just nonsense, and it is ridiculous coming from so many Senators who haven't lifted a finger to do anything about the violence.

My wife always says I am a glass-half-full guy. I try to be positive, always about bringing the two sides together. But on this issue, I don't know what else to say. The truth is that if we act, then maybe—maybe—it will be possible to prevent another massacre in another school. That should be enough. That should be enough.

The 100 of us here in the Senate are the ones with the power to act—not anybody else. It is about us. So, Senators, we have got a choice, either we can choose to act on moral courage or just let the fear and hopelessness win out. As far as I am concerned, if you don't have the moral courage to act here on the Senate floor or at least try to prevent more of these massacres, then you ought to hang it up, go home, and let somebody else have the job.

NOMINATION OF SAMUEL R. BAGENSTOS

Mr. President, let me turn now to the nomination we will be voting on in a few moments, Samuel Bagenstos, to serve as general counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Just a few words on why the Senate ought to support the nomination. He is an experienced public servant, an accomplished lawyer and educator. He currently serves as general counsel to the Office of Management and Budget. He previously served as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights. He has been a leader in the State of Michigan on the issue of workers' rights. He has argued cases before the Supreme Court. He is a highly respected law professor on leave from the University of Michigan.

He has got the experience to serve as HHS general counsel and the right outlook on what public service in the law is all about. I am particularly pleased that he has been a crusader for the rights of Americans with disabilities. He has argued cases before the Court on the subject. He literally wrote the book—the most prominent law school casebook—on disability rights law.

During the Finance Committee hearing on his nomination, he talked about how that experience and perspective will guide his work in the Department if he is confirmed. I am sure pleased to see somebody like this attracted to public service, protecting vulnerable people—people who fall between the cracks all too often, all too often. That is the key to improving the health and well-being of all Americans.

This nominee, Mr. Bagenstos, is the right choice for Health and Human Services general counsel. He is highly qualified, deserving of broad support. We will be voting on his nomination in a few minutes. I urge all Senators to support this nominee.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Thanks, Mr. President. I always enjoy following my friend from Oregon who has done such important work on tax and trade law and Medicare and Medicaid and everything since his career began as a young Gray Panther.

NOMINATION OF TODD M. HARPER

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support Todd Harper's nomination. He came out of my and Senator SMITH's and the Presiding Officer Senator OSSOFF's committee to be Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration.

Mr. Harper is an experienced regulator. He has the background, knowledge, and leadership experience to safeguard the credit union system, a very important component of our financial system, and to protect millions of credit union members.

We know that credit unions, more than Wall Street banks, really look out for the little guy and regular people and people who are, you know, mostly solidly middle class or aspiring to the middle class.

A career public servant with midwestern roots, Todd Harper understands the vital role that credit unions play in local communities, especially rural and underserved communities.

Being the first openly gay leader of any Federal financial regulatory Agency, the first NCUA career staff member to serve on the NCUA Board, he brings a vitally important perspective. We know that prior to this President taking over and my becoming chair of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, we know most of the Federal regulators look like me and walk like Wall Street. Those days are behind us. Another reason for Todd Harper's nomination to NCUA.

Throughout his career as an NCUA Board member and Chair, he has worked with both parties. He has worked for advocates and industry to strengthen credit unions to fight for consumers. In 2019, the Senate confirmed Mr. Harper by voice vote to the three-member NCUA Board. In 2021, President Biden designated him as Chair.

As Chair of the NCUA, he has worked with his fellow Board members to advance bipartisan efforts on important issues facing credit unions and their members, like digital assets and emergency capital investment.

Prior to serving on the Board, he was Director of the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs. He was Chief Policy Advisor to former Chairs Deborah Matz and Rick Metsger.

Mr. Harper previously served as a staffer in the House of Representatives, as staff director for the Subcommittee on Capital Markets.

If confirmed, he will continue to work collaboratively. It is what we ask him to do, to represent all taxpayers to ensure that our credit union system is safe, sound, and works for all its members.

Mr. President, I encourage my colleagues to support the nomination of Todd Harper.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON FREY NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 205 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—6

Cornyn	Manchin	Murkowski
Cruz	Merkley	Van Hollen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Under the previous order, the

motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 670, Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, John W. Hickenlooper.

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 the nomination of Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 47, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 206 Ex.]

YEAS—47

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—7

Blunt	Manchin	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Merkley	
Cruz	Murkowski	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the Jacobs-Young and Loyd nominations; that if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be considered expired on these and the Gomez nomination, and the Senate vote on the confirmation each at a time to be determined by the majority leader or his designee, following consultation with the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in 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. 652, Chavonda J. Jacobs-Young, of Georgia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Sheldon Whitehouse, John W. Hickenlooper, Gary C. Peters, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie K. Hirono, Amy Klobuchar, 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 the nomination of Chavonda J. Jacobs-Young, of Georgia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 207 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Baldwin	Grassley	Portman
Barrasso	Hagerty	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Risch
Blackburn	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Rounds
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Brown	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cassidy	Lankford	Sinema
Collins	Leahy	Smith
Coons	Luján	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Lummis	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	Markey	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Warner
Duckworth	Menendez	Warnock
Durbin	Moran	Warren
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—3

Hawley	Paul	Sullivan

NOT VOTING—8

Blunt	Lee	Toomey
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cruz	Murkowski	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 89, the nays are 3.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Chavonda J. Jacobs-Young, of Georgia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the Wainstein nomination be withdrawn and that the confirmation vote on the nomination occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader or his designee in consultation with the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. It is a unique moment. I fully support Senator PAUL in his motion.

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

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that the rest of the votes for this evening be 10-minute votes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Once again, I support my colleague, the junior Senator from the great Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate continues the important work of confirming highly qualified, diverse nominees to the Federal Judiciary. Working closely with Senate Democrats, the Biden administration has prioritized the selection of judicial nominees who are faithful to the rule of law, who are evenhanded and impartial, and who understand the critical distinction between being an advocate and being a judge. And together, we are building a Federal judiciary that is more representative of the Nation as a whole, both in terms of demographic and professional diversity. The five nominees under consideration by the Senate this week are no exception, and I want to speak briefly on each of them.

Yesterday, the Senate confirmed Judge Stephanie Davis to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Since 2019, Judge Davis has served as a U.S. District Court Judge in the Eastern District of Michigan. She was nominated for the District Court by President Trump. And she was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by voice vote and confirmed by voice vote as well.

Prior to serving on the District Court, Judge Davis served as a U.S. magistrate judge for approximately 3 years, also in the Eastern District of Michigan. In total, Judge Davis has served as a Federal judge for more than 6 years. Before assuming the bench, Judge Davis was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan for nearly two decades. During her last 5 years in the U.S. Attorney's Office, she served as the Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney. She also spent 3 years as the deputy chief of the Controlled Substances Unit. While serving as a Federal prosecutor, Judge Davis prosecuted elder fraud cases, served on a committee that addressed a backlog of untested rape kits, and led one of the earliest prosecutions combating the opioid epidemic in the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Davis also spent 5 years in private practice. During this time, she volunteered with the Women's Justice Center, helping victims of domestic violence obtain personal protection orders.

Born in Kansas City, MO, Judge Davis earned her college degree from Wichita State University and her law degree from Washington University School of Law.

Judge Davis has been unanimously rated ''Well Qualified'' for the Sixth Circuit by the American Bar Association, and she has the strong support of her two home State Senators, Ms. STABENOW and Mr. PETERS.

Once sworn in, Judge Davis will be the first Black woman from Michigan to serve on the Sixth Circuit—and only the second ever Black woman to serve on the court.

With Judge Davis's extensive experience as a judge, a prosecutor, and a litigator in private practice, as well as her decades-long commitment to public service, she is clearly well qualified to serve on the Sixth Circuit.

This morning, the Senate also confirmed the nomination of Evelyn Padin to the District of New Jersey. A native of New Jersey, Ms. Padin received her B.A. from Rutgers University, her M.S.W. from Fordham University Graduate School of Social Services, her certificate in European legal studies from Tulane University, and her J.D. from Seton Hall Law School. Since graduating from law school, Ms. Padin has spent nearly three decades practicing law.

In 1995, Ms. Padin opened her own law firm, and she has appeared regularly in both State and Federal courts ever since. She has tried approximately 10 jury trials to verdict, judgment, or final decision. In addition to her lengthy career as a litigator, Ms. Padin also has judicial experience, having served as a municipal court judge for the Jersey City Municipal Court. In this role, she presided over nearly 3,000 cases—all bench trials—that went to verdict or judgment, primarily involving minor criminal-type offenses, traffic violations, and municipal ordinance offenses.

Outside the courtroom, Ms. Padin has been active in the legal community. She was the first Latina to serve as the president of the New Jersey State Bar Association. In that role, she worked to improve access to justice in New Jersey, including by starting legal clinics to serve the economically disadvantaged.

Ms. Padin received a ''Qualified'' rating from the American Bar Association and has the strong support of her home State Senators, Mr. MENENDEZ and Mr. BOOKER. Ms. Padin's years of experience with New Jersey's legal system, coupled with her broad legal expertise, make her well-suited to serve on the Federal bench.

And the Senate also confirmed the nomination of Charlotte Sweeney to the District of Colorado. Ms. Sweeney is a trial litigator who has spent over 26 years defending the employment rights of Americans who have faced discrimination or harassment—based on their race, national origin, gender, age, or disability—in the workplace. Practicing primarily in Federal court, she has tried more than 20 cases to verdict or judgment.

Through her work, Ms. Sweeney has earned a reputation for integrity and fairmindedness, both from her peers and from those before whom she has practiced. Twenty-six attorneys who regularly work as opposing counsel to Ms. Sweeney have offered their ''strong support'' of her nomination, writing that she ''will be an impartial, prepared, and reasoned jurist.'' Similarly, 17 former judges and employment lawyers who have acted as settlement or arbitration proceeding neutrals have also endorsed her nomination. Based on Ms. Sweeney's advocacy before them, they believe she ''will make an exceptional district court judge.''

With so much support from the Colorado legal community and as a Colorado native herself, it is no surprise that Ms. Sweeney has the strong support of her home State Senators, Mr. BENNET and Mr. HICKENLOOPER, or that she was rated ''Well Qualified'' by the American Bar Association.

Additionally, Ms. Sweeney will advance President Biden's commitment to ensuring the Federal judiciary reflects the country it serves. She will be the first openly LGBTQ article III judge in Colorado and the first openly LGBTQ woman to serve as a Federal district court judge in any State west of the Mississippi.

The Senate is also considering Nina Morrison, nominated to the Eastern District of New York. Ms. Morrison attended Yale College and New York University Law School before clerking for Judge Pierre N. Leval on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She then worked in private practice and at the American Civil Liberties Union before joining the Innocence Project.

Ms. Morrison is now one of the most senior attorneys at the Innocence Project, where she works to exonerate wrongfully imprisoned individuals by petitioning for access to DNA evidence and other post-conviction relief. Thanks to Ms. Morrison's efforts, nearly 30 wrongfully convicted individuals in more than 10 States have been freed from prison or death row. In addition, her work has helped to correctly identify the perpetrators of violent crimes, delivering justice to both their victims and to those who have been wrongfully imprisoned.

Ms. Morrison is a seasoned litigator who has practiced in State and Federal courts all across the country. The American Bar Association unanimously rated her ''Well Qualified'' to serve as a district judge, and she has the strong support of both of her home State Senators, Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

Ms. Morrison has dedicated her career to ensuring that our justice system lives up to America's ideals. Her dedication, breadth of experience, and unique perspective will make her an asset to the Eastern District of New York.

Finally, the Senate will consider Robert Huie, nominated to the Southern District of California. Mr. Huie is an accomplished litigator who previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the district to which he has been nominated. Notably, he was counsel of

record in more than 600 district court cases and was lead appellate counsel in approximately two dozen appeals.

After leaving the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Huie went into private practice, where he is currently Of Counsel in the San Diego office of Jones Day and a leader in the firm's Investigations and White Collar Defense Practice. He is also the San Diego office's pro bono coordinator and chair of the diversity and inclusion committee. A graduate of Yale Law School and a lawyer with extensive criminal and civil experience, Huie is well-positioned to join the Federal bench. He has tried 22 cases—both jury and nonjury—to verdict, judgment, or final decision.

Mr. Huie has the strong support of Senators Feinstein and Padilla, and he was rated unanimously ''Well Qualified'' by the American Bar Association. His legal work both in and out of the courtroom, coupled with his decades-long career serving the Southern District of California, make him an outstanding nominee.

I am pleased that three of these nominees received bipartisan confirmation votes and another nominee has already received a bipartisan cloture vote. And I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting those nominations that have not yet come up for a vote.

With their records, experience, and evenhanded approach, all of these nominees will be ready on day one to serve this Nation as Federal judges.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 669, Amy Loyd, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Department of Education.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, John W. Hickenlooper.

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 the nomination of Amy Loyd, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Department of Education, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 208 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—40

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rubio
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Lummis	Toomey
Ernst	Marshall	Tuberville
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker
Graham	Moran	
Grassley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Cruz	Murkowski
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, there has been a good agreement—Senator PAUL, Senator STABENOW, myself, Senator MURPHY, Senator BROWN—and so here is what—we are only going to have one more vote because we are vitiating—I think it is six cloture votes.

So listen, one and all. It is good news.

CLOTURE MOTIONS WITHDRAWN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the cloture motion on the Harper, Bagenstos, Huie, Baker, and Hartley nominations, and the Senate vote on confirmation at a time to be determined by the majority leader or his designee, following consultation with the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to S. Res. 134.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 134) expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive free trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Lee substitute amendment to the resolution be considered and agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 5045), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: ''That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should strengthen its close and mutually beneficial trading and economic partnership with the United Kingdom that takes into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met;

(2) the United States should strengthen its close and mutually beneficial trading and economic partnership with the European Union by working to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement;

(3) the President, in consultation with Congress, should work to conclude negotiations for such comprehensive trade agreements contingent upon an agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom that fully protects and preserves the Good Friday Agreement consistent with the sentiments expressed by the Senate in S. Res. 117 (117th Congress); and

(4) the President, in consultation with Congress, should strive to reach mutually advantageous resolutions of commercial disagreements between the United States and the United Kingdom, including ending the Digital Services Tax on United States businesses and ensuring a satisfactory final resolution to the World Trade Organization large civil aircraft dispute.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the resolution?

Hearing none, the question is on adoption of the resolution, as amended.

The resolution (S. Res. 134), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Lee amendment to the preamble be considered and agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to, the Lee amendment to the title be considered and agreed to, the title, as amended, be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 5046) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on March 5, 1946, Sir Winston Churchill delivered the Iron Curtain speech in Fulton, Missouri, solidifying the ''Special Relationship'' between the United States and the United Kingdom;

Whereas, since the end of World War II, the United States and the United Kingdom have been beacons of freedom to the world, standing together in the fight against tyranny;

Whereas the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom has driven economic prosperity and security cooperation in both nations for more than 70 years;

Whereas, according to ''Sterling Assets,'' a report from the Confederation of British Industry, the United States and the United Kingdom share the world's largest bilateral trade and investment relationship;

Whereas, while the United States and the United Kingdom already share a robust economic partnership and strong labor ties, there remain clear opportunities for both countries to further strengthen those ties;

Whereas the United States Trade Representative and United Kingdom Department for International Trade have engaged in substantive negotiations towards the conclusion of a comprehensive trade agreement since May 2020;

Whereas the United States seeks to support higher-paying jobs in the United States and to grow the United States economy by improving United States opportunities for trade and investment with the European Union;

Whereas the economic relationship of the United States and the European Union is the largest and most complex in the world, with over $1,100,000,000,000 in annual two-way trade;

Whereas the United States Trade Representative and the European Union have engaged in substantive negotiations toward the conclusion of a trade agreement;

Whereas the United States has historically acted as a guarantor of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, an agreement between the British and Irish governments, designed to protect peace in Northern Ireland by avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland;

Whereas Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, and President of the European Council Charles Michel signed the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement on January 24, 2020;

Whereas as part of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement, in order to protect the Good Friday Agreement in the aftermath of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, the two parties agreed to the Northern Ireland Protocol; and

Whereas the constitutional power of making trade agreements with foreign nations rests with Congress: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The title amendment (No. 5047) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title so as to read: ''A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom that the President should work with the President of the European Commission to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the European Union.''.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 134

Whereas, on March 5, 1946, Sir Winston Churchill delivered the Iron Curtain speech in Fulton, Missouri, solidifying the ''Special Relationship'' between the United States and the United Kingdom;

Whereas, since the end of World War II, the United States and the United Kingdom have been beacons of freedom to the world, standing together in the fight against tyranny;

Whereas the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom has driven economic prosperity and security cooperation in both nations for more than 70 years;

Whereas, according to ''Sterling Assets,'' a report from the Confederation of British Industry, the United States and the United Kingdom share the world's largest bilateral trade and investment relationship;

Whereas, while the United States and the United Kingdom already share a robust economic partnership and strong labor ties, there remain clear opportunities for both countries to further strengthen those ties;

Whereas the United States Trade Representative and United Kingdom Department for International Trade have engaged in substantive negotiations towards the conclusion of a comprehensive trade agreement since May 2020;

Whereas the United States seeks to support higher-paying jobs in the United States and to grow the United States economy by improving United States opportunities for trade and investment with the European Union;

Whereas the economic relationship of the United States and the European Union is the largest and most complex in the world, with over $1,100,000,000,000 in annual two-way trade;

Whereas the United States Trade Representative and the European Union have engaged in substantive negotiations toward the conclusion of a trade agreement;

Whereas the United States has historically acted as a guarantor of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, an agreement between the British and Irish governments, designed to protect peace in Northern Ireland by avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland;

Whereas Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, and President of the European Council Charles Michel signed the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement on January 24, 2020;

Whereas as part of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement, in order to protect the Good Friday Agreement in the aftermath of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, the two parties agreed to the Northern Ireland Protocol; and

Whereas the constitutional power of making trade agreements with foreign nations rests with Congress: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) the United States should strengthen its close and mutually beneficial trading and economic partnership with the United Kingdom that takes into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met;

(2) the United States should strengthen its close and mutually beneficial trading and economic partnership with the European Union by working to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement;

(3) the President, in consultation with Congress, should work to conclude negotiations for such comprehensive trade agreements contingent upon an agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom that fully protects and preserves the Good Friday Agreement consistent with the sentiments expressed by the Senate in S. Res. 117 (117th Congress); and

(4) the President, in consultation with Congress, should strive to reach mutually advantageous resolutions of commercial disagreements between the United States and the United Kingdom, including ending the Digital Services Tax on United States businesses and ensuring a satisfactory final resolution to the World Trade Organization large civil aircraft dispute.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 923, Jane Hartley, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jane Hartley, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 717, the nomination of Cathy Ann Harris, as provided under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Harris nomination, which the clerk will now report.

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.

VOTE ON HARRIS NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 209 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Cruz	Murkowski
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen

The nomination was confirmed.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

GUATEMALAN ATTORNEY GENERAL MARIA CONSUELO PORRAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, many hoped that President Giammattei would reject the corruption and impunity that his predecessors institutionalized. The reappointment of Attorney General Porras, who according to the State Department has ''repeatedly obstructed and undermined anticorruption investigations,'' shows that it is business as usual.

Democracy cannot survive without an independent judiciary, which Attorney General Porras has sought to dismantle by persecuting prosecutors and judges who have stood up for the principle that no one is above the law. As long as this continues, Guatemala's government is not a serious anti-corruption partner of the United States.

BETA TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, a person wandering up Church Street or jogging down on the shores of Lake Champlain on a crisp, snowy day in Burlington, VT, this past winter could have glanced up at the sky and seen an angular, white aircraft gliding through the air. It is called the *Alia* and is an electric aircraft modeled after an Artic tern that has been designed and manufactured by Beta Technologies.

At their headquarters, located beside the Burlington International Airport in South Burlington, Beta Technologies has been ''quietly'' revolutionizing the aviation industry by designing an environmentally friendly, rechargeable, and, yes, quiet, electric aircraft that can vertically take off and land without a runway. It is incredible technology that has game-changing applications for the domestic shipping industry, private transportation, and the military. Their research, production, and testing has been supported by dozens of private investors, several public companies, and funding appropriated by the Appropriations Committee to the Air Force's AFWERX Agility Prime program. The Agility Prime program was launched in 2020 in an effort to encourage private commercial development of the electric vertical takeoff and landing—eVTOL—aircraft industry.

I am proud of the innovative work that Beta Technologies does in Vermont. The company employs a workforce of over 350 employees and is growing, employing veterans, pilots, engineers, and technicians. The company is enriching the engineering and technology community of Vermont. I am excited about the potential for Beta's aircrafts and look forward to supporting their work in the future.

On April 16, 2022, The New York Times published an article on the innovative work of Beta Technologies, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the New York Times, Apr. 16, 2022]

THE BATTERY THAT FLIES

(By Ben Ryder Howe)

KITTY HAWK.—The invention of the jet engine. And on a frozen Vermont morning, circling above Lake Champlain, the Alia.

In the mind of Christopher Caputo, a pilot, each moment signals a paradigm shift in aviation. ''You're looking at history,'' Mr. Caputo said recently, speaking from the cockpit of a plane trailing the Alia at close distance. It had an exotic, almost whimsical shape, like an Alexander Calder sculpture, and it banked and climbed in near silence.

It is, essentially, a flying battery. And it represented a long-held aviation goal: an aircraft with no need for jet fuel and therefore no carbon emissions, a plane that could take off and land without a runway and quietly hop from recharging station to recharging station, like a large drone.

The Alia was made by Beta Technologies, where Mr. Caputo is a flight instructor. A five-year-old start-up that is unusual in many respects, the company is the brainchild of Martine Rothblatt, the founder of Sirius XM and pharmaceutical company United Therapeutics, and Kyle Clark, a Harvard-trained engineer and former professional hockey player. It has a unique mission, focused on cargo rather than passengers. And despite raising a formidable treasure chest in capital, it is based in Burlington, Vt., population 45,000, roughly 2,500 miles from Silicon Valley.

A battery-powered aircraft with no internal combustion has been a goal of engineers ever since the Wright brothers. Larry Page, the Google co-founder, has been funding electric plane start-ups for over a decade. Electric motors have the virtue of being smaller, allowing more of them to be fitted on a plane and making it easier to design systems with vertical lift. However, batteries are heavy, planes need to be light, and for most of the last century, the e-plane was thought to be beyond reach.

That changed with the extraordinary gains in aviation technology realized since the 1990s. Late last year, curious about the potential of so-called green aviation, I flew in a Pipistrel Alpha Electro, a sleek new Slovenian two-seater designed for flight training. The Electro looks and flies like an ordinary light aircraft, but absent the roar of internal combustion, its single propeller makes a sound like beating wings. ''Whoa!'' I exclaimed when its high-torque engine caused it to practically leap off the runway.

However, the Electro's power supply lasts only about an hour. After ours nearly ran out, I wondered how many people would enjoy flying in an electric plane. That take off is fun. But then you do start to worry about the landing.

Despite the excitement about e-planes, the Federal Aviation Administration has never certified electric propulsion as safe for commercial use. Companies expect that to change in the coming years, but only gradually, as safety concerns are worked out. As that process occurs, new forms of aviation are likely to appear, planes never seen before outside of testing grounds. Those planes will have limitations as to how far and fast they can fly, but they will do things other planes can't, like hover and take off from ''runways in the sky.''

They will also, perhaps most importantly for an industry dependent on fossil fuels, cut down on commercial aviation's enormous contribution to climate change, currently calculated as 3 to 4 percent of greenhouse gases globally.

''It's gross,'' Mr. Clark said. ''If we don't, the consequences are that we'll destroy the planet.''

In 2013, Ms. Rothblatt became interested in battery-powered aircraft. United Therapeutics makes human organs, including a kidney grown inside a pig that was attached to a person last fall, the first time such a procedure has been done. Ms. Rothblatt wanted an electric heli-plane ''to deliver the organs we are manufacturing in a green way,'' she said, and fly them a considerable distance—say, between two mid-Atlantic cities.

At the time, though, batteries were still too heavy. The longest an electric helicopter had flown was 15 minutes. One group of engineers told her it would take three years of design and development, too long, in her mind, to wait.

''Every single person told me it was impossible,'' Ms. Rothblatt said.

A GRAND VISION

Kyle Clark flew alone for the first time in 1997 on a plane from Burlington to Erie, Pa. Mr. Clark, then 16, had just been selected by the U.S.A. Hockey national team. ''I was the worst player on the ice,'' he said, ''so I decided to fight all the opposing players.'' As a result, ''the team named me captain.''

At 6 feet 7 inches, a self-described physical ''freak,'' Mr. Clark would go on to a brief professional hockey career as an extremely low-scoring right wing and enforcer. (His Linkedin page shows him brawling, helmetless, as a member of the Washington Capitals organization.)

After a stint in Finland's professional hockey league, he left the sport and received an undergraduate degree in materials science at Harvard, where he wrote a thesis on a plane piloted like a motorcycle and fueled by alternative energy. It was named the engineering department's paper of the year.

He then found himself considering a career on Wall Street, doing something he didn't want to do away from where he wanted to be: back in Vermont.

''There's a brain drain'' among engineers from his home state, he said. ''People go away to college and come back when they're 40, because they realize San Francisco or Boston isn't the cat's meow.'' Returning to Burlington in his mid–20s, Mr. Clark became director of engineering at a company that designed power converters for Tesla.

In 2017 he attended a conference where Ms. Rothblatt made her pitch for an e-helicopter. ''There were like 30 people in the room, none of whom excited me,'' Ms. Rothblatt recalled. ''Then Kyle stood up and said, 'I'm an electronics and power systems person, and I'm confident we can achieve your specification with a demonstration flight within one to two years.' Other people were shaking their head. He was probably the youngest guy in the room. So I came up to him during break and said, 'Where's your company located?' And he said, 'I live in Vermont.' ''

A few weeks later, after a second meeting, Mr. Clark drew a watercolor of his design and sent it to Ms. Rothblatt. Within hours, $1.5 million in seed capital for Beta Technologies had been wired to his bank account.

''He drew a nice design,'' Ms. Rothblatt said.

A prototype with four tilting propellers was assembled in eight months, with Mr. Clark piloting the vehicle himself. Built in Burlington, the plane had to be flown over Lake Champlain, away from population centers.

''It was so fun to fly it that we found an excuse to every chance we could,'' Mr. Clark told an audience at M.I.T. in 2019. Ultimately, though, it turned out to have too complex a design and Mr. Clark threw it out. He created a streamlined prototype modeled after the Arctic tern, a small, slow bird capable of flying uncanny distances without landing.

Since then, Beta's work force has grown to over 350 from 30. The company's headquarters have expanded to several buildings wrapping around the runway at Burlington International Airport, with plans for an additional 40–acre campus.

The board is stocked with players in finance and tech, including Dean Kamen, the inventor of the Segway, and John Abele, founder of Boston Scientific. It has $400 million of funding from the government and institutions, including Amazon. But it is not alone in trying to bring something like this—what's known as a vehicle with ''electric vertical takeoff and landing'' or eVTOL—to market.

Propelled by advances in batteries, control systems and high performance motors, more than a dozen well-financed competitors have their own prototypes, nearly all focused on what the industry calls ''urban air mobility,'' or flying taxis or privately owned flying vehicles. That no major breakthrough has reached consumers in significant numbers yet gives skeptics ammunition, but does not tamp down the optimism within the industry, especially not at Beta. Beta is alone in focusing on cargo, and is hoping to win F.A.A. approval in 2024. If it succeeds, it believes it will do more than make aviation history.

In the company's grand vision, electric cargo planes replace fleets of exhaust-spewing short-haul box trucks currently congesting America's roads.

With a limit of 250 nautical miles per battery charge, the vehicles would land atop solar-powered charging stations made out of shipping containers, some equipped with showers, bunks and kitchenettes. (The cabinetry is Vermont maple.) Beta also makes a stand-alone charger that ''our group is placing at airports all over the country,'' said Mr. Clark.

A plane like Beta's could be a catalyst for ''decentralizing'' the hub and spoke system, the company hopes, taking dependence on shipping centers like Louisville and Memphis out of the equation and rebuilding the supply chain.

''If you think about a path between two cities where there's no direct air service,'' Blain Newton, Beta's chief operations officer said, ''the only way is by taking one connection, two connections.'' Alia can change that—especially by increasing access to less populated parts of the country, such as northern Vermont.

The ambitions are lofty. Bolstering Mr. Newton's claims, however, UPS has already bought 10 Alias to be delivered in 2024 and signaled its intent to buy 140 more, which it plans to use as ''micro-feeders'' for time-sensitive deliveries such as medicine.

Amazon has invested heavily in Beta through its Climate Pledge Fund. Both the Air Force and the Army have signed contracts with the company worth a combined $43 million. And Blade, the commuter helicopter service, perhaps sensing that urban air mobility is not so far off, has reserved the right to buy five Alias, at a price of $4 million to $5 million apiece.

'THE DNA OF VERMONT'

Beta's headquarters at the Burlington Airport—close enough to be seen from the Terminal B waiting area—still has the youthful informality of a start-up. On a December morning in the hangar, Naughty by Nature's ''Feel Me Flow'' somehow penetrated the din of whirring propellers and industrial tools. The heavily tattooed Mr. Clark, whose idea of formal wear seems to be rotating his baseball cap forward, pinballed around the hangar, grabbing stray machinery and vaulting up staircases with the agility of a professional athlete.

Before he joined Beta, Mr. Newton worked in health care. At his job interview, Mr. Clark took him for a helicopter ride.

''He gave me the controls and said: 'Your aircraft. Figure it out,' '' Mr. Newton recalled, chuckling. ''I'd never flown before. I ended up taking a 65 percent pay cut to work for him.''

On their way back, with Mr. Clark back at the controls, the helicopter flew over Burlington, a city built largely around the University of Vermont and companies known for their progressive bona fides, like Seventh Generation and Ben & Jerry's. The city is famously left-leaning: Senator Bernie Sanders served four terms as its mayor. It also hosts a number of renewable energy startups.

''Clean energy is built into the DNA of Vermont,'' said Russ Scully, a Burlington entrepreneur who raised capital for Beta. Burlington is closer to becoming net zero than almost any municipality in the country; in the Beta parking lot, many cars have charging cables inserted.

Another local resource: One hundred miles north, near Montreal, is one of the largest aerospace clusters outside Toulouse and Seattle, led by Bombardier, the Canadian business jet-maker, and CAE, the world's premier manufacturer of flight simulators.

For Blake Opsahl, a network planner who left Amazon to join Beta, doing so was a no-brainer. ''My husband grew up here and we've always wanted to to come back,'' said Mr. Opsahl, who described an affinity between Beta engineers and Vermonters as ''passionate tinkerers.''

Mr. Newton said: ''I don't want to throw any of our competitors under the bus, but some folks out West are paying huge salaries to attract people, and we're capturing a lot of high-end aerospace talent for the lifestyle. They said, No, I want to be part of this thing here.''

Mr. Clark said he was offered opportunities to move the company elsewhere but declined. It has now become one of Burlington's marquee employers, contributing to a population swelling with high-earning remote workers who left larger cities and brought with them a worsening housing crisis. Burlington may be the kind of small city that Beta aims to serve, but as its success has shown, it is also the kind of city where sudden growth can bring challenges to livability.

In high school, Mr. Clark began building planes with spare parts from the machine shop his father ran at the University of Vermont. His mother, an artist, burned one in the backyard to prevent him from flying it.

Like Mr. Newton, many recruits were treated to hair-raising airplane rides. The company has a fleet of aircraft that the communications director, Jake Goldman, calls an ''amusement park for aviation fanatics,'' including a World War II biplane and the experimental Pipistrel. (''I did not puke,'' Mr. Goldman said of his inaugural ride in an aerobatic plane, ''but it was touch and go for a while.'')

The company offers free flying lessons to all its 350 employees, and has more than 20 flight instructors on staff, including Nick Warren, formerly a Marine One pilot for President Barack Obama. The idea is that in order to promote ''critical thinking in aviation'' it helps to be airborne. ''It's very Vermont—instead of just analyzing things on a computer, you actually try them out,'' said Lan Vu, a Beta electrical engineer who attended public high school with Mr. Clark.

Like many of her colleagues, Ms. Vu had worked previously for Mr. Clark, who recruited her. (''You know how good of a talker he is,'' she said.)

She had no prior interest in flying, she said, but ''that was one of the things Kyle made sure to talk about when he was pitching me.''

''And I was like: 'Yeah, I don't have that kind of time. I have three kids,' '' she said.

After changing her mind and getting her pilot's license through the employee program, however, Ms. Vu began competing in aerial acrobatic competitions. As an engineer, she said, flying helps her address safety concerns. ''If I'm building this, would I fly it?'' said Ms. Vu, who said she considered herself a conservative pilot, although, she admits, ''I was kind of surprised how much I enjoyed flying upside down.''

THE FUTURIST AND THE TEST PILOT

Is the world ready for wingless hovercraft levitating over cities and hotrodding through congested air corridors?

The consensus within the industry is that the F.A.A., which regulates half the world's aviation activity, is several years from certifying urban air mobility.

''It's a big burden of proof to bring new technology to the F.A.A.—appropriately so,'' Mr. Clark said. Currently the certification process for a new plane or helicopter takes two to three years on average. For an entirely new type of vehicle, it could be considerably longer. (One conventionally powered aircraft that can take off and land without a runway had its first flight in 2003. It remains uncertified.)

Ms. Rothblatt has built a career out of the long view. She is a celebrated futurist who has argued passionately for transhumanism, or the belief that human beings will eventually merge with machines and upload consciousness to a digital realm. And she has taken positions on issues such as xenotransplantation—the interchange of organs between species, including humans—considered audacious not long ago, though no longer.

Yet in certain ways she and Mr. Clark make for unlikely partners. Mr. Clark has a familiar demeanor for a test pilot: exuberant, risk-taking, hyper-confident.

Ms. Rothblatt, on the other hand, calls herself an exceedingly cautious person, both as a pilot and in general. ''I'm an adventurous thinker, but I'm cautious in everything,'' she said. She brought up her life experience as an example. Aside from her accomplishments in medicine and aerospace, Ms. Rothblatt is known as a transgender pioneer; when she started Sirius XM and rose to prominence, she hadn't yet transitioned. ''When I changed my sex, it was only after watching presentations by a dozen top surgeons and I was absolutely confident that it would be safe,'' she said.

The dichotomy between the futurist and the test pilot gets to a real issue facing any plane with a battery: Who will fly them?

According to Dan Patt, a technology analyst, vehicles like the one Beta is building are ''very unlikely to make money unless they go unmanned.'' Aviation in general faces a pilot shortage, and labor comprises up to a third of operating costs at legacy airlines.

The question for Beta as a business, said Mr. Patt, who led the development of drones for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, is: ''What does it take for their model to be competitive with ground transportation?''

Beta says its vehicles are designed to be ''optionally manned'' in the future. Yet analysts such as Mr. Patt see unpiloted commercial aviation as even farther from winning F.A.A. approval than the electric plane itself, raising a dilemma:

''What's more important, going unmanned first, or do you build the vehicle first? Beta is clearly in the latter camp.''

Nathan Diller, an Air Force colonel, is not a futurist, but his job is to find and support companies doing forward-thinking, futuristic things.

The military applications of a vehicle like the Alia—especially logistics—have gotten attention at the highest levels of the Air Force, which has backed Beta and some of its peers through an accelerator called Agility Prime.

Last month, for the first time, uniformed Air Force pilots flew an Alia, soaring above Lake Champlain in a plane powered only by a battery.

Colonel Diller sees this kind of transport as a national security issue, in part because of its potential to reduce fuel consumption, but what seems to intrigue him most is ''the democratization of air travel.''

He grew up flying experimental planes on an organic farm in West Texas, aware of the limits on where a plane can land and who can fly. Looking at a floating sculpture twirling above a lake, he sees a different future for aviation: ''Everyone a pilot, everywhere a runway.''

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 200, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 857, Evelyn Padin, of New Jersey, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 201, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 915, Charlotte N. Sweeney, of Colorado, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 202, the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 806, Sandra L. Thompson, of Maryland, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on S. Res. 134, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive free trade agreement between the United States and United Kingdom.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21–33 concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Egypt for defense articles and services estimated to cost $691 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–33

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Egypt.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $662 million.

Other $29 million.

Total $691 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing (FMF).

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Five thousand (5,000) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles, BGM–71E–4B–RF.

Seventy (70) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles, BGM–71E–4B–RF (Fly-to-Buy Lot Acceptance Missiles).

Non-MDE:

Also included is missile support equipment; technical manuals/publications; spare parts; tool and test equipment; training; U.S. Government technical and logistical support, contractor technical support, and other associated equipment and services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (EG–B–VJO).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: EG–B–VCO.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 19, 2022.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Egypt—TOW 2A Radio Frequency (RF) Missiles and Support

The Government of Egypt has requested to buy five thousand (5,000) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) missiles, BGM–71E–4B–RF; and seventy (70) TOW 2A, Radio Frequency (RF) missiles, BGM–71E–4B–RF (Fly-to-Buy Lot Acceptance missiles). Also included is missile support equipment; technical manuals/publications; spare parts; tool and test

equipment; training; U.S. Government technical and logistical support, contractor technical support, and other associated equipment and services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is $691 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important strategic partner in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will enhance Egypt's capability to strengthen its homeland defense by replenishing its stocks. The missiles will be used for counter-terrorism and border security against armored threats and fortified positions. Egypt will have no difficulty absorbing these additional missiles into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missiles & Defense, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Egypt.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21–33

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Radio Frequency TOW 2A (RF) Missile (BGM–71–4B-RF) is a direct attack missile designed to defeat armored vehicles, reinforced urban structures, field fortification and other such targets. TOW Missiles are fired from a variety of TOW Launchers in the U.S. Army, USMC, and FMS partner forces. The TOW 2A RF missile can be launched from the same launcher platforms as the existing wire-guided TOW 2A missile without modification to the launcher. The TOW 2A missile (both wire and RF) contains two tracker beacons (Xenon and thermal) for the launcher to track and guide the missile in flight. Guidance commands from the launcher are provided to the missile by the RF link contained within the missile case.

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

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

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

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

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS,

Washington, DC, May 25, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1938, the nomination of Kalpana Kotagal, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, having been referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

On the question of reporting the nomination without recommendation, 11 ayes to 11 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

PATTY MURRAY,
Chair.

CONFIRMATION OF BRIDGET A. BRINK

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I opposed the confirmation of Bridget Brink to be U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine because of her support for the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO. Ambassador Brink believes in expanding NATO to any country who would like to join, including Ukraine.

An important part of diplomacy is understanding your adversary. When I questioned Ambassador Brink about the eastern expansion of NATO, however, she expressed her belief that Russian President Vladimir Putin merely uses the NATO question as a pretext for actions he would take anyway. I strongly disagree. We must evaluate our leaders' actions, as well as the actions of our adversaries, on the world stage.

Putin is an aggressor and must be condemned, but we cannot allow our revulsion for his invasions to blind us to the fact that our adversaries react to the actions of the West. For years, Putin stated that any attempt to expand NATO to Russia's borders would be perceived as a direct threat. Fifteen years ago, Putin asked, ''Against whom is this expansion intended?'' Yet, a year later in 2008, NATO promised that Ukraine and Georgia would one day join the alliance. Russia's invasions of Georgia and Ukraine are not a coincidence, but I left my meeting with Ambassador Brink believing that she is not willing to reflect upon the actions of the West and how they would be viewed by Russian eyes.

Putin has no justification for embarking on a war and invading another country. I fully support the Ukrainians in their fight against Russia. Russia's brutal use of its military to achieve its objectives is unacceptable. But we must understand the reasons why he chose to invade in the first place.

When the Cold War ended, the United States had the benefit of the wisdom of foreign policy officials who took Russia seriously. George Kennan warned that NATO expansion would ignite a new cold war. Henry Kissinger proposed a peaceful coexistence in which Ukraine pursued a policy of neutrality, with one foot in the West and one foot in the East. Jack Matlock, our Ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1987 to 1991, called the current crisis ''predictable'' and, in 1997, warned Congress that he believed that NATO expansion ''could well encourage a chain of events that could produce the most serious security threat to this nation since the Soviet Union collapsed.''

Those wise voices are either gone or retired. Had we listened to their warnings, today's crisis might have been averted. But the State Department is now filled with officials who refuse to listen to adversaries or consider how our actions may make peace more difficult to obtain.

Although I opposed the confirmation of Bridget Brink to be Ambassador to Ukraine, I wish her luck in representing the United States and finding a path to a peaceful end to the conflict.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG McLEAN

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the public service of Craig McLean who retired in April after a distinguished 40-year career within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA. Within NOAA, Mr. McLean was as a dedicated leader, advocating for science to advance NOAA's mission to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean, and coasts.

Mr. McLean has a deep dedication to our oceans and waterways, garnered from growing up along the Passaic River in Rutherford, NJ. As a child, he took a small boat out on the Passaic. As a teenager, he learned to dive and performed decompression diving in order to explore deep-ocean shipwrecks. These experiences helped inspire his career.

Mr. McLean began his NOAA career in 1981 as a uniformed officer in the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps and served for nearly 25 years before retiring at the rank of captain. During that time, he was instrumental to the founding of the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, OER. Later, during his 16 years as a Federal executive, he provided continued leadership in driving forward mapping of U.S. waters to advance oceanographic scientific knowledge and discover deep ocean secrets including new species, historical shipwrecks, and undersea mountains. His leadership underlies OER's astounding accomplishments including mapping 2 million square kilometers and collecting ocean data in the waters of 16 countries and the high seas. This work contributed to key conservation decisions for vital marine habitats.

Most recently, Mr. McLean served as Assistant Administrator for NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research—OAR—for more than 6 years,

leading an enterprise of 10 Federal laboratories across the country and six major programs performing vital research to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, ocean, and coasts for the benefit of the Nation. Mr. McLean's preeminent leadership of OAR enabled vital advancements, including improved forecasting of weather extremes such as hurricanes, winter storms, extreme precipitation, and drought as well as a greatly increased understanding of the Earth's climate system. His leadership has enabled NOAA to better prepare society in order to reduce the severe impacts of these events on life and property.

On the international stage, as the U.S. Representative to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization—UNESCO—Mr. McLean's skillful collaborative approach helped advance U.S. scientific goals and garnered support from our partners in ocean observing around the world. He helped broker consensus for global biogeochemical ocean sensors, known as Argo, which enabled a $53 million international commitment to expand deployments to improve ocean health and climate forecasting. Through this role, Mr. McLean served as a leader for the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, championing this global undertaking to provide a common framework that ensures ocean science can support countries and achieve the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, I want to acknowledge Mr. McLean's commitment to scientific integrity within NOAA. During the last administration, he boldly stepped forward as a complainant when NOAA experienced political interference, putting himself at risk to uphold scientific integrity and the Agency's reputation. He also served as the Department of Commerce representative on the National Science and Technology Council Fast-Track Action Committee on Scientific Integrity where he cochaired a working group to provide responsive outcomes for the Presidential Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking. NOAA's science and the Agency's integrity has been made stronger through Mr. McLean's commitment and leadership on this issue.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire, I thank Craig McLean for his decades of excellent service to our Nation and wish him well in his retirement. I hope he enjoys the chance to take his family out on the water more in retirement and enjoys the oceans he has championed throughout his career.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL ROBERT D. SHARP

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself, Vice Chairman RUBIO, Senator BLUNT, and all members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to recognize the service and accomplishments of VADM Robert D. Sharp and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement. His leadership and vision drove the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency—NGA—to deliver support to a wide array of customers while simultaneously transforming its operating procedures and business practices. As Director of NGA, Vice Admiral Sharp ensured that timely, relevant, and accurate geospatial intelligence was provided to policymakers, warfighters, first responders, the intelligence community, and the congressional intelligence oversight committees.

A veteran of the war in Afghanistan and the Gulf War, Vice Admiral Sharp served our country during a highly decorated 34-year career with the U.S. Navy, receiving two Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit, two Defense Superior Service Medals, and the Navy Distinguished Service Medal.

Vice Admiral Sharp's service included operational deployments with USS *Ranger* (CV61), Carrier Air Wing 2 embarked on USS *Constellation* (CV 64), and Carrier Group 2 embarked on USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75). Additionally, in 2016, Vice Admiral Sharp was tasked with serving as commander, Office of Naval Intelligence, and director, National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office.

Vice Admiral Sharp culminated his distinguished career as the seventh director of the NGA. In this capacity he also served as the intelligence community's functional manager for GEOINT, head of the National System for Geospatial Intelligence, and chair of the Allied System for Geospatial Intelligence.

As NGA director, Vice Admiral Sharp led 14,500 military, civilian, and contractor women and men with care, compassion, and resourcefulness during the challenges of the COVID–19 pandemic. As the government shifted to maximize telework, NGA found new and innovative ways to meet mission demands while ensuring the safety of the workforce and, simultaneously, significantly improving the morale of the workforce.

Vice Admiral Sharp managed the multibillion-dollar annual operating budget of the Agency, including the construction of a new, state-of-the-art $1.7 billion NGA-West campus in downtown St. Louis, which includes the Senator Roy Blunt Geospatial Learning Center. This innovative facility will be a model for the IC in the future. Under Admiral Sharp's leadership, the agency has maintained a constructive and productive relationship with the city, the local community, academia, and the private sector, marking St. Louis—now alongside Springfield, VA—as a leader in the GEOINT community.

Vice Admiral Sharp also directed the use of new technology and commercial capabilities to meet steadily increasing demands of the customer base for trusted GEOINT with speed, accuracy, and precision—while working to keep ahead of the speed of change occurring in GEOINT inside and outside government and around the globe. The importance to the Nation—and the world—of the ability to utilize new commercial GEOINT capabilities has recently been made clear during Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. Vice Admiral Sharp also refocused investment in great power competition and emphasized the importance of assured positioning, navigation, timing, and targeting.

Throughout his tenure at NGA, Vice Admiral Sharp focused attention on a whole-of-enterprise approach by expanding and deepening relations with partners across the enterprise. In particular, he has fostered increased engagement with colleges and universities and promoted geographic literacy and STEM education in K–12 institutions. NGA has an active CRADA with the University of Virginia and open source intelligence partnerships with William and Mary University and Virginia Tech. NGA has also signed educational partnership agreements with Harris Stowe State University, a historically Black university in St. Louis; University of Missouri St Louis, the most diverse public research institution in the St Louis area; and Gallaudet University, in Washington, DC, the Nation's premier university for deaf and hard of hearing students. These initiatives are representative of Vice Admiral Sharp's career-long commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Vice Admiral Sharp's tenure at NGA was marked by strong leadership and dedication to mission. He inspired a workforce to remain committed to the mission while rapidly transforming with changes in technology and tradecraft during an unprecedented time in the history of the nation. His leadership of NGA and his decades of service to our country displayed honor, courage, and commitment. We congratulate Vice Admiral Sharp on his retirement and thank him for his service to our country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD B. GARONE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to thank and pay tribute to the service of Derry Police Chief Edward Garone.

For more than 50 years, Chief Garone has served with dedication and has worked to keep the people of Derry and people throughout the Granite State safe.

Throughout it all, Chief Garone has worked tirelessly to ensure public safety—the most fundamental task of any government—creating the stability necessary for our people, families, and economy, to thrive.

After bravely serving our country in the Marines, Chief Garone began his

career as a police officer in 1964 and eventually became captain. In 1972, he and his family moved to Derry, where he took on the role as police chief, a position that he has remained in for more than four decades, becoming one of the longest serving full-time police chiefs in the United States.

Chief Garone quickly became a valued member of the Derry community, even being named Derry's Citizen of the Year in 1984. And in addition to his work in uniform, he worked to improve Derry in a variety of ways, including as Rotarian and by volunteering with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Derry.

Above all, the chief has said that he has appreciated his many years in Derry because he enjoys helping people. And people across New Hampshire are indeed grateful for his commitment to service.

Chief Garone represents the very best of New Hampshire's law enforcement; he has lived his life in service to our country, and I have appreciated our work together. I join the people of Derry in thanking him, as well as his family, for all that they have done on behalf of the Granite State.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE MANNING

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Mike Manning of Penacook as May's Granite Stater of the Month. After a chance stop-by at the Open Door Community Kitchen, Mike Manning stepped up to volunteer and now even comanages the kitchen, which provides free meals to help individuals in need in the community.

When Mike saw a ''Free Meals'' sign outside the United Church of Penacook in 2015 and decided to venture in, he had no idea how much that decision would impact his life. Mike connected with the chair of Open Door Community Kitchen and learned about their mission of serving meals to communities in and around Penacook. Later that year, Mike became the kitchen's cochair, organizing volunteer shifts, food orders, and donations.

In his first years as cochair, Mike made sure that Open Door Community Kitchen provided three free sit-down meals a week, with extra food for people to bring home and last them the following days. Mealtimes provided a sense of camaraderie and togetherness among volunteers and attendees alike.

Yet when the COVID–19 pandemic began, Open Door Community Kitchen was hard hit. Many of the volunteers were older and started to stay home at the onset of the pandemic because of the risk to their health. With limited capacity, the kitchen had to reduce its three free meals per week to two. In addition, the dining hall space had to close, and Open Door transitioned to making to-go meals.

Nevertheless, Mike put every effort into making sure that Open Door Community Kitchen was able to keep running during the entire pandemic, never missing a week. Even with a skeleton staff and rising food prices, Mike has worked around the clock to continue serving meals. And now, he is working to restart Open Door's in-person meals, which provide an important sense of community.

Mike's efforts to serve his neighbors during a time of need and under unprecedented challenges are commendable. As Mike himself says, if everyone could just help each other, the world would be a much better place. His actions exemplify the best of the Granite State spirit of working together to support each other, no matter the obstacles, and we are lucky to have him in our midst.●

TRIBUTE TO GUS MACHADO

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I recognize and honor the life of Gus Machado, a long-time businessman and entrepreneur in Hialeah, FL, for his contributions to the south Florida community.

Mr. Machado was born in Cuba and moved to the United States at the age of 15, where he founded a vehicle export business. When the U.S. and Cuba broke ties in 1960 as part of the Cold War, Mr. Machado remained in his new home of Miami and built three more businesses that sold General Motors vehicles to inhabitants of Puerto Rico. During the 1980s, he began selling Buicks and Fords as well, and he eventually became the No. 1 Ford dealer in Miami-Dade County.

Mr. Machado's entrepreneurial legacy continues to employ and support the people of south Florida to this day. Moreover, he will be remembered for his charitable contributions, especially to St. Thomas University in Miami—where College of Business students study in the proudly named Gus Machado Building—as well as the American Cancer Society.

Mr. Machado's story is an inspiring example of the American Dream and a testament to the contributions of Cuban immigrants to South Florida. I admire his hard work and his commitment to his community and know that Mr. Machado's efforts will bear fruit for years to come. I send my deepest sympathies and condolences to the entire Machado family.●

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD B. GARONE

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to pay tribute to Edward B. Garone, a long-time law enforcement official in the Granite State. There are many reasons to salute Ed Garone, including an incredible 50 years as police chief of the Derry, NH, police department and an extensive record of local involvement. I join Chief Garone's colleagues and countless friends in thanking him for his tireless work and recognizing the qualities behind his many contributions and accomplishments: a humble desire to serve others and strengthen his community.

After a 3-year tour of duty in the U.S. Marine Corps, Chief Garone began his law enforcement career as a police officer in the Lebanon, NH, police department. He would serve the city of Lebanon for 7-and-a-half years, rising to the rank of captain, before accepting an offer in 1972 to become the chief of police in Derry, NH. At 29 years old, he moved with his young family—wife Blanche and children Vicky and Michael—to southern New Hampshire and planted roots in a community he would serve for the next five decades. A local newspaper noted at the time that he was ''an experienced officer with a lot of skill.''

Chief Garone would tap into these skills to guide the town of Derry through a variety of law enforcement challenges. He also managed considerable growth within his department and witnessed significant development in the community it serves. Derry's population has nearly tripled since the 1970s, and its police department expanded from roughly 20 full-time officers in 1972 to over 70 full-time and part-time personnel today. Chief Garone is their strongest advocate, always making sure his officers have the most current and effective equipment, technology, and training. He is also their loudest champion, and he's quick to deflect any compliment or praise toward his officers who share his belief of 'service above self.'

Chief Garone is a well-respected figure and sought-after voice in New Hampshire's law enforcement community. He has been on the board of directors of the Regional Information Sharing Systems—New England State Police Information Network for 17 years. He remains an active, 50-year member of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police and has served as its secretary for the past 32 years. So many of his fellow officers across the Granite State—from the longest serving chief to the newly-sworn-in patrol officer—look to Chief Garone for guidance, for leadership, and for encouragement as they work to keep our communities safe.

Chief Garone's service goes beyond all he has given and all he has accomplished at the Derry Police Department. He is involved in a number of community and charitable organizations. Chief Garone is a 45-year member of the Greater Derry Boys and Girls Club board of directors and a past president of the club. He is currently the longest serving member and former president of the Derry Rotary Club. He has led the Viviana Leon Memorial Foundation, a charitable foundation that provides funds each year to local groups. He is the current director of the Derry Veterans Assistance Fund, a nonprofit that seeks to improve the quality of life for local veterans. Chief Garone also serves on the board of directors for the Alexander Eastman Foundation and the Seacoast Child Advocacy Center. He even lends his time

and expertise to the public safety commission of his hometown of Bradford, VT.

Exhaustive research conducted by his colleagues concluded that Edward Garone is the longest serving full-time chief of police in the history of New Hampshire and quite possibly the entire country. This distinction is a testament to Ed's unwavering commitment to bettering his community and helping others. The Granite State and the many communities he has served are grateful for Chief Garone's many contributions and acts of selfless service. In the coming month, friends and fellow officers will gather to salute Ed and thank him for all that he has given to the town of Derry and the State of New Hampshire. I am with them in spirit as they honor this good and generous man.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

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

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

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1193. To amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, to establish a program under which the Director of the National Institutes of Health shall support or conduct research on valvular heart disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 46, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security relating to ''Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers'', and further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Ron Johnson, Roger Marshall, Ted Cruz, Mike Braun, John Kennedy, Rand Paul, Richard C. Shelby, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Lindsey Graham, John Thune, Josh Hawley, Roy Blunt, Mitch McConnell, Tom Cotton, James Lankford, Roger F. Wicker, Joni Ernst, Mike Lee, John Cornyn, Marsha Blackburn, Rick Scott, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, John Boozman, Cynthia M. Lummis, Marco Rubio, James M. Inhofe, Steve Daines, Tommy Tuberville, Thom Tillis.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on the Judiciary, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 46. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security relating to ''Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers''.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

H.R. 8. An act to require a background check for every firearm sale.

H.R. 1446. An act to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

H.R. 3807. An act to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to increase appropriations to the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3967. An act to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6833. An act to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish requirements with respect to cost-sharing for certain insulin products, 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–4210. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Nevada; Clark County Department of Environment and Sustainability'' (FRL No. 9527–01–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4211. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Redesignation of the Indiana Portion of the Chicago-Naperville Area to Attainment of the 2008 Ozone Standard, NOx RACT Waiver, and Serious Plan Elements'' (FRL No. 9567–01–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4212. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Redesignation of the Illinois Portion of the Chicago-Naperville, Illinois-Indiana-Wisconsin Area to Attainment of the 2008 Ozone Standard'' (FRL No. 9604–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4213. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: General Provisions; Technical Correction'' ((RIN2060–AU67) (RIN2060–AU66) (FRL No. 7523–03–OAR) (FRL No. 9751–01–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4214. A communication from the Director for Legislative Affairs, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a rule entitled ''National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations Revisions'' (RIN0331–AA05) received in the office of the President of the Senate on May 17, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–4215. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Medicare National Coverage Determinations for Fiscal Year 2021''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–4216. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Visa Inadmissibility Determination for Russian National Roman Abramovich''; to the Committees on Foreign Relations; and the Judiciary.

EC–4217. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of Basque Fatherland and Liberty (and other aliases) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (OSS–2022–0407); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–4218. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–403, ''Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4219. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–410, ''Reopen Washington DC Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4220. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–391, ''Advisory Neighborhood Commission Redistricting Deadline Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4221. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–392, ''Ban on Non-Compete Agreements Applicability Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4222. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–393, ''Urban Forest Preservation Stop Work Order Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4223. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–394, ''State Board of Education Membership Eligibility Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4224. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–395, ''Community Service Graduation Requirement Waiver Regulation Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4225. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–401, ''Law Enforcement Career Opportunities for District Residents Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4226. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–402, ''Medical Cannabis Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4227. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–404, ''Direct Cash Assistance Pilot Program Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4228. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–405, ''Local Business Enterprise Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4229. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–406, ''Lead Service Line Planning Task Force Interagency Plan Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4230. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–407, ''Rent Notice and Rent Increase Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4231. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–408, ''Criminal Code Reform Commission Executive Director Salary Establishment Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4232. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–409, ''Hotel Enhanced Cleaning and Notice of Service Disruption Temporary Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4233. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–389, ''Selective Service Federal Benefits Awareness Amendment Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4234. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24–390, ''Alice R. Washington Day Designation Act of 2022''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–4235. A communication from the Senior Counsel of Legal Policy, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustment for 2022'' (Docket No. OLP 172) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–4236. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fiduciary Bond'' (RIN2900–AR11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–4237. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program: Name Change'' (RIN2900–AR04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–4238. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Inclusion of the Space Force as Part of the Armed Forces'' (RIN2900–AR46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–4239. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Threshold for Reporting VA Debts to Consumer Reporting Agencies'' (RIN2900–AR20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–4240. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Informed Consent and Advance Directives'' (RIN2900–AQ97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–4241. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Extension of the Presumptive Period for Compensation for Gulf War Veterans'' (RIN2900–AR22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–4242. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Presumptive Service Connection for Rare Respiratory Cancers Due to Exposure to Fine Particulate Matter'' (RIN2900–AR44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–4243. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program'' (RIN2900–AR16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 18, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

S. 1687. A bill to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes.

S. 3564. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to Business Program, and for other purposes.

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

S. 3595. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARDIN, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with amendments:

S. 3906. A bill to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mrs. MURRAY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*LaWanda Amaker Toney, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Outreach, Department of Education.

*Rita M. Landgraf, of Delaware, to be Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Health and Human Services.

*Nasser H. Paydar, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

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

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Treat Doc. 117–1: Amendment to Montreal Protocol (''Kigali Amendment'') with 1 declaration (Ex. Rept. 117–2)

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (the ''Montreal Protocol''), adopted at Kigali on October 15, 2016, by the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (''The Kigali Amendment'') (Treaty Doc. 117–1), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Section 2. Declaration

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declaration:

The Kigali Amendment is not self-executing.

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 Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4301. A bill to reauthorize and improve the block grants for prevention and treatment of substance abuse; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 4302. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require prompt reports of marketing status by holders of approved applications for biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 4303. A bill to provide for a period of exclusivity for first interchangeable biological products; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 4304. A bill to prohibit unfair treatment of cadets and midshipmen who refuse to get the COVID–19 vaccine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 4305. A bill to limit the authority of the World Health Organization on the United States and to oppose amendments to the WHO Constitution that have not been approved by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 4306. A bill to support behavioral health integration into primary care practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 4307. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the ability of renal dialysis facilities to serve as originating sites for telehealth services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4308. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the definition of spouse and surviving spouse to include all individuals lawfully married, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4309. A bill to promote competition and reduce consumer switching costs in the provision of online communications services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 4310. A bill to allow employers to offer pension-linked emergency savings accounts for financial emergencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 4311. A bill to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide certain benefits to noncitizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4312. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the direct payment requirement on the exclusion from gross income of distributions from governmental plans for health and long-term care insurance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 4313. A bill to prohibit the use of the digital currency payment system operated by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 111

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 111, a bill to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 111, supra.

S. 304

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 304, a bill to provide targeted funding for States and other eligible entities through the Social Services Block Grant program to address the increased burden that maintaining the health and hygiene of infants and toddlers, medically complex children, and low-income adults or adults with disabilities who rely on adult incontinence materials and supplies place on families in need, the resultant adverse health effects on children and families, and the limited child care options available for infants and toddlers who lack sufficient diapers and diapering supplies, and for other purposes.

S. 629

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 629, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal agencies to submit to the Comptroller General of the United States a report on rules that are revoked, suspended, replaced, amended, or otherwise made ineffective.

S. 1079

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1079, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the troops from the United States and the Philippines who defended Bataan and Corregidor, in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service during World War II.

S. 1134

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1134, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick ''Roddie'' Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 1187

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1187, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to improve the administration of antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and for other purposes.

S. 1489

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1489, a bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 to establish an Inspector General of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and for other purposes.

S. 2753

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2753, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize lawful permanent resident status for certain college graduates who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

S. 3293

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3293, a bill to expand access of veterans to mental health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3607

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3607, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 3613

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3613, a bill to prohibit the housing of chimpanzees at installations of the Department of the Air Force.

S. 3635

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from

Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3635, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1986 to authorize public safety officer death benefits to officers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 3840

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3840, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the threshold for the de minimis exception for information reporting by third party settlement organizations.

S. 4057

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4057, a bill to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan for Federal electric vehicle fleet battery management, and for other purposes.

S. 4105

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4105, a bill to treat certain liquidations of new motor vehicle inventory as qualified liquidations of LIFO inventory for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 4109

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4109, a bill to authorize the development of a national strategy for the research and development of distributed ledger technologies and their applications, to authorize awards to support research on distributed ledger technologies and their applications, and to authorize an applied research project on distributed ledger technologies in commerce.

S. 4188

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4188, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 4228

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4228, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to immediately resume oil and gas lease sales, and for other purposes.

S. 4229

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4229, a bill to empower States to manage the development and production of oil and gas on available Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 4255

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4255, a bill to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.

S.J. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 46, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security relating to ''Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers''.

S. RES. 643

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 643, a resolution designating the week of May 15 through May 21, 2022, as ''National Police Week''.

S. RES. 646

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 646, a resolution expressing the Senate's support for Finland and Sweden's accession into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the expedited ratification of accession protocols.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 4302. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require prompt reports of marketing status by holders of approved applications for biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, the Food and Drug Administration's ''Purple Book'' provides patients, providers, and public health experts with key information about FDA-licensed biological products. Providers rely on accurate and up-to-date information from this searchable online database to make crucial decisions regarding the treatment of their patients. The ''Purple Book'' provides transparency on the availability of biological products. This can help inform public health decision-making and increase competition among manufacturers to lower prices. Improvements to the ''Purple Book'' clarifying when biological products leave the market would allow the FDA and the public to monitor the availability of these key medications.

That is why I am proud to join my colleagues, Senators MARSHALL, HASSAN, and CASSIDY, in introducing the Biologics Market Transparency Act, legislation that would extend to biological products certain reporting and transparency requirements that already exist for small molecule drugs. This is the Senate companion to legislation introduced by Representatives KATHY MANNING and RICHARD HUDSON in the House. It would require manufacturers of biological products to confirm that their products listed in the ''Purple Book'' are available for sale. This bill would also require manufacturers to report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services when their products are withdrawn from the market. These updates to the ''Purple Book'' would provide patients and providers with real-time access to changes in drug availability, allowing physicians to make informed decisions about the best treatment for their patients. These changes would also improve the ability of the FDA to respond to and anticipate drug shortages.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass these commonsense reforms to strengthen public health and increase transparency for patients and providers.

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

S. 4303. A bill to provide for a period of exclusivity for first interchangeable biological products; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, biologics, or complex large molecule drugs typically derived from living organisms, play a critical role in our healthcare system, treating a range of conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, and cancer. Yet spending on these products accounts for an alarming and significant portion of overall drug spending in the United States. In 2018, biologics accounted for 40 percent of spending on all prescription drugs, with spending on biologics growing twice as quickly as overall drug spending since 2015.

Biosimilars are drugs that are highly similar to existing biologics, and interchangeable biosimilars are biosimilars that can be substituted for a biologic product without the intervention of a healthcare provider. Biosimilars and interchangeable biosimilars can play a significant role in reducing drug spending. For example, Medicare Part D spending for both beneficiaries and the program is less than spending on reference biologic products even as the use of biosimilars increases with increased availability. As of April 2022, there were 33 biosimilar products on the market including interchangeable

biosimilar products. Food and Drug Administration, FDA, approval of additional interchangeable biosimilars could provide patients with more treatment options, increase competition, and lower costs. We must take steps to provide clarity around the FDA's review process for interchangeable biosimilars to facilitate development of these products, bringing them to market faster.

That is why I am proud to join my colleague, Senator COLLINS, in introducing the Interchangeable Biologics Clarity Act, legislation that would make key improvements in the FDA's review process for interchangeable biosimilars. Specifically, this bill would clarify the FDA's authority to tentatively approve a second or third interchangeable before the end of the first interchangeable's exclusivity period, allowing additional products to enter the market more efficiently when that exclusivity period ends. This legislation would also specify that two interchangeable biologics approved on the same day could share an exclusivity period. These provisions would allow the FDA to issue additional guidance around the review of interchangeable biologic products and ensure increased transparency about the exclusivity periods for interchangeable products.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass these important improvements to the FDA's biosimilar review process that will increase patients' treatment options and help foster competition.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5045. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 134, expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom that the President should work with the President of the European Commission to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the European Union.

SA 5046. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 134, supra.

SA 5047. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 134, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5045. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 134, expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom that the President should work with the President of the European Commission to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the European Union; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: ''That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should strengthen its close and mutually beneficial trading and economic partnership with the United Kingdom that takes into account, as relevant, conditions requiring that obligations under the Good Friday Agreement be met;

(2) the United States should strengthen its close and mutually beneficial trading and economic partnership with the European Union by working to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement;

(3) the President, in consultation with Congress, should work to conclude negotiations for such comprehensive trade agreements contingent upon an agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom that fully protects and preserves the Good Friday Agreement consistent with the sentiments expressed by the Senate in S. Res.117 (117th Congress); and

(4) the President, in consultation with Congress, should strive to reach mutually advantageous resolutions of commercial disagreements between the United States and the United Kingdom, including ending the Digital Services Tax on United States businesses and ensuring a satisfactory final resolution to the World Trade Organization large civil aircraft dispute.

SA 5046. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 134, expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom that the President should work with the President of the European Commission to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the European Union; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas, on March 5, 1946, Sir Winston Churchill delivered the Iron Curtain speech in Fulton, Missouri, solidifying the ''Special Relationship'' between the United States and the United Kingdom;

Whereas, since the end of World War II, the United States and the United Kingdom have been beacons of freedom to the world, standing together in the fight against tyranny;

Whereas the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom has driven economic prosperity and security cooperation in both nations for more than 70 years;

Whereas, according to ''Sterling Assets,'' a report from the Confederation of British Industry, the United States and the United Kingdom share the world's largest bilateral trade and investment relationship;

Whereas, while the United States and the United Kingdom already share a robust economic partnership and strong labor ties, there remain clear opportunities for both countries to further strengthen those ties;

Whereas the United States Trade Representative and United Kingdom Department for International Trade have engaged in substantive negotiations towards the conclusion of a comprehensive trade agreement since May 2020;

Whereas the United States seeks to support higher-paying jobs in the United States and to grow the United States economy by improving United States opportunities for trade and investment with the European Union;

Whereas the economic relationship of the United States and the European Union is the largest and most complex in the world, with over $1,100,000,000,000 in annual two-way trade;

Whereas the United States Trade Representative and the European Union have engaged in substantive negotiations toward the conclusion of a trade agreement;

Whereas the United States has historically acted as a guarantor of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, an agreement between the British and Irish governments, designed to protect peace in Northern Ireland by avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland;

Whereas Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, and President of the European Council Charles Michel signed the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement on January 24, 2020;

Whereas as part of the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement, in order to protect the Good Friday Agreement in the aftermath of the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union, the two parties agreed to the Northern Ireland Protocol; and

Whereas the constitutional power of making trade agreements with foreign nations rests with Congress: Now, therefore, be it

SA 5047. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 134, expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom that the President should work with the President of the European Commission to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the European Union; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: ''A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom that the President should work with the President of the European Commission to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the European Union.''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I have 10 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive session.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 11:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 11 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

The Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Alan Cox and Fatima Sierra-Vargas, fellows of my Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, be granted floor privileges for the duration of this Congress.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, May 26, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 371, H.R. 350, Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 350; that if cloture is not invoked, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 396, S.J. Res. 46; that the joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; that upon disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the Bernicat nomination, as under the previous order; that the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, 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. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:17 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

RACHEL BLOOMEKATZ, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE R. GUY COLE, JR., RETIRING.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

THOMAS E. BROWN, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MICHAEL S. YEAGER.

STEPHEN D. LYNN, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOHN CARY BITTICK, TERM EXPIRED.

THE JUDICIARY

DORIS L. PRYOR, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE DAVID F. HAMILTON, RETIRING.

FLORENCE Y. PAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT, VICE KETANJI BROWN JACKSON, ELEVATED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROY W. MINTER, JR., OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE DAVID L. LYONS, TERM EXPIRED.

BRIAN A. KYES, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOHN GIBBONS, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID W. ABBA
BRIG. GEN. CHARLES E. BROWN, JR.
BRIG. GEN. JOEL L. CAREY
BRIG. GEN. JULIAN C. CHEATER
BRIG. GEN. DARREN R. COLE
BRIG. GEN. HEATH A. COLLINS
BRIG. GEN. DOUGLAS S. COPPINGER
BRIG. GEN. DANIEL A. DEVOE
BRIG. GEN. STEVEN G. EDWARDS
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL A. GREINER
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN F. JOST
BRIG. GEN. JOHN M. KLEIN, JR.
BRIG. GEN. DANIEL T. LASICA
BRIG. GEN. BENJAMIN R. MAITRE
BRIG. GEN. CAROLINE M. MILLER
BRIG. GEN. JOHN P. NEWBERRY
BRIG. GEN. EVAN L. PETTUS
BRIG. GEN. BRADLEY L. PYBURN
BRIG. GEN. MARK B. PYE
BRIG. GEN. DAVID J. SANFORD
BRIG. GEN. JENNIFER M. SHORT
BRIG. GEN. DAVID W. SNODDY
BRIG. GEN. ALICE W. TREVINO
BRIG. GEN. PARKER H. WRIGHT

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

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. LEAH G. LAUDERBACK

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) PAMELA C. MILLER

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 25, 2022:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

HENRY CHRISTOPHER FREY, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

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.

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

SANDRA L. THOMPSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

THE JUDICIARY

EVELYN PADIN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY.

CHARLOTTE N. SWEENEY, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JANE HARTLEY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 7

3 p.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining
To hold hearings to examine S. 387, to protect, for current and future generations, the watershed, ecosystem, and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon region in the State of Arizona, to provide for a study relating to the uranium stockpile in the United States, S. 1264, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the management of grazing permits and leases, S. 1412, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Carson City, Nevada, S. 1750, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, S. 2254, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain streams in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and Smith River system in the State of Montana as components of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 2568, to establish the Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Data Program, S. 2708, to provide for greater consultation between the Federal Government and the governing bodies and community users of land grant-mercedes in New Mexico, to provide for a process for recognition of the historic-traditional uses of land grant-mercedes, S. 2980, to authorize the voluntary donation of grazing permits and leases in the State of New Mexico, S. 2996, to provide for the distribution of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues to the State of Alaska, S. 3046, to codify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain landscape-scale forest restoration projects, S. 3129, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River system in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, S. 3144, to establish the Sutton Mountain National Monument, to authorize certain land exchanges in the State of Oregon, to convey certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Oregon to the city of Mitchell, Oregon, and Wheeler County, Oregon, for conservation, economic, and community development purposes, S. 3200, to authorize the relinquishment and in lieu selection of land and minerals in the State of North Dakota, to restore land and minerals to Indian Tribes within the State of North Dakota, to conserve the Little Missouri National Grasslands, S. 3269, to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 3370, to release the reversionary interest of the United States in certain non-Federal land in Salt Lake City, Utah, S. 3404, to provide the consent of Congress to an amendment to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, S. 3644, to require the collection of certain data relating to Bureau of Land Management land acquisitions, S. 3709, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out vegetation management projects and timber production projects on certain National Forest System land in the States of Montana, South Dakota, and Wyoming, S. 3997, to amend the Land Between the Lakes Protection Act of 1998 to clarify the administration of the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, S. 4062, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize the sale of certain Federal land to States and units of local government to address housing shortages, S. 4080, to modify the boundary of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument to include certain Federal land in Lake County, California, and S. 4227, to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units.
SD–366

JUNE 8

10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Annie Caputo, of Virginia, and Bradley R. Crowell, of Nevada, both to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
SD–406

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the path forward on U.S.-Syria policy, focusing on strategy and accountability.
SD–419/VTC

JUNE 13

5:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.
SR–232A

JUNE 14

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.
SD–562

11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.
SR–232A

2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.
SR–232A

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.
SD–562

5 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Seapower
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.
SR–232A

5:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.
SR–232A

JUNE 15

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.
SR–222

JUNE 16

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023.

SR–222

JUNE 22

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine Toxic Substances Control Act amendments implementation.

SD–406

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2675–S2711

Measures Introduced: Thirteen bills were introduced, as follows: S. 4301–4313. **Page S2708**

Measures Reported:

S. 1687, to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 3564, to amend the Small Business Act to codify the Boots to Business Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 3595, to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to create a centralized website for compliance guides.

S. 3906, to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, with amendments. **Page S2707**

Measures Passed:

Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 767, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Fulton Street in Middletown, New York, as the "Benjamin A. Gilman Post Office Building". **Page S2679**

Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 1170, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 League in Irvine, California, as the "Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building". **Page S2679**

Patsy Cline Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 1444, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 132 North Loudoun Street, Suite 1 in Winchester, Virginia, as the "Patsy Cline Post Office". **Page S2679**

Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building: Senate passed S. 2932, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the "Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building". **Page S2679**

Ron Wright Post Office Building: Senate passed S. 3825, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3903 Melear Drive in Arlington, Texas, as the "Ron Wright Post Office Building". **Page S2679**

Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building: Senate passed S. 3826, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1304 4th Avenue in Canyon, Texas, as the "Gary James Fletcher Post Office Building". **Page S2679**

Arturo L. Ibleto Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 735, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 502 East Cotati Avenue in Cotati, California, as the "Arturo L. Ibleto Post Office Building". **Page S2679**

Technical Sergeant Marshal Roberts Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 1298, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1233 North Cedar Street in Owasso, Oklahoma, as the "Technical Sergeant Marshal Roberts Post Office Building". **Page S2679**

D. Edwina Stephens Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 2324, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2800 South Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the "D. Edwina Stephens Post Office". **Page S2679**

Jeremy L. Ridlen Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 3579, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 East Main Street in Maroa, Illinois, as the "Jeremy L. Ridlen Post Office". **Page S2679**

Corporal Jeffrey Robert Standfest Post Office Building: Senate passed H.R. 3613, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 202 Trumbull Street in Saint Clair, Michigan, as the "Corporal Jeffrey Robert Standfest Post Office Building". **Page S2679**

Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Jackson French Post Office: Senate passed H.R. 4168, to designate

the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6223 Maple Street, in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Jackson French Post Office". **Pages S2679–80**

Free Trade Agreement with the United Kingdom and European Union: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 134, expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom that the President should work with the President of the European Commission to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement between the United States and the European Union, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2698–99**

Schumer (for Lee) Amendment No. 5045, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2698**

Schumer (for Lee) Amendment No. 5046, to amend the preamble. **Page S2699**

Schumer (for Lee) Amendment No. 5047, to amend the title. **Page S2699**

Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, May 26, 2022, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 350, to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:30 a.m.; that if cloture is not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 350, Senate resume consideration of S.J. Res. 46, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security relating to "Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers", and vote on passage thereon; and that following disposition of S.J. Res. 46, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, to be Director General of the Foreign Service, Department of State, and vote on confirmation thereon at 1:45 p.m. **Page S2711**

Executive Reports of Committees: Senate received the following executive report of a committee:

Report to accompany Amendment to Montreal Protocol ("Kigali Amendment") (Treaty Doc. 117–1) (Ex. Rept. 117–2). **Pages S2707–08**

Gomez Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor. **Page S2696**

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

By 47 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 206), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2696**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time be considered expired on the nominations of Lisa M. Gomez, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, Chavonda J. Jacobs-Young, of Georgia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics, and Amy Loyd, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Department of Education, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, or his designee, following consultation with the Republican Leader. **Page S2696**

Jacobs-Young Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Chavonda J. Jacobs-Young, of Georgia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. **Pages S2696–98**

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

By 89 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 207), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2696**

Wainstein Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kenneth L. Wainstein, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security, be withdrawn; and that Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, or his designee, in consultation with the Republican Leader. **Page S2696**

Loyd Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Amy Loyd, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Department of Education. **Page S2698**

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

By 54 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 208), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2698**

Harper, Bagenstos, Huie, Baker, and Hartley Nominations—agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Todd M. Harper, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, Samuel R. Bagenstos, of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services, Robert Steven Huie, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Shalanda H. Baker, of Texas, to be Director of the Office of Minority Economic Impact, Department of Energy, and Jane Hartley, of New York, to be Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, be withdrawn; and that Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, or his designee, following consultation with the Republican Leader. **Page S2698**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 51 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 200), Evelyn Padin, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. **Pages S2680–81**

By 48 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 201), Charlotte N. Sweeney, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado. **Page 2681**

By 49 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 203), Sandra L. Thompson, of Maryland, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years. **Pages S2678, S2681–85**

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

By 48 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 202), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2681**

By 51 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 205), Henry Christopher Frey, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. **Pages S2686–96**

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

By 51 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 204), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2685–86**

Jane Hartley, of New York, to be Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. **Page S2699**

By 48 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 209), 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. **Page S2700**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Rachel Bloomekatz, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Thomas E. Brown, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Stephen D. Lynn, of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Doris L. Pryor, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Florence Y. Pan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Roy W. Minter, Jr., of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Brian A. Kyes, of Massachusetts, to be United States Marshal for the District of Massachusetts for the term of four years.

25 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral. **Page S2711**

Measures Referred: **Page S2706**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S2677, S2706**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2706–07**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S2707**

Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27: **Page S2703**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2708–09**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S2709**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2704–06**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S2710**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2710–11**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2711**

Record Votes: Ten record votes were taken today. (Total—209) **Pages S2680–81, S2685–86, S2695–96, S2698, S2700**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 10:17 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 26, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2711.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: FBI

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2023 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after receiving testimony from Christopher A. Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

APPROPRIATIONS: USAID

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2023 for the United States Agency for International Development, after receiving testimony from Samantha Power, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development concluded a hearing to examine the Department of Agriculture's Rural Housing Service, including S. 2092, to permanently authorize the Native Community Development Financial Institutions lending program of the Department of Agriculture, after receiving testimony from Xochitl Torres Small, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 4101, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training and guidance relating to human rights abuses, including such abuses perpetrated against the Uyghur population by the Government of the People's Republic of China;

S. 4109, to authorize the development of a national strategy for the research and development of distributed ledger technologies and their applications, to authorize awards to support research on distributed ledger technologies and their applications, and to authorize an applied research project on distributed ledger technologies in commerce, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4217, to ensure transparent and competitive transportation fuel markets in order to protect consumers from unwarranted price increases, with amendments;

S. 4237, to establish and maintain a coordinated program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that improves wildfire, fire weather, fire risk, and smoke related forecasting, detection, modeling, observations, and service delivery, and to address growing needs in the wildland-urban interface, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 4246, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to provide grants related to advance air mobility infrastructure, with amendments.

WATER AND POWER LEGISLATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine S. 737, to establish a Federal cost share percentage for the Milk River Project in the State of Montana, S. 953, to provide for drought preparedness and improved water supply reliability, S. 1179, to provide financial assistance for projects to address certain subsidence impacts in the State of California, S. 1554, to make certain irrigation districts eligible for Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program pumping power, S. 2334, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a grant program to provide grants on a competitive basis to eligible entities for large-scale water recycling and reuse projects, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make certain modifications to the Cooperative Watershed Management Program, to provide emergency drought funding, S. 2693, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to authorize additional projects related to the Salton Sea, S. 3450, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain facilities in the Sun River project, Montana, for the purpose of hydroelectric power generation, S. 3539, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out watershed pilots, S. 3693 and H.R. 5001, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to continue to implement endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, S. 3971, to amend the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 to modify a provision relating to cost-sharing requirements applicable to certain Bureau of Reclamation dams and dikes, S. 4175, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, S. 4176, to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to modify the eligibility requirements for certain small water storage and groundwater storage projects and to authorize the use of funds for certain additional Carey Act projects, S. 4231, to support water infrastructure in Reclamation States, and other purposes,

S. 4232, to address the recovery of certain costs with respect to certain Reclamation facilities in the Colorado River Basin, S. 4233, to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to provide for critical maintenance and repair of certain Bureau of Reclamation reserved or transferred works, and S. 4236, to provide for a national water data framework, to provide for the water security of the Rio Grande Basin, to reauthorize irrigation infrastructure grants, after receiving testimony from Senators Tester, Feinstein, and Padilla; and Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.

NOMINATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Casey, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

JCPOA NEGOTIATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the JCPOA negotiations and United States' policy on Iran moving forward, after receiving testimony from Robert Malley, Special Envoy for Iran, Department of State; and Karim Sadjadpour, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and Mark Dubowitz, Foundation for Defense of Democracies, both of Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

S. 4000, to require the establishment of cybersecurity information sharing agreements between the Department of Homeland Security and Congress, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4128, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to provide certain information with respect to unimplemented priority recommendations as part of the Comptroller General's annual reporting to Congress, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4166, to authorize preparedness programs to support communities containing technological hazards and emerging threats, with an amendment;

S. 471, to allow Members of Congress to opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System, and allow Members who opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System to continue to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan;

S. 4057, to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan for Federal electric vehicle fleet battery management, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3905, to prevent organizational conflicts of interest in Federal acquisition, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4167, to improve performance and accountability in the Federal Government;

S. 3552, to provide an increased allocation of funding under certain programs for assistance in areas of persistent poverty, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1116, to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to create a presumption that a disability or death of a Federal employee in fire protection activities caused by any of certain diseases is the result of the performance of such employees duty, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4205, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to establish a working group relating to best practices and Federal guidance for animals in emergencies and disasters, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4243, to establish the Department of Homeland Security Trade and Economic Security Council and the position of Assistant Secretary for Trade and Economic Security within the Department of Homeland Security, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4254, to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to clarify a provision relating to certain contents of registrations under that Act;

H.R. 5343, to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to Congress on case management personnel turnover of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

H.R. 2142, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 170 Manhattan Avenue in Buffalo, New York, as the ''Indiana Hunt-Martin Post Office Building''.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of LaWanda Amaker Toney, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Communications and Outreach, and Nasser H. Paydar, of Indiana, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, both of the Department of Education, and Rita M. Landgraf, of Delaware, to be Assistant Secretary for Aging, Department of Health and Human Services.

NOMINATION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Roselyn Tso, of Oregon, to be Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, after

the nominee testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Sarah A.L. Merriam, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Court Judge for the Second Circuit, who was introduced by Senators Murphy and Blumenthal, Lara E. Montecalvo, of Rhode Island, to be United States Circuit Court Judge for the First Circuit, who was introduced by Senator Whitehouse, Tiffany M. Cartwright, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, who was introduced by Senator Murray, Nina Nin-Yuen Wang, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, who was introduced by Senator Bennet, and Steven M. Dettelbach, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, who was introduced by Senator Brown, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House is scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 27, 2022.

Committee Meetings

SUPPORTING CAREERS IN CONSERVATION: WORKFORCE TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry held a hearing entitled ''Supporting Careers in Conservation: Workforce Training, Education, and Job Opportunities''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 MEMBER DAY HEARING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2023 Member Day Hearing''. Testimony was heard from Representative Luria.

TACKLING TEACHER SHORTAGES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''Tackling Teacher Shortages''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a budget hearing on the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Testimony was heard from Deanne Criswell, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 MEMBER DAY HEARING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2023 Member Day Hearing''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Allen, Cloud, Mrvan, Porter, Stansbury, Stanton, and Van Drew.

DEFENSE HEALTH AND MEDICAL READINESS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled ''Defense Health and Medical Readiness''. Testimony was heard from Lieutenant General R. Scott Dingle, Surgeon General of the U.S. Army; Rear Admiral Upper Half Bruce L. Gillingham, Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy; Lieutenant General Robert I. Miller, Surgeon General of the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force; Seileen Mullen, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Department of Defense; and Lieutenant General Ronald J. Place, Director, Defense Health Agency.

APPROPRIATIONS—U.S. SECRET SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a budget hearing on the U.S. Secret Service. Testimony was heard from James Murray, Director, U.S. Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security.

THE INFANT FORMULA CRISIS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''The Infant Formula Crisis''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 MEMBER DAY HEARING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2023 Member Day Hearing''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Baird, Brown of Ohio, and Schrier.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration''. Testimony was heard from Douglas Parker, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor; and Thomas Costa, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office.

FORMULA SAFETY AND SUPPLY: PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF AMERICA'S BABIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Formula Safety and Supply: Protecting the Health of America's Babies''. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Health and Human Services officials: Robert M. Califf, M.D., Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration; Frank Yiannas, Deputy Commissioner, Food Policy and Response, Food and Drug Administration; and Susan Mayne, Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration; and public witnesses.

REAUTHORIZATION AND REFORM OF THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development and Insurance held a hearing entitled ''Reauthorization and Reform of the National Flood Insurance Program''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION FUND: REWRITING OUR IT LEGACY

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled ''Technology Modernization Fund: Rewriting our IT Legacy''. Testimony was heard from Raylene Yung, Executive Director, Technology Modernization Fund, General Services Administration; Gary Washington, Chief Information Officer, Department of Agriculture; and David Hinchman, Acting Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity, Government Accountability Office.

Joint Meetings

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine supporting Ukrainian refugees, focusing on United States policy and visa issuance, after receiving testimony from Dana Francis, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration; Marek Magierowski, Ambassador of Poland to the United States; and Irina Manelis, Manelis Law, PLLC.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D545)*

H.R. 7691, making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Ukraine for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022. Signed on May 21, 2022. (Public Law 117–128)

H.R. 7791, to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to establish waiver authority to address certain emergencies, disasters, and supply chain disruptions. Signed on May 21, 2022. (Public Law 117–129)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine opportunities and challenges facing farmers, families, and rural communities, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2023 for the Navy and Marine Corps, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of General Christopher G. Cavoli, USA for reappointment to the grade of general and to be Commander, United States European Command and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine the Ninth Summit of the Americas, 9 a.m., SD–106.

Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 4171, to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, S. 1160, to prioritize efforts of the Department of State to combat international trafficking in covered synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, S. 3211, to continue the whole-of-government approach to ending global wildlife poaching and trafficking by permanently reauthorizing the activities of the Presidential Task Force on Wildlife Trafficking, S. 3861, to require the Secretary of State to submit annual reports to Congress on the assistance provided to Somaliland and to conduct a feasibility study, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, on establishing a security partnership with Somaliland, without recognizing Somaliland as an independent state, S. 3895, to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2024, H.R. 4250, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for rewards for the arrest or conviction of certain foreign nationals who have committed genocide or war crimes, H.R. 6089, to clarify that section 107 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act applies sanctions with respect to unmanned combat aerial vehicles following a 2019 change by the United Nations providing additional clarity to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, H.R. 7276, to direct the President to submit to Congress a report on United States Government efforts to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence and information related to war crimes and other atrocities committed during the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine since February 24, 2022, S. Con. Res. 40, welcoming the Prime Minister of Greece to the United States for an address to a joint meeting of Congress, S. Res. 124, celebrating the heritage of Romani Americans, S. Res. 394, recognizing the 25th anniversary of Radio Free Asia and its mission to provide an independent source of news to closed societies in Asia, S. Res. 458, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Children's Fund, S. Res. 540, supporting the goals of International Women's Day, S. Res. 568, supporting the goals and ideals of "Countering International Parental Child Abduction Month" and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction, S. Res. 589, recognizing, honoring, and commending the women of Ukraine who have contributed to the fight for freedom and the defense of Ukraine, S. Res. 638, commending the Government and people of the Republic of Moldova for their heroic efforts to support Ukrainian refugees fleeing President Putin's illegal war against Ukraine, S. Res. 646, expressing the Senate's support for Finland and Sweden's accession into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the expedited ratification of accession protocols, the nominations of Mari Carmen Aponte, of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Panama, Michelle Kwan, of California, to be Ambassador to Belize, and Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, all of the Department of State, and routine lists in the Foreign Service, 11 a.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine infant formula crisis, focusing on addressing the shortage and getting formula on shelves, 10:30 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 3635, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1986 to authorize public safety officer death benefits to officers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder, and the nominations of Nancy G. Abudu, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Julianna Michelle Childs, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Ana Isabel de Alba, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Nusrat Jahan Choudhury, and Natasha C. Merle, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, John Z. Lee, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Salvador Mendoza, Jr., of Washington, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Stephen Henley Locher, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa, Nancy L. Maldonado, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, and Gregory Brian Williams, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware, 9 a.m., SR–325.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2023 Public Witness Day", 10 a.m., Zoom.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled "Defense Environmental Restoration", 12 p.m., Zoom.

Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Manufactured Housing: Supporting America's Largest Unsubsidized Affordable Housing Stock", 1:30 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Congressional Budget Office's Budget and Economic Outlook", 11 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education", 12 p.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, hearing entitled "Legislative Hearing To Protect Consumers and Strengthen the Economy", 12 p.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Digital Assets and the Future of Finance: Examining the Benefits and Risks of a U.S. Central Bank Digital Currency", 12 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, hearing entitled "The State of the Transportation Security Administration", 2:30 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled "A Review of the Decadal Strategy for Planetary Science and Astrobiology 2023–2032", 10 a.m., Zoom.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, May 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: After the transaction of any morning business, Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 350, Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 11:30 a.m.

If cloture is not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 350, Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res 46, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security relating to ''Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers'', and vote on passage thereon.

Following disposition of S.J. Res. 46, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat, of New Jersey, to be Director General of the Foreign Service, Department of State, and vote on confirmation thereon at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, May 27

House Chamber

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

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