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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. You laid the Earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths. Each day, we receive the showers of Your blessings. Thank You for listening to our prayers and for keeping us safe. Thank You for giving us hope even when life seems covered by shadows.

Lord, continue to sustain our Senators. Give them wisdom and courage to do their duty. Keep them humble, and help them to trust You completely.

We pray in Your matchless 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, December 14, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

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

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of S.J. Res. 60, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S.J. Res. 60) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Final Priorities, Requirements, Definitions, and Selection Criteria—Expanding Opportunity Through Quality Charter Schools Program (CSP)—Grants to State Entities (State Entity Grants); Grants to Charter Management Organizations for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (CMO Grants); and Grants to Charter School Developers for the Opening of New Charter Schools and for the Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools (Developer Grants)".

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 5244

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5244) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2023, extending various health programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION—Continued

### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, Chairman LEAHY, Ranking Member SHELBY, and Chairman DELAURO announced that the appropriators have agreed to a framework for an omnibus agreement that will fully fund the Federal Government in fiscal year 2023. This is welcome and important news. Congress now has a roadmap for funding the government before the conclusion of the 117th Congress—something the large majority of us want to see. We still have a long way to go, but a framework is a big step in the right direction.

A yearlong omnibus is by far the best option we have for making sure our kids, our senior citizens, our veterans, our small businesses, our military members, our defense, and all of the families who benefit from this don't

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



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see vital government services lapse or shrink. It means we can fully implement the investments secured. We fought so hard for the PACT Act; we have to fund it. We fought so hard for the CHIPS and Science Act; we have to fund it. A CR will not fund these bills, but an omnibus agreement will. And they were all bipartisan, with large support from both sides of the aisle.

An omnibus bill is also a balanced approach because it will contain wins that both sides want to see, like the Electoral Count Act and funding for our friends in Ukraine. If we can come to an agreement on an omnibus, I am optimistic that these bills, which are so important to Democrats and Republicans alike—the ECA and funding for Ukraine—can become law.

But before we pass a funding bill, we also must ensure the government doesn't first shut down, so we are going to have to pass a 1-week continuing resolution ASAP. The House is set to act on a 1-week CR as soon as tonight, and when that bill comes to the Senate, we should be ready to act quickly, as soon as tomorrow if we can.

The appropriations process, of course, is not over. So the responsible and prudent thing to do right now is to pass a 1-week CR quickly, without the unwelcome brouhaha that has provoked shutdowns in the past.

And, remember, as we go through this appropriations process, the experiences of the last decades show that those who risk shutdowns in order to make political points always lose in the end.

NANCY PELOSI

Mr. President, now, on Speaker PELOSI, later this afternoon, I will have the honor—the bittersweet honor—of joining with congressional leaders, past and present, to unveil the official portrait of my dear friend and a great leader, Speaker NANCY PELOSI. Every year, millions come to the Capitol to learn about our democracy and to put a face to the names of history. They walk these halls and see the portraits of Speakers from ages past—Sam Rayburn, Tip O'Neill, and so many others. But after today—after today—the faces of those male leaders will forever be joined by Madam Speaker.

So today is a happy day to celebrate an amazing public servant who had an amazing career. But it is also a chance to say thank you to a dear friend and a beloved colleague.

Leader to leader, I will always admire Speaker PELOSI for an important quality that has set her apart: She always keeps her caucus united behind a common goal. She keeps repeating over and over again, and has for 20 years: Our unity is our strength. That is what she always has said. I have and will continue to repeat the same to my caucus.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Today is December 14. The Senate Republicans have spent months—literally months—begging our Democratic colleagues to stop fiddling with partisan nonsense and focus on two core things: the NDAA and government funding.

I have been talking about the need for a strong National Defense Authorization Act all year long—all year long. I am glad we are finally going to wrap up the basic governing duty that we have in the next few days.

With respect to government funding, I was glad to hear Senator SHELBY announce yesterday evening that negotiators have reached a bipartisan, bicameral framework for a full-year government funding bill.

Long-term continuing resolutions cheat our Armed Forces out of the resources and the certainty that our commanders and civilian leaders need to keep modernizing our forces, investing in crucial weapons, and outcompeting adversaries such as China.

I am glad that our Democratic colleagues finally accepted reality and conceded to the Republican position that we need to prioritize our national security.

Republicans simply were not going to lavish extra liberal spending on the Commander in Chief's own party as a reward for adequately funding our national defense. It simply wasn't going to happen. Funding defense is a basic, bipartisan duty of our government, not something that earns Democrats special treats.

As Senator SHELBY stated last night, this framework agreement doesn't mean the hard work is over; it means the hard work can finally start. It will take seriousness and good faith on both sides to produce actual legislation that follows the framework.

Poison pills, especially far-left demands to overturn longstanding and commonsense policy riders will need to stay away from the process. And even then, the calendar will still make this a challenging sprint. Our side has made it clear that the Senate has until December 22 to complete either a full-year funding bill or a short-term CR into early next year. That is the deadline, and those are the two options.

If a truly bipartisan full-year bill without poison pills is ready for final Senate passage by late next week, then I will support it, for our Armed Forces particularly. Otherwise, we will be passing a short-term continuing resolution into the new year.

INFLATION

Mr. President, now on a different matter, against the backdrop of punishing 13.8 percent cumulative inflation since January 2021, an open borders crisis, spiking deaths from drug overdoses, and surging violent crime from coast to coast, President Biden has decided that his A-1 priority needs to be—listen to this—cracking down on charter schools and harming the edu-

cational opportunities available to millions of low-income students in the process.

Charter schools have long injected a huge dose of choice and competition into the schooling options available to low-income Americans and communities of color. This became especially true and especially important back during the pandemic.

Big Labor teachers unions spent the entire pandemic forcing government-run public schools to keep their doors shut long after private schools, parochial schools, and schools across Europe were all back operating safely in person.

Charter schools became a haven. They offered an escape rope out of the learning loss for kids who would otherwise have been left behind. No wonder that, according to one analysis, charter school enrollment has surged since the pandemic started, even as public school enrollments have fallen off.

But, sadly, whenever kids' best interests and Big Labor's pocketbooks come into conflict, we know where most of today's Democratic Party will come down. The Biden administration has dutifully written a harsh new regulation that would intentionally chip away at the Federal charter schools program and strip funding from many public charter schools. President Biden and his team are trying to force charter schools to conform to a whole new set of top-down, one-size-fits-all rules that the teachers unions want to be forced onto their competitors.

The Democrats' rule is designed to hamstring charter schools and leave them more reliant on government bureaucracies in everything from what they teach to how kids get to school in the morning. Perhaps worst of all, they want charter schools' Federal funding to be heavily contingent on whether the Democrats' Federal bureaucracy agrees there is a "need" for their existence.

This is a plan to take options away from parents, to take opportunities away from kids, to take choice away from families, and to transfer that power directly to Big Labor bosses and Big Government bureaucrats—yet another example of Democrats' trying every trick to make end-runs around parents' rights in education, stripping power away from parents, and handing it over to the bureaucrats.

So I want to commend the Senator from South Carolina, Senator TIM SCOTT, for bringing forward a Congressional Review Act resolution to right this wrong. I would urge every Member of the Senate to put families first and vote for Senator SCOTT's commonsense resolution.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. 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.

REMEMBERING SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, many of us in Connecticut and throughout the Nation awoke today with a heavy heart, with grief still so raw that we could almost touch it.

I wish I could tell you that 10 years ago to this day was a blur. I wish I could tell you that the memory of that day has dimmed. I wish I could tell you that the knife-like sorrow and pain has subsided. But the fact is, it is still raw and real for so many of us in Connecticut, this day 10 years ago.

My mind goes back to the horrors of this day, and I think that reliving it reminds us of the need to honor those 26 lives with action. It is still searingly and scarily vivid—the voices, the faces, the unforgettable moments of that tragedy, as we stood at the firehouse in Sandy Hook and saw parents and loved ones emerge after learning that their children or loved ones—beautiful babies and great educators—would not be coming home that night; parents with their faces frozen in shock and sorrow, struggling through tears; police and first responders bent with disbelief and grief; townspeople, loved ones feeling helpless and hopeless.

And at the wakes and funerals that followed, what we saw was a town and a State that rallied together—but still the searing sorrow of those losses and also the determination that was expressed that night at St. Rose of Lima Church to turn that grief and sorrow into something positive.

As I recall very vividly, at one of the wakes, I approached a mom who had just lost her child and said: When you are ready, I would like to talk about what we can do to stop this kind of gun violence. And she looked at me through her tears and said: I am ready. I am ready now.

That is the spirit that Sandy Hook and Newtown brought to the world as the world watched them. And many of them, not all, but many turned that grief and loss into advocacy. They came here to the Capitol. They asked us to do something about gun violence. They spoke to colleagues. They crusaded. They sought to improve the background check system that all too often allows people who are dangerous to have weapons, people who should be separated from their guns or prevented from having them in the first place.

And they were in this Gallery, many of them, when the vote on that background check bill failed. It received 60 votes, but it failed—it received less than 60 votes, so it failed. It received a majority but not the 60 votes that it needed.

And from the Gallery I heard then and I still feel that it echoes in this Chamber: Shame. Shame on you.

And, indeed, shame on us for the 10 years afterward when no action came from this body.

In the last decade, they have continued that crusade. They have helped to form a movement. They have been joined by tens of thousands of others in a movement to change the law, to turn that trauma and loss into positive social change and reform, and they have helped create a movement—organizations like Giffords and Newtown Action Alliance, Sandy Hook Promise, Moms Demand Action, Students Demand Action, the Newtown Action Alliance, Connecticut Against Gun Violence, many of them coming here and working year after year.

That episode and others like it—the scourge of gun violence—have given rise to that movement.

And through that decade, literally 41,000 Americans have died every year. One million Americans in total have been shot. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death among American children and teens. Every day, eight children and teens are unintentionally or accidentally injured or killed due to an unlocked or unsupervised gun.

But the survivors and the loved ones have become the difference makers, and they have been joined by law enforcement and parents, teachers, medical professionals, activists and advocates who have said to us: Enough is enough. And their determination and courage, their conviction, that momentum has created a different trajectory, a different climate of opinion in this country so that now a majority of Americans want commonsense, sensible controls on gun violence.

So the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act was not an accident of history; it was the culmination of a movement that is still growing and spreading in its influence and impact.

And there is no minimizing the importance of the measure that we passed with strong bipartisan support last August. It improves the background system. It closes the boyfriend loophole. It helps stop gun trafficking. It adopts the concept of red flag statutes, intervention in crisis, separating people from guns when they are going to kill themselves or others or at least tell people they are going to do it.

And that red flag or emergency risk protection order movement is one that we in Connecticut initiated. We were the first to pass that statute. And I have worked with Senator GRAHAM and others in bipartisan expansion of that proposal, and it is already helping to save lives. In Florida, it has saved countless lives, in Connecticut—in the 19 States where there are red flag statutes. And the act as a whole is helping to save lives.

As my colleague Senator MURPHY, who will speak shortly, has said, the reforms on the background check system alone have helped to save lives, and I credit him with his leadership in passing that measure.

And yet—and yet—the deaths continue. We know that that measure was

not the single solution or the panacea that will solve the problem of gun violence, the scourge, the epidemic of gun violence deaths in this country.

We have broken the grip of the gun lobby. The NRA is a shadow of itself, and we have a movement that is growing in importance and impact, but there is so much more to be done in the law. We need Ethan's Law, safe storage, such as we have done in Connecticut, strengthened red flag and emergency risk protection order statutes, better background check systems to make them more complete and better enforceable, and, yes, ban on assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, ghost guns, which are the scourge of law enforcement.

And so I say to the advocates and activists who are continuing this movement: We will continue that work. We will honor with action the lives which are lost not only in Sandy Hook but all around this country, day after day, in drive-by shootings, in crimes, and criminal assaults in domestic violence.

Just in this past month, a brave young woman, Julie Minogue, was lost in Connecticut to domestic violence, where a protective order should have helped to save her life.

And we owe our police more support and resources to enforce those protective orders and to take action against gun violence. They are unsung heroes. And in the wake of Sandy Hook, many of them experienced trauma and mental health challenges that still linger with them. On this day, we should remember and commemorate and celebrate the service of our police and, yes, our teachers who also, every day, have to do the drills and experience the fear and apprehension for themselves and their students.

They are also unsung heroes of Sandy Hook and afterward; and parents who have to explain why they have that apprehension and why their children have to prepare for those drills; our medical professionals in the emergency room who see this trauma and the death and injury day in and day out.

They are doing their jobs. Our teachers are doing their jobs. Our police are doing their jobs. Parents are doing their jobs. Congress is not doing its job. Thank you to them for doing their job. Congress must do its job to strengthen our laws and prevent gun violence.

And there is a new generation of activists and advocates coming along. The young woman who spoke at the vigil last Wednesday night and introduced President Biden—a survivor of Sandy Hook—is just one example; March For Our Lives, emanating from Parkland. All of the young people who are demonstrating that positive energy that is so critically important in advancing this movement, they are showing awe-inspiring hope and grace. Junior Newtown Action Line is another example.

The community of Sandy Hook has responded with dazzling strength and

courage. That community has not only rallied around the loved ones who have experienced unspeakable loss, but they have helped to support the charitable and nonprofits that those families formed in the wake of those losses.

They have truly chosen love, those families. Many of them have established foundations and nonprofits that benefit music, art, education, scholarships for students, animal sanctuaries.

I have worked with the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement, started by Scarlett Lewis; the Sandy Hook Promise organization, started by the Hockley and Barden families; the Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation; Ben's Lighthouse; the Emilie Parker Art Foundation; the Vicki Soto Memorial Fund, which just a couple of weeks ago had a run in Stratford, a 5K, to benefit the great work that it is doing on scholarships; the Avielle Foundation; and the Ana Grace Project. The list goes on. It is a part of this story because Sandy Hook is the story not only of social change and legal and legislative reform, but it is also an intensely personal story about grace and grit, about courage and strength, and about a personal dedication to making good come out of the unimaginable horror and evil on that day.

Sandy Hook in Connecticut is also the story about peacekeepers—a new generation of peacekeepers, young people who are dedicated in Hartford through the Compass Youth Collaborative, graduates of the Brother Carl Hardrick Institute, who are determined to try to prevent violence and reach out to others of their age and stop gun violence before it begins by enlisting others in peacekeeping and intervention.

That is also the result of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, because the investment of \$15 billion in mental health and crisis intervention and community organization is, at the end of the day, a critical part of stopping gun violence.

The survivors club, as someone has said, is one that no one wants to join. This survivors club of gun violence is a network that no one wants to be a part of personally. And yet, as long as the violence continues, there will be survivors and loved ones, like the great and graceful families of Sandy Hook.

As our heart goes out to them on this day, we should keep in mind and in our hearts the need to honor with action—continuing action. They are doing their job. Police, teachers, medical professionals, parents, all of the professionals are doing their jobs. Congress must do its job. The time is for action—more action now.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Connecticut, who has been such a champion in this effort, Senator MURPHY.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, Jimmy Greene and his wife Nelba lost a daughter in Sandy Hook. Jimmy said this,

leading up to the 10-year mark of the shooting in Newtown that we are commemorating today:

There is a saying in our culture that “time heals all wounds,” but I wouldn't say that is true in my case.

Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have been down here on December 14 for 9 years in a row. Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have given hundreds of speeches on this floor in the intervening days and months, in between those anniversaries, talking about what happened in Sandy Hook and trying to compel our colleagues to action. But there is nothing that we can say that explains through words the feeling of cataclysmic loss when you lose a child—a 6-year-old or a 7-year-old or an 18-year-old or a 19-year-old.

Senator BLUMENTHAL and I were there at the firehouse in Sandy Hook that day. There are a lot of days when I wish I hadn't heard and seen the things that I saw and heard that day. But we were voyeurs. We were interlopers. There is no way that we can understand what those families are going through today, as the pain still feels, for many, as acute as it did 10 years ago.

So Senator BLUMENTHAL and I think it is important to come down here and honor the memory of those children and those six educators every year on December 14. But I also know that there is nothing that I can do with words to explain to you how different the community of Sandy Hook is and how those lives will never, ever be the same.

I guess I come to this day every year with two emotions. One is of just deep sorrow, just to think about who those kids were going to become. Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have gotten to learn so much about these kids. I know more about those 20 6-year-old kids than I probably know about any other set of 6-year-old kids other than my own when they were that age over the course of my lifetime, and I love those kids. I see the genius in them. They were already doing such miraculous things, showing such kindness and such talent. And to think that those kids today would be preparing for college, deciding where they wanted to open up their next chapter, to think of what has been stolen from this world.

My sorrow is also due to the fact that, well, this Nation is different today than it was before Sandy Hook. The country now compels us to action. There are groups all over the country dedicated to trying to change the laws of this country to make a Sandy Hook less likely.

This was all happening before Sandy Hook. Sandy Hook was the first shooting of little kids in a school of this size. But a few weeks after Sandy Hook happened, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I went to do a community meeting in the north end of Hartford, and there we met parents of children who had been killed on the streets of Hartford who were furious, and even more furious

after Sandy Hook. They told us: Nobody can relate to those families in Sandy Hook more than we can. We lost children just like they lost children, but why did this country wait until Sandy Hook to open their eyes to the epidemic of gun violence that exists every single day, whether or not it hits the headlines?

So my sorrow today is for what we lost 10 years ago today, for the genius and the talent that was extinguished from this Earth—those kids and those educators, those teachers. But also my sorrow today is for the fact that it took Sandy Hook to wake this country up to what had been happening in front of us every single day.

And to really understand the gravity of Sandy Hook, you can't just think about those kids. That is the worst part of this, by leaps and bounds. But there are survivors. There are children who witnessed those shootings. There are family members who experienced deep trauma. There are first responders who will never be the same after having to sort through that carnage.

Sandy Hook is a window into the particular grief that comes with losing someone to gun violence, especially someone young, but also the broad sweeping trauma that comes with a shooting of 20 or 1.

That is the important thing to understand today, as well—that our love needs to go to those families, first and foremost, but also to the community of Newtown. But so must it go to the broader experience of gun violence.

I live in Hartford, CT. I live in the South End of Hartford, a neighborhood adjacent to the South End of Hartford. I hear every night the sirens and police cars and ambulances whizzing by my house. I went to a middle school—actually, to a K–8 school. I met with middle schoolers at this school just down the street from my home a few weeks ago, just to kind of talk to these kids about what they wanted to change about the neighborhood we live in.

Do you know what they wanted to talk to me about? They wanted to talk to me about their walk to and from school. They wanted to talk to me about how dangerous it is for them to walk from their house to the school that they go to and how every single day they are experiencing a trauma that many people who grow up in the suburbs or rural areas of this country will never experience once in their life. But these kids experience it every single day.

That is the true story of American gun violence, not just those who lose their lives but this much bigger universe of millions of individuals who experienced trauma either through the loss, through the firsthand experience of gun violence, or through the daily threat of gun violence.

And so my pain is for what we lost that day. My pain is for the delayed reaction of this country in waking up to this epidemic. My pain is for the broader community of kids and individuals

who have to live with the consequences of our inaction.

But I just simply want to underscore something Senator BLUMENTHAL said as well. I also come to this day with a lot of joy, a lot of joy for what we have found that lies inside each of us. Out of Sandy Hook came kindness and grace. Senator BLUMENTHAL rattled off a list of not-for-profit organizations, charitable causes that have sprung forth from those families in Sandy Hook; the amount of money that has been raised to try to make people's lives better in big ways and small ways. I come to this day with a lot of gratitude for the community of Sandy Hook for deciding to take that awful tragedy and turning it into something wonderful.

There are small, little charities that started out of Sandy Hook based upon the passions of those kids—kids who loved art or who loved animals. There are now charitable organizations that give more kids—especially more underserved kids—access to art and experience with animals. There are big organizations that are seeking to change the culture of schools to make sure that you don't have situations in which individuals who are going through mental illness or trauma find themselves isolated and ostracized in the way that many mass shooters become.

So there is so much important work that is happening based off of that loss. I have joy for that. I do. I do.

I also have gratitude for all the people who have stepped up and have been part of this movement to change the laws of this country.

I get it that people didn't see results here for 10 years until this summer. But Senator BLUMENTHAL and I and others, and Senator DURBIN, who have been working on this issue for a decade, we saw that small but meaningful progress every single year. Every single year, a couple more partners, especially on the Republican side, were willing to talk to us about change.

All of a sudden, it became a little bit more likely that we would finally pass something. Then, finally, this summer, almost 10 years to the day of the tragedy at Sandy Hook, we passed the most significant anti-gun violence measure in Congress in 30 years.

I got a briefing from the Department of Justice, as did Senator TILLIS and Senator CORNYN, just a few weeks ago, and we were shown evidence that this law that we passed collectively was already saving lives. We were given cases in which individuals who would have gotten a gun, who were in crisis, who were contemplating violence did not get a gun because of the law that we passed together. What we have done isn't enough, and it doesn't absolve us of the responsibility to do more, but it is saving lives.

This day, for me, comes with gratitude and joy for all of the people all across this country, especially those people in Newtown who decided to be part of this movement which allowed us to pass legislation this summer,

which is, as we speak, saving lives all around this country.

My sorrow and my joy that I bring to this day, you know, is through my perspective as the Representative of Newtown. I was the Congressman for Newtown for 6 years. I had just been elected to the Senate about a month prior when Sandy Hook happened.

It is also due to my perspective as a parent. My kids are amongst this generation that has grown up knowing nothing except for the threat of a mass shooting. I will never forget my kindergarten, who is now a fifth grader, coming home and telling me about his first active shooter drill. He didn't exactly know what it was, right? He was 5 years old.

He said: Dad, my teacher told us all to go to the bathroom today—all of us, all 26 of us. She packed us into the bathroom.

He described the fact that they were standing in the bathroom, all tight together like sardines, and he said: She told us we were practicing for what would happen if a bad man came into our building, and she told us to stay there and be quiet for as long as we could.

He didn't really know what it was, but he knew enough to say to me this: Daddy, I didn't like it.

My older son texted a few weeks ago to tell us that his school was in a lockdown because of a shooting outside. For 2 hours, those kids sat in that school until they were released. I mean, my kids, I think, are proud of the fact that their dad comes to work every day and tries to solve this epidemic, but there is no way to really calculate what this generation of kids is losing every single day by living in fear.

I think what we did this summer really helped, though. I say that honestly. Some people say it is not enough; that you have to go further. But what we communicated this summer to those kids and the parents is that we care. Our answer isn't nothing, right?

As much as I experience this as a father, I also know that we have made progress and that that progress has been logistical and practical but that it has also been metaphysical; it has been emotional. What we did this summer just gave the kids of this country and the parents of this country a little bit of a feeling that we are going to be there for them and, hopefully, more in the future.

So I am grateful to be on the floor with my colleague today in commemorating everything that we lost at Sandy Hook and in thanking the community members of Sandy Hook for standing up and showing the world the best part of that community.

I am grateful to my colleagues this year for turning a page, for turning a corner in our obligation to keep our kids safe. Senator BLUMENTHAL and I will be here for the 11th anniversary and the 12th and the 13th and, hope-

fully, we will have more progress to discuss and we will have more positive change brought to this country by the families of Sandy Hook.

Robbie Parker and his wife lost their little daughter, Emilie. Emilie was so cute. She was 6 years old when she died.

Robbie said this: We have learned how to hold on to two things. We can enjoy the things that make us happy—Robbie says about his family, the Parkers—and we can also carry the pain of losing someone and the sorrow that comes with that.

It is OK to feel both things today. It is OK to feel pain for what happened at Sandy Hook, but don't let that consume you, because the Parkers aren't letting it consume them.

Jimmy Greene will tell you that time has not healed his wounds, but I know Nelba and Jimmy. I know that they bring a lot of joy every day.

So feel pain today; feel sorrow; think about those families, but, man, bring some life and some grace. Make a decision that, in your world, you are going to honor those kids' and those adults' memories with some action because, I guess, that is what I think about most today. I am sad for what we have lost, but I am also inspired and hopeful for all of the grace and the kindness that has grown out of this tragedy.

I also realize that, maybe more than anything else today, we should recognize that nothing in our lives that we love should be taken for granted. It can all disappear in an instant. So show that daily grace and kindness that is necessary to communicate to your loved ones, to your friends, to your communities that you don't take them for granted.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. 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.

#### ELECTORAL COUNT REFORM ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in 2022, as America approaches its semiquincentennial of the independence of our Nation, the United States of America stands at a crossroads.

Disturbingly, since the January 6 insurrection of our Capitol which sought to block the peaceful transfer of power after a free and fair election, a growing number of Americans believes that violence against government can be justified, according to recently polling. We have witnessed a disturbing rise of threats against law enforcement officials from various domestic violent extremist groups as well as threats and intimidation against public officials, such as school board officials and election workers, who are simply doing their jobs. We must condemn acts of violence from all corners and prosecute

those who seek to harm public officials to the fullest extent of the law.

We also witnessed the rise of election deniers in the 2022 midterm elections who repeated the Big Lie that the 2020 election was stolen and who pledged their loyalty to a particular candidate or ideology instead of the rule of law.

We have seen a rise of violent actions—a rise of anti-Semitism, a rise of hate crimes—and it is very much connected to the assault on our democratic institutions. All of us must be defenders of the democratic institutions, which are the bedrock of America.

As we saw in the 2020 elections, different interpretations of the Electoral Count Act of 1887 can lead down a dangerous path, such as when former President Donald Trump and his enablers attempted to overthrow a free and fair election won by President Joe Biden, leading to the January 6 insurrection at the Capitol. We were there. We were in harm's way. We know exactly how violent that group of insurrectionists was.

President Trump's latest outrage is to talk about suspending the Constitution because he lost the election. Free and fair elections and the peaceful transfer of power are fundamental to who we are as a nation.

For this reason, several months ago, I joined a bipartisan working group of, roughly, 20 Senators to make urgent changes to our Presidential election processes. I am pleased that, in July of 2022, our group reached a bipartisan agreement to modernize the Electoral Count Act, ECA, of 1887 and to make other needed changes to improve the Presidential transition process.

Our bipartisan working group's legislative proposal, the Electoral Count Reform Act, clarifies the appropriate State and Federal roles in selecting the President and Vice President of the United States. It makes it easier for Congress to identify a single, conclusive slate of electors from each State, in part, by requiring States to follow the rules they set before the election when designating their electors.

We reiterate that the Vice President has a purely ceremonial function in the mandatory joint session of Congress to count the electoral votes. This was in direct response to President Trump's pressure campaign against Vice President Mike Pence to throw out the electoral votes from certain States, which enabled and led to the January 6 insurrection and attack on the Capitol.

We also increase the threshold needed to lodge objections against electoral votes to lessen the chance of frivolous objections in the future.

Our legislation also has a strong provision for expedited Federal judicial review to resolve legal challenges more efficiently before the electoral college meets to cast its votes.

I particularly want to thank Senators SUSAN COLLINS and JOE MANCHIN for leading this effort as well as the other working group members: Sen-

ators PORTMAN, SINEMA, ROMNEY, SHAHEEN, MURKOWSKI, WARNER, TILLIS, MURPHY, CAPITO, YOUNG, COONS, and SASSE. This is how the Senate should operate.

Our working group made several additional, useful recommendations as part of the Presidential Transition Improvement Act and Enhanced Election Security and Protection Act. This legislation would strengthen Presidential transitions, improve the U.S. Postal Service's handling of election mail, stiffen criminal penalties for those who threaten or intimidate election officials, and reauthorize the Election Assistance Commission.

The Election Assistance Commission helps administer grants to States and provides the best practices for election officials in various areas, including cyber security, election audits, and voting accessibility.

I am pleased that the Senate Rules Committee promptly held a hearing on our legislative proposal and that our legislation has been endorsed by a broad and diverse coalition of public interest groups.

In particular, I want to thank Chair KLOBUCHAR and Ranking Member BLUNT for making this proposal earlier this year and marking it up in their committee. I am pleased that the Senate Rules and Administration Committee reported out the legislation by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 14 to 1 in September 2022. The committee made improvements in the legislation—again, that is how the process should work—under the leadership of Senators KLOBUCHAR and BLUNT.

I am also pleased that the legislation has been cosponsored by our leaders, Leader SCHUMER and Leader MCCONNELL.

It is now time for the Senate to act. Our legislation, S. 4573, now has a strong bipartisan mix of 37 cosponsors.

We must enact these reforms this month, before the 118th Congress convenes in 2023. We all know that the Presidential election cycle starts early, and we must make sure that this law is enacted before we start in 2023.

As my dear friend the late Congressman John Lewis said, "Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part."

I urge every Marylander and American to get involved. Stand up for our democratic system of government and the rule of law.

Congress should act now to make sure that the lawful and rightful winner of the 2024 Presidential election is ultimately certified as the winner by the States and Congress. We cannot fail in this solemn duty to do everything we can to prevent another insurrection like we saw on January 6. We showed how fragile our democracy really is. We have an obligation to defend it together, as we continue our great American experiment with a democratic republic that serves as a beacon of freedom and human rights throughout the world.

With that, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

REMEMBERING SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 10 years ago today, when I first heard the news, I couldn't believe it. Then, as I heard the details and learned of what had happened in Connecticut, I thought to myself, This is the moment. This shooting is so outrageous and horrible, this is the moment when finally America will come to grips with the reality of gun violence.

What I am referring to, of course, is the Sandy Hook Elementary School. It was 10 years ago today that 20 beautiful little children and 6 teachers and staff were murdered in a classroom at this grade school. I thought, This was it. All of the gun violence and all the gun deaths notwithstanding, this will do it. It is the tipping point. America will come to the honest reality that gun violence is unacceptable and will do something about it.

Other nations have done something. Other nations have had incidents like this, maybe even fewer victims, and they have decided to change their nation's laws. They have done so, and they made their nation safer because of it.

We are gathering here this morning at the request of Senator CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut to remember what happened 10 years ago. Senator MURPHY was with the families of Sandy Hook, as was Senator BLUMENTHAL, when they learned of the children's fate.

Can you imagine being the parent of one of these little kids and being asked to wait in a building across the street while they looked at the remains of these children and tried to identify them with their parents? I don't know if I would ever recover from that as a parent or a grandparent.

Senator MURPHY and Senator BLUMENTHAL tried to give the families comfort. I can't imagine that assignment. They both have brought much more than sorrow to this cause. Since that shooting 10 years ago, they have brought a fierce resolve to do something about it and to end the horrific carnage of gun violence in America.

This has been an important year for gun safety in this Congress. After the racism-fueled mass murders at a grocery store in Buffalo, NY, after the slaughter of 19 little children and 2 teachers in their elementary school in Uvalde, TX, Congress passed the most significant gun safety law in 30 years: the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. And the Senate did something that hadn't been done for 7 years: We actually confirmed a Director for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. That is a position the gun lobby had fought to keep open and unfilled for 7 years. We have a man on the job now. So we have made some progress, but we have a lot more to do. The American people want us to do more.

It is hard to say, in this great Nation that we have been blessed to live in, that we are the only—only—Nation on Earth that accepts these horrifying levels of gun violence on a daily basis and mass shootings. A mass shooting is a shooting where at least four and sometimes more people are shot or killed.

Many times, because of the repetition of this horrific conduct, we think it is inevitable, unpreventable, and we in America shrug our shoulders and say: That is what happens in the United States of America. Just in the category of fatal shootings in schools, kindergarten through 12th grade schools, how many fatal shootings have taken place in America in those schools in the 10 years since Sandy Hook? There have been 189—189 school shootings since Sandy Hook in America.

Gun violence is now the leading cause of death of American children. Think about that for a second—the leading cause of death. Every year, more than 3,000 children and teens die by firearms—3,000 a year—another 15,000 are wounded, and more than 3 million American children are exposed to gun violence every year. For many of these kids, the trauma of seeing friends, parents, siblings, classmates shot may result in lifelong damage to their physical, mental, and emotional health. That is what trauma does to the survivors.

This past June, 2 weeks after their 10-year-old daughter Lexi was murdered at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Kimberly and Felix Rubio testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. In their testimony, Lexi's mom Kimberly issued a prophetic warning. She said:

There's a mom listening to our testimony thinking, I can't imagine the pain that family is going through, not knowing that our pain will one day be their pain unless we do something.

While school massacres and other mass shootings tend to capture the Nation's attention, there are tens of thousands of Americans who die every year from the daily toll of gun violence, and many of these deaths barely make the news, they are so commonplace in modern America. They die in suicides, gun accidents—alone or in small groups—domestic disturbances, gang disputes, and crossfire.

There is no corner of the country that hasn't been impacted by the gun violence epidemic. Some of the politicians like to point and say: Oh, Chicago has got all of the problems. Sadly, that is not the case. We all face these problems. There are many so-called red States that vote on the other side politically that have terrible gunshot and violence statistics. It affects red States and blue States, big cities, suburbs, small towns, rural areas—you name it. America is awash in guns and gun violence.

So far this year in the city of Chicago, so far, 2,718 shootings have taken

place. According to the Chicago Sun-Times tracker, 88 of those killed by guns in Chicago this year were children.

Last Sunday, I was at a vigil in the Hyde Park section of Chicago at Augustana Lutheran Church. We come together each year to pray for an end to this gun violence, but we know in our heart of hearts that prayer is not enough. I believe the Good Lord expects us to pray but expects us to take action, too.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, has held 11 hearings on gun violence in these last 2 years. We have heard from a lot of witnesses. One I remember was Ernest Willingham from the West Side of Chicago. After the Cabrini-Green housing project towers were torn down, Ernest and his family moved to the west side of town. Before he was 17, Ernest Willingham's father, brother, and cousin had all been shot. A few years ago, he lost his best friend to a stray bullet.

Despite the horror around him, Ernest became the first in his family to go to college. He is now a premed student at Northeastern University in Boston. He has been accepted to medical school.

Ernest said that when he grew up, young people “attend a lot more funerals than weddings,” and parents “live in constant fear that their [kid] will be the next” victim.

Since Sandy Hook, millions of Americans have advocated to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and people with mental instability and to protect their kids, but the gun lobby has worked to put more guns in more hands across America.

Many gun manufacturers and sellers have launched aggressive marketing campaigns for their deadly guns.

One of the more notorious ads showed a photo of an assault weapon—this is a military-style weapon—with the words under it “Consider your man card reissued.” The assault rifle in that ad is a Bushmaster XM-15, the same kind of semiautomatic assault rifle used to commit that mass murder at Sandy Hook Elementary School. “Consider your man card reissued.”

Another ad showed soldiers in combat with the words “Use what they use.” Use the same weapons that soldiers and marines use in combat, but use them here in America. The ad came from the company called Daniel Defense, the manufacturer of one of the semiautomatic assault rifles used to murder those 19 little kids and teachers in Uvalde.

It gets worse. AR-15s and AR-style weapons have become the weapons of choice for mass shooters.

This is an ad for a JR-15, a junior model of the AR-15. It is 20 percent smaller and lighter. It is designed for children—children—under the age of 18.

Look at the logos in this ad. I hope you can see it. They are also on the weapon. This gun manufacturer uses cartoon skulls sucking on pacifiers to

try to hook children on using military-style assault weapons.

If I made that statement without this ad, you would say: Durbin is making up a lie. That can't be true. They really want to sell these guns to adults to give to little kids, and they have them festooned with these images that children will find interesting?

On July 4 this year, a 21-year-old with a Smith & Wesson AR-15 military-style rifle went up on a rooftop during a Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, IL.

Now, Highland Park, IL, is one of these idyllic suburbs, a beautiful little place, wonderful families, a great community. And a Fourth of July parade is like a rite of passage. You take your kids out to see the flags, hear the bands, and enjoy every single moment of it.

This Fourth of July that we just witnessed was different. Up on top of the roof, he pulled out his AR-15. He fired off 83 rounds in less than a minute. Don't tell me about good shooters with guns, good guys with guns that stop bad guys. There were good guys with guns all over the place, in uniform, with firearms by their side. What could they do in the 60 seconds when he fired off 83 rounds? Nothing to stop him. That gunman killed seven people and injured dozens more.

Fourth of July parade, Highland Park, IL—he left a little 2-year-old boy, Aiden McCarthy, an orphan. He killed his mother and his father. He paralyzed an 8-year-old boy with a bullet that severed his spine.

The Fourth of July attack in Highland Park was the 309th mass shooting in America in 2022. Do you know how many we have had since the Fourth of July? We have gone from 309 on the Fourth of July to 627 mass shootings in the United States of America this year.

Not every shooting is committed with an assault weapon, but if a gunman wants to cause mass harm, assault weapons are the weapon of choice. And you ought to see, if you haven't already, the “60 Minutes” segment of what happens to the human body when it is hit with a bullet from one of these guns. It doesn't pass through neatly and cleanly. It does damage inside the body which is almost impossible to repair.

Doctors know the harm these bullets cause when they tear through the flesh. They don't just pierce bones and organs; they pulverize them.

I will make it clear: I support banning these military-style assault weapons from civilian use. We have banned them before, and I voted for that. It saved lives. It is time to ban them again.

Military assault weapons belong in the hands of the military, not in the hands of an 18- or 19-year-old on a roof in Highland Park, firing off 83 rounds in less than 60 seconds.

One other point: Federal law gives the firearms industry broad and unjustifiable immunity from civil liability. I am embarrassed to say that the

laws of the United States protect the manufacturers of these weapons from liability. There may be a way around that, and I hope there is. Firearm manufacturers should not have a license to recklessly peddle high-powered killing machines to those who shouldn't have them. They should be held accountable.

Every other product in America is held accountable. Why do guns get off the hook?

The brave families of Sandy Hook took assault weapon manufacturers to court for their marketing practices. The families prevailed, leading to a landmark settlement earlier this year.

Congress should do more to allow victims of gun violence and negligence to seek justice in our courts. If naming and shaming won't cause the gun industry to act responsibly, a day in court just might.

As we mark the grim anniversary of that devastating day 10 years ago in Newtown, CT, we have got to recommit ourselves to do more—more to protect our kids, more to prevent mass shootings, more to reduce the daily toll of shootings in our homes and neighborhoods. Our work is not done. Families across America are counting on us. Let's do something. Let's stop this carnage in America.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 4330

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, in a moment, I intend to put forward a unanimous consent request to pass my bipartisan bill with our colleague from Utah, Senator LEE, entitled the Protect Reporters from Excessive State Suppression Act, also known as the PRESS Act.

Before I make the unanimous consent request, I want to take just a few minutes to talk about why our colleague from Utah Senator LEE and I feel this legislation is so important, and I will start with the basic proposition behind the legislation.

If you don't have a free press, you don't have a democracy. My dad was a journalist. After fleeing the Nazis, he came to this country, taught himself English, worked in our Army developing propaganda that we dropped on the Nazis. He believed deeply in individual freedom and in press freedom and would always tell me: Ron, they go hand in hand.

If you want to see what happens when governments undermine and eliminate the free press, look at Russia, look at Saudi Arabia, look at Iran. Information became a tool of power, abuse, and manipulation. That is what governments do when they want to keep freedom from breaking out in their countries. And so they abuse power rather than promote education, expression, and enlightenment among the countryside and the people.

So—let's be clear—the threat of government overreach interfering with the free press in the United States is not some distant, far-off, hypothetical

idea. It happened very recently. The Trump administration spied on several journalists at outlets the disgraced ex-President personally disliked and attacked, grabbing phone and email records. The extent of this abuse of power has come out in shocking revelations over the last few years.

And let me emphasize, the Trump administration was not the first to do this sort of thing. Both the Trump administration and the Obama administration went too far in prosecuting journalists just for doing their jobs.

Now, Members of the Senate talk pretty frequently about their interest in protecting journalism in America. My view is the bipartisan PRESS Act is the best opportunity we have to make progress on that goal before the Congress ends—and we all hope that that is fairly shortly.

The PRESS Act would protect the free flow of information by shielding journalists from being ordered by the courts to give up their sources. The bill includes key exceptions, such as when that information is necessary to prevent an act of terrorism against the United States or necessary to prevent the threat of imminent violence. Those exceptions were very important to Senator LEE and me.

I see our colleague here from Arkansas. He and I serve on the Select Committee on Intelligence, so we know about the importance of protecting our country against terrorism.

This legislation is very similar to legislation already on the books in several States, including my home State of Oregon and Senator LEE's home State of Utah. It is our view, though, that these protections should extend from sea to shining sea in our great country.

Now, I will close by saying this is a proposal that brings both sides together. The House passed the PRESS Act a few months ago unanimously. And I think our colleagues would agree that sometimes these days it seems you can't get every Member of the House to even agree that there are 24 hours in a day and 7 days in a week, yet they passed our bill unanimously.

This is a can't-miss opportunity to protect the free press in America. It is good for the free flow of information. It is good for holding government accountable, and it is good for the democratic ideals on which this country was founded.

And I will just close by saying that if you read the writings of the Founding Fathers, it was almost as if they thought a free press was as important, if not more so, than government. That is how strongly they felt.

Let's pass this unanimous consent request when we make it, and let's send the PRESS Act to the President's desk today.

And I will now ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4330 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consider-

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Reserving the right to object—and I will—I want to make a few brief remarks here about why I object to the passage of this bill, the so-called PRESS Act, which would open a floodgate of leaks damaging to law enforcement and our Nation's security.

The press, unfortunately, has a long and sordid history of publishing sensitive information from inside the government that damages our national security. During the Vietnam war, the New York Times published the Pentagon Papers in an effort to demoralize the American people and turn them against the war effort.

During the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the press routinely revealed details about America's efforts to hunt down terrorists, details that helped our enemies cover their tracks and evade justice.

These leaks were reckless and harmful to our national security. Yet the PRESS Act would immunize journalists and leakers alike from scrutiny and consequences for their actions. This bill would prohibit the government from compelling any individual who calls himself a journalist from disclosing the source or substance of such damaging leaks.

This effectively would grant journalists special legal privileges to disclose sensitive information that no other citizen enjoys. It would treat the press as a special caste of crusaders for truth who are somehow set apart from their fellow citizens.

But that is not how the law historically has treated journalists. Our laws have always made clear that journalists can be held criminally liable for what they publish. In the Pentagon Papers case itself, a kind of holy grail for the liberal media, Justice White wrote the press is on "full notice of the position of the United States and must face the consequences if they publish" material damaging to our national security.

So while prior restraints were ruled out, consequences for violating the laws of our country remained necessary, and they remain necessary today as well because, moreover, if recent history has taught us anything, it is that too many journalists these days are little more than leftwing activists who are, at best, ambivalent about America and who are cavalier about our security and about the truth.

For instance, as the publisher of the New York Times during the Pentagon Papers case, Arthur "Punch" Sulzberger, wrote:

I am not sure that what we offer the Vietnamese peasant or what their own leaders offer them is any better than what the communists offer.



Think about that for a minute. The publisher of the New York Times, whose family still controls it today, couldn't see a difference between us—the United States—between Democratic Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Baines Johnson and Ho Chi Minh, a murderous, communist butcher. This is the kind of person we would be giving special legal privileges to that no other citizen enjoys.

Supporters of this bill insist that it is necessary to grant journalists this special kind of immunity in order to “preserve the free flow of information to the public.” But, of course, there are many legal avenues that whistleblowers can use to air their concerns about potential government misconduct.

In the executive branch, they can go to their Agency's inspector general. They can also go to the Office of Special Counsel, and, of course, they can go to the proper oversight committee here in Congress. Put differently, there is no shortage of legitimate and legal avenues for whistleblowers to unveil potential government misconduct. But this bill would allow any disgruntled bureaucrat, totally unaccountable to democratic processes, to circumvent these legitimate channels and go straight to the press, relying on the highly questionable judgment and unaccountable judgment of these bureaucrats and reporters alone to determine whether America's most sensitive secrets should be revealed.

And, finally, quite aside from all these grave concerns, this bill hasn't been through the Senate's usual process for debating and refining legislation. And, as I have explained, it shows. It hasn't been through regular order. There have been no hearings, no markups, or even a previous effort to pass the bill on the floor, to my knowledge.

This bill needs to be thoroughly vetted before we take such a drastic step to ensure that we don't open a floodgate of damaging leaks to our national security.

Therefore, Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I think the fact that there has been an objection here is very unfortunate. I am just going to briefly respond.

Our colleague from Arkansas has talked about the exceptions that are made in this bipartisan bill. And I would only say that the exceptions to make sure we can protect our country to deal with national security in this bill were strong enough to get the support of 435 Members of the House of Representatives.

I look at the President of the Senate, and he and I were in the other body. And sometimes, you would think you couldn't order a 7UP over there. But the fact is, it got the support of every Member of the House of Representatives—all 435—because they thought the exceptions made sense here.

Second, my colleague from Arkansas said that this was somehow giving special status—special protection—to the press in America. That is not accurate. This gives the press the kind of protection I believe the Founding Fathers would have supported because I have read their writings and saw what they had to say about the press and have already noted it.

And then our colleague seemed to make the case that this was somehow for liberal journalists—not for journalists for moderates and conservatives—for liberal journalists. The legislation extends to people in the press across the political spectrum. There are no special fast-track arrangements for people of one philosophy or another. And that was something that was especially important to me.

I mentioned in my remarks my dad, who fled the Nazis, taught himself English, and served in our Army. And he worked—particularly, after his service—writing historical nonfiction. He wrote a very important book about the Bay of Pigs where he highlighted what really happened. And what I enjoyed so much about my dad's book and what happened afterwards, the first person to call my dad, because, he said, Peter—my dad was Peter Wyden—you are writing the truth about what happened, was the late Congressman Henry Hyde of Illinois, one of the most conservative Members of the other body. And he and my dad struck up a fast friendship over the phone because they were interested in the facts. And that is what journalists do: They get the facts out.

So I think it is unfortunate there has been an objection here on all of these points. These issues were considered by the other body. And 435 Members of the other body said: This is important for our country. This is important for getting the facts out to the American people—unvarnished information, not information from the left, center, or right—unvarnished information.

I just want to close by saying we are going to be back on this floor. We are going to push this again and again and again because at a crucial time in America, where—and I mentioned this has not been relegated to one administration or another. This has been happening too often. It happens in any kind of administration, any philosophy. It is time to end it, and it is time to make sure that our free press is in a position to get the facts to the American people. We need this particular bipartisan effort, Senator LEE and I. And we will be back on this floor until we get it passed.

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.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. 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.

S.J. RES. 60

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today, my CRA on public charter schools is a simple vote today. It is a vote for common sense; it is a vote for parents; and it is a vote for kids.

Here is the truth: Everywhere in America, except for Washington, DC, this is an 80-percent issue. Literally, 68 percent of Democrats, 67 percent of Independents, 68 percent of African-Americans, and 72 percent of Hispanics all agree with some form of school choice. This is simply a public charter school issue stopping the Biden administration from destroying one of the most important vehicles for human prosperity for the kids of our country. I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I do know that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle support high-quality charter schools because they are an important part of many States' public school system, which is why I come to the floor today to urge my colleagues to vote against the resolution.

I want to be clear: This resolution will cause unnecessary chaos, undermine simple accountability measures to ensure that our Federal funds are well spent and delay funding from supporting new, high-quality charter schools and the students that they would serve.

Earlier this year, after responding to over 25,000 comments from charter schools, parent organizations, and others, the Biden administration issued their final rule laying out various criteria for Federal charter school grants. This is a common step in administering the charter school program—one the previous administration took as well. And the latest rule included some commonsense ideas to increase community and parent involvement, to strengthen the fiscal transparency to make sure that taxpayer dollars are being used properly.

The goal of the rule is simple: to help make sure our Federal dollars support high quality charter schools. Passing this resolution now would upend a balanced rule that is a result of months of careful work from the Department of Education.

The Biden administration has already used this rule to issue 12 awards now, totaling \$65 million across 11 States, and it is currently now in the middle of a grant competition, which charter school management organizations are now applying for.

So let's not disrupt the plans of Mississippi and Tennessee and Georgia and the other States that have already received awards under the new rule and that were counting on that funding. That is not fair. It is not good for schools, teachers, parents, or students.

So I hope no one here wants to see our schools disrupted, accountability

weakened, or learning undermined, which is why I am here today to urge everyone to join me in voting against this resolution and to work with me and the Department of Education to continue to support high-quality charter schools, while improving oversight and transparency of our Federal funds.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. I ask unanimous consent for another 30 seconds.

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

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. This issue is an issue of America's future and America's now. Today, our kids desperately need quality education from sea to shining sea. This CRA provides us more momentum in the direction of making sure the poorest kids in the poorest ZIP Codes have quality education. That is all this is about.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

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

#### VOTE ON S.J. RES. 60

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. 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 Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

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

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 390 Leg.]

#### YEAS—49

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

#### NAYS—49

|              |            |          |
|--------------|------------|----------|
| Baldwin      | Gillibrand | Murphy   |
| Bennet       | Hassan     | Murray   |
| Blumenthal   | Heinrich   | Ossoff   |
| Booker       | Hirono     | Padilla  |
| Brown        | Kaine      | Peters   |
| Cantwell     | Kelly      | Reed     |
| Cardin       | King       | Rosen    |
| Carper       | Klobuchar  | Sanders  |
| Casey        | Leahy      | Schatz   |
| Coons        | Lujan      | Schumer  |
| Cortez Masto | Manchin    | Shaheen  |
| Duckworth    | Markey     | Sinema   |
| Durbin       | Menendez   | Smith    |
| Feinstein    | Merkley    | Stabenow |

|            |            |       |
|------------|------------|-------|
| Tester     | Warnock    | Wyden |
| Van Hollen | Warren     |       |
| Warner     | Whitehouse |       |

NOT VOTING—2

Cruz Hickenlooper

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 60) was rejected.

(Mr. KAINE assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. SCHATZ assumed the Chair.)

(Ms. STABENOW assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. KAINE assumed the Chair.)

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Francisco O. Mora, of Florida, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Organization of American States, with the rank of Ambassador.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 1255, Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federative Republic of Brazil; 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 and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth Frawley Bagley, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President will be notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from New Jersey.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2116

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2116 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed on the motion.

Before I do this, sir, I would like to just read a brief statement if I may, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Proceed.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I am really proud to be New Jersey's junior Senator. Even more so, I am proud that I have called Newark my home for most of my adult life. I can talk about my community for weeks on end. I know the Presiding Officer has heard me talk about Newark for some time.

It is an incredible community where we do not mistake wealth with worth. We know the value of goodness and decency. And a lot of members of my community in the city of Newark are Black and Brown folks, and the special relationship they often have to their hair denotes deep cultural traditions. You go to my city right now, and you will find hairstyles of different types: locks, cornrows, twists, braids, bantu knots, and, of course, what I once had, Mr. President, afros.

You will find barber shops and hair salons aplenty that are dedicated to the upkeep of these beautiful hairstyles. One of my favorite things to do is to go to barber shops to sit in community with folks and connect.

I can write almost a dissertation probably, sir, right now about the role of barber shops in Black and Brown communities. They are incredible community cultural convening places.

But I also want to say that it is not always a source of joy. At times, the conversation has turned to a deep source of hurt and pain. There is a decades-long problematic practice of discrimination against natural hair in this country.

It was brought to the forefront in 2018 when a New Jersey student named Andrew Johnson was forced to cut his dreadlocks in the middle of a wrestling match. The entire ordeal was caught on camera. And as the scissors were brought out to cut Andrew's hair, you can see the deep hurt and pain on the face of this young man. It is the pain felt by many, traumatic at times, of hurtful experiences that make you question your very belonging in a community—the beauty of your hair, its natural style, your immutable characteristics, your cultural beliefs, your connection to your heritage.

No person in America should have to deal with this pain, and that is why I stand here today, urging this body to pass legislation that is dear to my community's heart, dear to communities all across the country. It is named the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair Act, otherwise known as the CROWN Act.

This bill is ultimately a matter of justice. Hair discrimination is real. It is a continuing and a pernicious problem for Black and Brown people in our country. It can lead to lost employment opportunities. It can lead to violations of students' civil rights. In short, it forces people to change parts of their very being so as to avoid harassment or punishment.

A recent study from Michigan State University found that Black women are 50 percent more likely to be sent home

from the workplace because of their hair, and 80 percent of Black women feel the need to change their hair from its natural state to fit in at the office.

Another study from Duke University found that Black women with natural hairstyles are less likely to land job interviews than White women or Black women with straightened hair.

Many students, other than Andrew, have had their civil rights violated. There have been cases in schools that have changed their dress code midyear to place restrictions on hairstyles, targeting Black students with locks and expelling them from school when they refused to cut their hair. Although existing law prohibits some forms of hair discrimination as a type of racial or national origin discrimination, Federal courts, at times, have narrowly construed this protection in a way that has allowed schools, workplaces, and other Federal institutions to discriminate against people of African descent who wear certain types of natural or even protected hairstyles.

That is where the CROWN Act comes in. This commonsense pragmatic piece of legislation is necessary. This legislation clarifies that discrimination based on a hair texture or hairstyle that is commonly associated with a particular race or natural origin—including hair that is tightly coiled or tightly curled, locks, cornrows, twists, braids, Bantu knots, and afros—is a prohibited form of discrimination.

Since the moment I first introduced the CROWN Act with Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, while I am grateful for their work and leadership, we have worked to build more support. In the House, this bill passed with broad bipartisan support because of the strength of the lead of my colleague and friend from New Jersey, Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN. Here in the Senate, Senator COLLINS has signed onto the bill, making it a bipartisan effort. And it is an effort that replicates what has already been done in 19 States—so-called blue States, such as mine or California, to so-called red States, like Nebraska, Tennessee, and Louisiana.

At its core, the CROWN Act is a commonsense policy. It is legislation that further protects the civil rights of Americans. But on a more profound and deeper level, it is a celebration of what makes up the wonderful fabric of our Nation: the rich, cultural diversity and the connections people have to their very identity.

We know the significance that hair plays for the communities that make up the diverse American fabric. For Black folks, hair is rooted in stories of strength and resistance. During the time of slavery, in Colombia, hair braiding was used to relay messages, including as a way to signal that one wanted to escape the lash of bondage.

As one person eloquently described, the hair of Black women is “a crown that tells a story—a story of struggle, triumph, pain, pride, and comfort.”

The CROWN Act is a chance for us to make sure that story and the stories of so many other cultures are told, a chance to make sure that those stories aren't punished but become more of an integral part of the larger American story. It is a chance to make sure that those stories aren't stigmatized to the point that some have to make the difficult decision to change their natural hair just to have a chance to land a job, to succeed in school, or to escape discrimination overall.

This is a chance for us to make for a more perfect union, to bend the arc of the Nation just a little bit more toward justice, to end another chapter, another area, of deplorable discrimination, which is why today I ask for unanimous consent to pass the CROWN Act.

And so, I guess, as in legislative session, I now ask for unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2116 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Reserving the right to object, we all agree that racial discrimination is not only wrong but illegal. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other Federal statutes prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

The Supreme Court found in the 1973 case *McDonnell Douglas Corporation v. Green* that using a pretextual reason as cover for discrimination is a violation of Federal civil rights law. Subsequently, the protections sought by this bill are already provided for in Federal law. Using hairstyle as a pretext for racial discrimination is already illegal.

But there is reason to believe that this bill is not ready for enactment. When the House Judiciary Committee considered this legislation, some Members questioned whether this legislation would prevent certain hairstyles and lengths out of concern that they may hinder workplace safety or the ability to perform certain critical functions of the job. For example, employers may require certain hairstyles so that personal protective equipment properly protects the wearer.

Many questions remain unanswered about whether this bill would prevent employers from imposing race-neutral standards, such as maintaining a hairstyle that makes it difficult to become caught in machinery on a factory floor or the ability to properly wear a helmet at a construction site.

This bill would make workers less safe, make it more difficult to start a business and provide jobs, and almost certainly result in expensive litigation and overburdened courts.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. BOOKER. I would like to say a couple of things.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Thank you very much for the recognition, Mr. President—the Presiding Officer.

I really heard the point about workplace safety. This bill does not prohibit employers from addressing safety concerns. Instead, it accounts for employers' legal obligations to ensure workplace safety. Written in the bill, section 6(b) of the bill expressly prohibits that the employment nondiscrimination provision “shall be enforced in the same manner and by the same means, including with the same jurisdiction, as if such subsection was incorporated into Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.” In other words, employers will be no more burdened by this bill than they are under the current employment discrimination law.

Under the longstanding, burden-shifting scheme applied by the courts in title VII cases, the employer may defeat a discrimination claim by asserting the workplace safety as a legitimate nondiscriminatory reason for taking adverse employment action against an employee, with the burden then shifting to the employee to prove that the asserted reason was a pretext for discrimination.

So this is addressed, and I appreciate that. But as it was passed in a boldly bipartisan way, it was shown to have incorporated that concern in the bill itself.

Again, this is something that has been passed in States like Tennessee and Louisiana. This has been shown to have wide bipartisan support. It is shown to be needed in the Federal context. And I am hoping that we, through continued deliberations, can actually get that passed.

Mr. President, if I may have leave to say one more thing, I would like to just wish you a Merry Christmas, to the Presiding Officer. I appreciate the cheer and good will that is in this Chamber, and I look forward to happy holidays for everyone.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair returns the greetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today in the time-honored tradition of giving my farewell remarks to the United States Senate. This is an opportunity to thank my friends, my colleagues, and the voters of North Carolina who have supported me for 28 years, through 8 elections, for the opportunity to serve and the ability to make a difference for my State and my country.

Thirty years ago, I was a businessman with a happy family in Winston-Salem, NC, who decided things in Washington, DC, weren't working exactly right. So I decided to run for Congress in an effort to help make that change for the better. My reason for

running was a concern of the future for my two young sons and others of their generation.

I lost that first race for the House in 1992, and I took it in stride thinking, I have done my best shot. It was meant to be. I am not a politician. I had never run for office before or been involved in politics except to vote. But by 1994, as Congress was still raising taxes and increasing the deficit at the same time, I decided I had to try again to bring some common sense to how things were being decided in our Nation's Capital. So I threw my hat in the ring again, and I was elected to the House of Representatives. I was surrounded by 73 other new Members, with a new majority, and an opportunity to make new friends.

I met three people who are now some of my closest friends: John Boehner, Saxby Chambliss, and Tom Latham. Brooke and I are blessed with their friendship. Every year since they have left, along with their wives, Debbie Boehner, Julianne Chambliss, and the late Kathy Latham, we have traveled and deepened those bonds of friendship. I am grateful and proud we are so incredibly close, and I thank all of them today.

Do you suppose Boehner is crying by now?

While we have all made new friends in Congress, not a day goes by—not a day—that I don't miss my good friend Tom Coburn. I have his name plate in my office from the Intel Committee to remind me of the lessons that Tom gave all of us and for the example he set as a Member of the Senate. Now, from that class of 1994, there are only three of us left—Roger, Lindsey, and me—and my time is short.

The Contract with America created a new majority. Newt Gingrich and Frank Luntz crafted our unifying message to the American people. We came with a commitment not to leave for a hundred days until we started to change the course of American government. Then, this seemed like a small sacrifice for a transformation I saw as imminent and important. We worked day and night before we ever found the bathroom or permanent housing.

Every Member had a different story and a different reason for running, but we were elected for a common cause: to fix Congress and a government that was broken and out of touch.

Being one of 435 Representatives in an institution driven by seniority has a sobering impact. For many, our new committee assignments taught us that we weren't quite as smart as we thought. Winning elections was hard; thoughtful policymaking was even harder. I decided early on that the Energy and Commerce Committee was where I would spend the majority of my time and focus.

Much can be said for the value of institutional knowledge, but there weren't any Republicans who knew what to do in the majority since none of us had ever served in a majority.

John Dingell was the outgoing chair of the committee, and quite honestly, John could have ignored the new Republicans and been upset about the election taking his gavel away. Instead, he took me under his wing. John taught me many lessons about hearings, about oversight, how to focus on important topics, and more importantly, how the work in Washington really gets done. He advised me to spend my time listening, so I did. I came to the committee hearings, and I learned from the experts.

I was doing so much at one time, I realized that family time was too often ignored. I cannot express how much I appreciate the love and the support of my family to let me have this incredible experience. Brooke and I have lived apart for 28 years. Outside of congressional recesses or a few trips, every Monday, I have had to wake up, just like you, and know I had to fly back to Washington to cast a vote. I look forward to being home with the love of my life when I am done with this.

During the decade I served in the House, our country went through some major events, including 9/11 and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, which still ripple through our foreign policy, our defense policy, and our domestic policy today; the anthrax attacks, which opened my eyes as to how unprepared our country was for the threat of bioterrorism and inspired my work to create the national preparedness and response framework; and the impeachment of President Clinton—only the second time a President had been impeached in the history of our country in the House.

I had the opportunity to work on a lot of legislation, but issues I am most proud of are bipartisan legislation to end the tobacco quota; the start of my biodefense work with the National Disaster Medical System and the Smallpox Vaccine Program when we created the Department of Homeland Security; and especially the Food and Drug Modernization Act, or FDAMA, as many of us know.

I came to Congress 6 years before the horrible attacks of 9/11, and guarding our Nation's freedoms was as important then as it remains today. Standing at Ground Zero just a few days after those awful attacks in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania made it clear to me that we could never let down our guard against those who hate our country and hate our freedoms. Serving on the House and Senate Intelligence Committees has made me more committed to remaining vigilant in the goal of protecting the lives of all Americans.

When I decided to run for the Senate, little did I know how grueling the campaign would be. Running a statewide race against Erskine Bowles was never going to be easy. Erskine had experience, money, and a built-in network. I had a lot of energy and a determination to win.

Our campaign was downright civil compared to what we have seen in re-

cent years, and after the election, Erskine and I became lifetime, longtime friends. We remain that way today. I appreciate Erskine Bowles for his continued service to our State of North Carolina and to the country.

In my 18 years in the Senate, we have lived through some major events as well: the financial crisis of 2009, the Ebola outbreak of 2014, a global pandemic, and I might say the third and fourth impeachments of a President of the United States, the illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine.

In the Senate, any Senator can work on any legislation they want, but in particular, I would like to mention just a few: the Pandemic and All-Hazards bill, or PAHPA; the ABLE Act to help families with children with disabilities save for the future; the child care and development block grant reauthorization to help families afford quality childcare; the Veterans Choice Act to help veterans get the healthcare they deserve; making permanent the funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund; the Ryan White CARE Act to make this successful program more equitable for Americans living with HIV/AIDS; the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes bill, which helps investigators work to discover the truth and seek justice for families of the victims of civil rights-era cold cases; and years' worth of annual intelligence authorization bills.

Usually, the most bipartisan bills that move through this body are often misunderstood and mischaracterized. Far from being a congressional blank check to the intelligence community, they represent an annual congressional exercise to guide and direct the intelligence community. These bills are the most bipartisan products of ongoing, rigorous oversight. Those who block or obstruct or otherwise delay these bills are not empowering the people they think they are.

While I am proud of all these bills and more, I want to highlight the work I have done to build the architecture of the Nation's pandemic and biological preparedness systems—in particular, the creation of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, BARDA.

Developing a collaboration between the Federal Government and private sector companies to accelerate the development of medical countermeasures helps us all meet the oath we swore to protect the safety and security of the American people.

Without BARDA, we wouldn't have had the tools to deal with anthrax, smallpox, and radiological or nuclear threats. We wouldn't have developed the COVID vaccines as rapidly. We wouldn't be on the leading edge of science, and we would instead be falling further and further behind.

This infrastructure works because we made it flexible. We made it adaptable. So whatever the current threat may be, my greatest frustration is that administration after administration

seems to think they need to reinvent the wheel instead of picking up the tools that Congress has already laid on the table and built to handle emergencies.

I hope one lesson we have learned from COVID is exactly how valuable BARDA is.

I have been especially fortunate to serve on three of the most consequential committees in the United States Senate: Intelligence, where I continued my service from the House in the Senate, eventually becoming chair; Finance, which governs our Tax Code and much of our healthcare programs; and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, where I currently serve as the ranking Republican and have focused on our public health threat preparedness and response infrastructure and modernizing the FDA, CDC, and NIH, and I thank my chairman, Senator MURRAY.

While serving on the Intelligence Committee, I have developed a deep friendship with MARK WARNER and so many of my colleagues. We were great partners during our investigation of Russia's efforts to interfere in the 2016 election, and our shared passion for oversight of the intelligence community has made them better, more responsive, and our country safer.

Mark, I am going to miss that work with you.

I would also like to offer my deepest thanks and proud affection for the men and women of the intelligence community. From junior analysts to the station chiefs, in DC and around the world, the thing that has always stood out is their love of country, their commitment to mission, to keep the American people safe and our country secure. It is easy to focus on their so-called intelligence failures, which are more, actually, policy failures, and we don't get to talk about their successes, but that is what enables them to keep doing the work they do successfully to keep us safe.

It is a rare opportunity to praise them for a job well-done. So to all of them: Thank you. It has been an honor, and it has been a privilege to serve in that capacity.

Committees are where you roll up your sleeves and you get to work. I learned that from John Dingell in the House and from my friends Ted Kennedy and Orrin Hatch in the Senate. It is where friendships are made and where we work together to get results for the people who sent us here.

If I have any regrets about the operation of the Senate in recent years, it is how much leadership ignored the work of the committees and, in many cases, ignored the expertise of our staff.

The Senate needs more committee consideration of bills and serious issues, less consolidation of decision-making in the hands of a few.

Thomas Jefferson once said:

I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.

So let me look forward in my remaining time rather than just reminisce the past. I have never been more optimistic about America's future.

During the next two decades, we will see technology and innovation at a speed that none of us can envision today. Technology platforms will emerge that change the global economy; and at a pace that will be hard for this institution to keep up with.

Breakthroughs will transform healthcare, agriculture, and manufacturing. Then it will hit a wall called the Federal Government, with an architecture designed in the 1950s.

The work you have got is huge. It is time for Congress to be the visionary body our Founders envisioned when they created us.

We are now 22 years into this new century. What are we waiting for? We need to unleash Americans to solve today's problems with the intellectual power of our great country. America is full of bright and intelligent men and women of all ages who are creative at finding solutions and forging new paths. We need these folks in the U.S. Senate, and I am glad that I have had the chance to serve with some who will now continue to carry on the great efforts for years to come.

We need more statesman and fewer politicians. As Harry Truman said while serving in this great body:

Regardless of [your] politics . . . [our] fate is tied up in what [happens] in this room.

What happens in this room.

The tradition of a farewell speech usually includes some words to your colleagues about the importance of the U.S. Senate, John Dingell's complaint about us being the enemy of the House notwithstanding.

So here are some lessons about what I have learned and what I recommend to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, both to the newcomers and to those in term 1 or 5.

One: Thank your family. They put up with more than you will ever know.

To my wife Brooke, thank you, thank you, thank you.

While I am sure she is happy to see me retire, she also reminded me she doesn't make lunch, so I had better get a job.

To my sons and their families, Tyler, Meg, Rooney, William, Tyler—yeah, a boy Tyler and a daughter-in-law Tyler—Mary Lyde, Virginia, and Henry: Thank you. I am proud of the lives you are building and the grandchildren you have blessed Brooke and I with. I love you. I look forward to spending more time with you instead of these guys.

Two: Thank your staff. They are actually the reason you are here; it is not you.

In my time in the House and the Senate, during my leadership of the Intelligence Committee, the HELP Committee, I have worked with roughly 200 of the smartest, hardest working staff who sacrifice time and higher pay to work behind the scenes to make so many things happen.

I have been blessed with a staff in North Carolina. My constituents couldn't be better served by their tireless efforts.

I have had the best constituent service folks in North Carolina as North Carolina has ever seen.

It would be impossible to name all of you, and I will put the names in the RECORD, but, particularly, I want to thank Dean Myers and Chris Joyner for their years of friendship and service to North Carolina, our country, and to me. I thank both of you.

There are so many names, but from my House terms, I would like to especially thank Jenny Hansen Ware, John Versaggi, Brian Vanderbloemen, and A.T.

From my Senate terms: Natasha Hickman, Chris Toppings, Polly Walker, Michael Sorensen, Caitlin Carroll, Rebecca Glover, and Josh Bowlen.

From the Intel Committee, Christian Cook, Emily Harding, Vanessa Le, Tommy Nguyen, the entire bipartisan Russian team, and all of those who serve the committee under my chairmanship.

And my HELP Committee, Angela Wiles, Rachel Portman, Anna Abrams, Dr. Bob Kadlec, Margaret Barton and David Cleary.

Finally, I would also like to say a few words about Alicia Peterson Clark. She helped me in my first election. She became my House chief, and she got me to the Senate.

She helped build the operation and establish the culture that runs through my office today. Today, even if you never met her, if you have worked for me, you have been influenced by her leadership. She passed away a few years ago, heartbreakingly young, and she is deeply missed.

Three: Consistently remind yourself why you came to serve.

The American people expect us to get things done. Like it or not, they may not send you home, but you will leave feeling that you played in the game and have very little to show for it.

Four: Only do things that have meaningful purpose. My staff knows my rule for the introduction of legislation. You have got to show me the human face behind the issue if you want me to introduce it and be passionate about it.

Five: Remember, our Founders expected Congress to be visionary.

When we complain about regulation we don't like, it is usually our fault because we either delegated that authority away or remained silent when an out-of-control President just takes authority we never granted.

Our system is designed so that Congress would do things to fix problems, including problems that didn't exist.

The creation of BARDA proved to me the importance of being visionary. We would not have been prepared for H1N1, Ebola, Zika, coronavirus. My advice is to look ahead to what you think future problems might be and build an architecture to solve them.

Six: Nobody wins in impeachment. Let me say that again. Nobody wins in

impeachments. I have lived through 3—75 percent of all impeachments in the history of the United States of America.

Congress should resist the temptation to treat impeachment as just the newest form of political opposition.

Seven: Principle is important, but flexibility is essential.

While we all have areas of interest that we are most comfortable with, they may not be the greatest need of our time.

When the 9/11 terrorist attacks happened, we all had to shift our focus. When the financial markets collapsed in 2008 and 2009, it was all-hands-on-deck. And when COVID became a pandemic, we had to scramble to become health, education, and financial experts to shore up our economy and save lives.

I wish we had done more to keep schools open so that children wouldn't have suffered quite so much.

But I know that in the future we will have learned from these mistakes and we won't make them again.

That is seven lessons on how to be an effective U.S. Senator. I hope some of my colleagues find these to be helpful.

America has always been a great country, where dreams can come true. Let's keep it that way. Our citizens and elected officials alike should dream big and then work hard to make them a reality.

The job of being a U.S. Senator means making tough decisions. Please remember that good judgment in making those decisions often involves finding some balance between two parties as much as it means standing firm on your personal convictions and on the platform on which you were elected.

I hope we are all committed to supporting the ingenuity of our citizens so that they can match the likes of Henry Ford, Thomas Edison, George Washington Carver, Beulah Louise Henry, and so many others.

Government should not be a roadblock to innovation and new ideas. Rather, it should encourage new ideas, new innovation, and new possibilities to realize the untapped potential of our citizens.

I have often expressed my belief that America's best days are still ahead, and lately I have been chided for thinking that that is true. But my optimism is rooted in reality.

Our country and our citizens have an unlocked potential and an unbound determination to overcome any division, any problem.

Yes, there is much work to be done, but Americans have never been afraid to roll up their sleeves and work hard to succeed.

Think of the challenges that we have overcome since our country was founded—the Civil War, the Great Depression, two world wars, racial division, the Cold War, terrorist attacks, Presidential impeachments, disputed elections, an international pandemic, and more.

Yet none of these have destroyed the fabric of our Nation or its people, and I refuse to believe that any challenge is too great to tackle when we come together.

I stand here today in awe of the history made in the Capitol complex, the people's House, the U.S. Senate, the old House Chamber, the old Senate Chamber, and even the old Supreme Court Chamber.

Our Nation's history is crystalized here in this building. Our flaws, our triumphs, our humbling errors, and our breathtaking successes.

If you listen closely at night, when all around is quiet, you can hear the echoing voices of the ordinary men and women who became giants in our Nation's history—Sam Rayburn, Margaret Chase Smith, Everett Dirksen, Barbara Jordan, John Dingell, Tom Coburn, Barbara Mikulski, John Lewis, and so many more.

They served here with dignity and honor, and they shaped the course of a nation's destiny. They shared my optimism about our country and our future. Even in the darkest days, I know that optimism is not misplaced looking ahead.

It is hard for me to imagine that I have had the great honor and extraordinary privilege to follow in their footsteps.

I hope that my time here has had purpose and meaning. I know I have done my best to contribute and to help build a more perfect union.

I will miss you, my colleagues, and I will miss the tremendous staff in Congress who are unknown by the public, but behind the scenes, they keep everything running smoothly.

I will, especially, miss the hard-working, dedicated, and fearless men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police for the job they do to keep us safe. When trouble rears its head, they stand up. We must all remain thankful for the job they do on our behalf.

As I conclude, I want to thank my wife and my family again, as well as my colleagues and my staff.

I also want to thank the people of North Carolina for honoring me with the trust and respect. I am humbled that they sent me here to Congress eight different times, and I appreciate their support.

I yield the floor.

(Applause.)

(Ms. ROSEN assumed the Chair.)

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD BURR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, it is hard to believe that my friend RICHARD Burr is leaving Congress. He is someone I have known since my days in the House of Representatives, and we have been friends from the very beginning. So it is difficult to imagine serving in the Senate here without him. We came to the Senate in the same year as well. Our wives are very close friends, and we have had many wonderful times with the BURRS.

In fact, I have enjoyed hosting RICHARD in South Dakota on a number of

occasions. RICHARD is an outdoors guy, as I am, and he fits right in in my home State of South Dakota—perhaps except for the fact that he is the only guy not wearing socks. Although I will say, I have found occasions which have required him to get the socks out of his suitcase. During one of our trips to South Dakota to hunt pheasants, we landed in Sioux Falls. We got off the plane and it was 7 degrees and I noticed at the next stop he had socks on. So there are limitations to his practice of not wearing socks.

But anyway one of our favorite pastimes, of course, in South Dakota is pheasant hunting, and I have had RICHARD out there a number of times during pheasant season. He is a great shot, I will say.

He has a favorite place to eat. It is Al's Oasis in Chamberlain, SD, which is known for, among many things, homemade pies.

I discovered when Kimberly and I visited RICHARD and Brooke in North Carolina, he is also a great handyman. Apparently, he thinks his guests should be as well, since he put me right to work on a new door that he was installing. We hung a door at his house. I was the grunt labor. He was the architect, the designer, and just said: Hold this and that sort of thing. So that was my job. But I was well paid for my trouble because RICHARD also, in addition to his assets and his attributes of being a handyman, is also an excellent cook. Many of you probably perhaps here don't know that. But one of the privileges that I have enjoyed in visiting RICHARD is getting to enjoy his cooking, and he really can make just about anything—breakfast, lunch, dinner. I am not saying he ought to open a restaurant in his retirement, but if he did, I would certainly be the first in line at the opening.

RICHARD has certainly left his mark on Washington. His car, a 1974 Volkswagen Thing, often parked outside the Russell Building with the top down no matter the season and adorned with his colleagues' campaign stickers, I think everybody knows is a fixture here on Capitol Hill.

RICHARD, who as well as being a handyman is a capable mechanic, could often be found working under the Thing's hood to keep it running, which has become a true labor of love, particularly here in the last few years.

But I would say that in this Chamber, of course, RICHARD is best known and really known for being an outstanding legislator. And I have to say thank you as he did to his outstanding staff. I mean there isn't anybody here who works here who doesn't know that the heavy lifting in this place gets done by staff. And so we appreciate your many years of service to him and making him such an effective and accomplished legislator. He mentioned the Capitol staff, the Capitol Police, who are here on a daily basis protecting us, just saying how much we appreciate everything you have done.

RICHARD has always been someone who knows how to get something done. In addition to building a great team and staff around him, he knows how to build coalitions. He knows how to get legislation across the finish line, and that is evident in his record of accomplishment here in the Senate. He talked a little bit about that. Promoting medical research and innovation has been a passion of his; supporting veterans, changing the way student loan interest rates are set to save families money; working to ensure that childcare settings are safe and high quality; establishing ABLE accounts for individuals with disabilities to help better their lives, and the list goes on.

Long before COVID, RICHARD was working to prepare our Nation to respond to the threat of a disaster or a pandemic; and since COVID, he has worked to ensure that our Nation's future pandemic response reflects the lessons that we have learned.

Of course, as he mentioned, his long-time work on the Intelligence Committees of both the House and Senate and as chairman here of the Senate Intelligence Committee, the number of hours I know he sat in padded rooms in classified settings making sure that our country was prepared, working with our intelligence community, as he mentioned, to protect Americans from the threats that we face here at home and around the world.

RICHARD has been a strong advocate for his home State of North Carolina, particularly for veterans. He has worked to bring new VA facilities to North Carolina to ensure that veterans and their families who were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune receive VA medical care.

I think all of us get into this life in the hope that we can one day leave Congress knowing that we have done something to make life better for our fellow Americans. RICHARD can leave Congress with that assurance.

I am going to miss him. It is a privilege and a blessing that you are able to serve with a friend for so long. I will miss our daily interactions. But I know that in Congress or not, our friendship will endure, and I look forward to seeing all that RICHARD is going to do in his next chapter in life.

I want to thank, as he said, Brooke, his sons and daughters-in-law and now grandkids for the many sacrifices that they have made through the years. I think we all know that this doesn't work unless you have got a partner, and Brooke has been a partner for all these 28 years to RICHARD and a part of everything that he has been able to accomplish here.

So I wish him and his family many more happy hours in the years ahead and congratulate him on his retirement and on a farewell speech that I think we all ought to take to heart.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, it is with a mixture of sorrow and pride that I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend the senior Senator from North Carolina.

I was thinking about the fact that Senator BLUNT, who is sitting in front of you, we were here for his farewell speech the other day, and our good friend ROB PORTMAN, who is behind you, we will be here for his—we are losing a lot of great Members this Congress, and the folks who are going to follow them will not replace them. They have got big shoes to fill.

I mean, we are celebrating RICHARD'S 18 years in the Senate and 10 years in the House—28 years of doing this stuff. Senator BURR and I first got to know each other actually through a mutual friend early on in my Senate career in kind of a strange set of circumstances. I had become really good friends with Saxby Chambliss, and Saxby and RICHARD were running buddies. I would run along with them sometimes.

And JOHN THUNE, as you know, RICHARD is a pretty open-minded guy. But I got to acknowledge, and I shouldn't probably do this in front of everyone, but I am not sure he initially took to me that well. Now, my staff has occasionally called me slightly intense, and RICHARD has more than a few times asked whether I was getting my daily meds to stay on that equilibrium. So much for that.

But in contrast, RICHARD BURR is a low-key kind of guy. As Senator THUNE has already mentioned, and every Senator has made mention or noticed or made fun of his lack of socks. We have seen the migration of his Thing from outside the Russell Building to maybe its permanent resting place now in the garage at Hart. I park next to it almost every day, and I hope that you will leave it there in perpetuity.

But despite where we started off, with us being a little bit of an odd couple, we have formed an enormously strong partnership, and for me it was, more importantly, a strong friendship.

For 5 years, RICHARD preceded me as chairman of the Intelligence Committee. He had been on the Intelligence Committee since he came to Congress. I have learned so, so much from him, not only on the substance, which is terribly important, but there are a whole series of issues and extraordinarily important work where I never really got up to speed because I trusted his judgment.

But really what he did is he set the tone for how the committee ought to operate—a committee that frankly doesn't get as much attention as most because so much of what we do is behind closed doors. The reason why the Senate Intelligence Committee has stayed bipartisan, the reason why it is so productive, the reason why we get year after year an intelligence authorization bill out virtually unanimously—never more than one or two votes against—has a lot to do with RICHARD BURR.

My friend whom he served with in the House, the dean of the Virginia delegation, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT, has often referred to, around Virginia, that the Senate Intelligence Committee is an "oasis of dignity." I think that is a pretty darn good description. And that dignity would not have come about without RICHARD BURR's leadership.

He has made mention of his staff. I want to echo that, particularly those folks I have had the opportunity to work with on the Intelligence Committee staff. This does not have to be the case. This is not always the model, and I won't make more than a passing reference to HIPSCI in that comparison. If you don't have—you have to have not only Members agreeing, you have to have staff agreeing, and sometimes staff come with their notion that we have got to start with conflict. That was never the way that RICHARD chaired the committee. He knew my staff as well as he knew his own. Nowhere was that more evident than when he took on one of the greatest challenges and one where we kind of got battle-hardened together on the Russia investigation. And one of the things I know he had pride in and I had pride in, there were an awful lot of folks who had to be interviewed. And without exception, folks who interviewed didn't know whether the interviewees were Republicans or Democrats. It was that kind of professionalism and the notion that we were going to follow the truth, and I think that work product will clearly stand the test of time.

The other thing that I think RICHARD taught me, and this was something that he has been just relentless about, is to recognize the courage and the patriotism of the men and women who work in the intelligence community. They are never going to get the recognition. Public officials get the recognition but not the men and women who serve in our military. But no matter where you travel with Senator BURR, there were generally two things that you could guarantee would take place. One is that at some moment during the trip he would find a way to get a couple hours at wherever the local bazaar was and go buy stuff until Brooke finally said: No more rugs ever again.

But what was equally important that he taught me, and he taught all of us on the committee who has come in after, is that when you are out in the field, you make sure you go see the station and not just the station chief but make sure you see all the members of the station and personally meet them and thank them. And in every hearing that we have had—and I have tried to continue this tradition—and we may not get along and we may not agree with the briefers—but at the end of that hearing, no matter how tough it may have been, he thanks the briefers, he thanks the folks who are in the back row, oftentimes not getting to the

front table, and he makes sure to say: Go back and tell the men and women you work with back at headquarters, back at station, how much we respect you and will have your back. He has shared with me a little bit in these last few weeks the kind of outpouring of support that he has had from intelligence community members both here and around the world, and we are going to have him back in January with the leadership in the intelligence community to celebrate that again.

The other thing that is a little unusual about Senator BURR—and I will say this for a few of our friends in the press—is that most of us actually like to talk to the press—or at least do it. This has never been high on Senator BURR's list. I have never seen anybody manage with complete politeness to give more nonanswers to the questions in the hallway as the press pool follows after him on so many occasions, but it is because it is all about the work.

Others have mentioned and he has mentioned that he was and has been the leading voice on disease preparedness. If we had listened more to him earlier on on things like COVID, I think part of this tragedy could have been even further averted.

I mentioned already the Russia investigation. We both took incoming on that. Both of our sides wanted us to do it differently. He said: We are going after the truth. I can assure you, there is no one I would rather be in a foxhole with than RICHARD BURR because when the incoming kept coming in, he said: Let's buckle down, do the work. He empowered the staff to do that in a way that was remarkable, and, again, that product will stand the test of time.

I am sad to lose a colleague. I think his admonitions to us were great. I think his recognition—again, this is so RICHARD BURR in that he has got so many staff here, and he put the staff not in a passing reference but as one of the major themes of his speech. We all would not be here without the kind of men and women who have supported you and who support each of us who have the honor of standing on this floor.

I am going to be really sad to at least lose the daily back-and-forth as a friend. He is a little bit quirky. He is not shy about giving somebody grief.

I am not sure there will ever be another Senator with the same tastes in footwear or sockwear or lack thereof. He clearly has been one of the Senate's true characters in the best sense of the word.

I have had the occasion to get to know Brooke and his kids. I have seen lots and lots of pictures of the grandkids, and I am glad some of them live in Richmond. We will visit there and on the Outer Banks.

He has a great next chapter in front of him. I think he is going to continue to contribute to this Nation in the business world. I look to see where that path leads, and I look to making sure this friendship that we have built will

be maintained long into the future, into our each increasing dotages in going forward.

With that, I yield the floor and salute my dear friend RICHARD BURR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, my apologies to the distinguished senior Senator from Maine.

Senator BURR knows the one thing he was also extraordinarily critical of was whenever members of the Intel Committee were late to an Intel meeting, and we have one at 2:30.

So, Senator BURR, I hope I have your ability, and Senator COLLINS will give me a rundown on her comments today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, how heartwarming it has been today to witness RICHARD BURR's farewell speech to his colleagues, his staff, the Members of the Senate, his constituents, and, indeed, all Americans, and equally heartwarming it has been to listen to the heartfelt tributes that he is receiving from those of us who have been privileged to share with him.

During his 28 years in Congress as both a Member of the House and of the Senate, RICHARD has been a strong voice for responsible government and bipartisanship.

I join my colleagues in thanking him for his truly extraordinary service not just to the people of his beloved North Carolina but to all of our country. Throughout his service, RICHARD has consistently reached across the aisle to meet challenges and to move our Nation forward.

As the leader of the Senate's Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, he has supported innovations in our healthcare system that have made a real difference for his fellow Americans. These advancements include enhancing the ability of cutting-edge treatments and medications to reach patients as well as advocating for historic funding increases for biomedical research.

RICHARD has also left a lasting mark on education policy for Americans of all ages. He has worked to ensure that the very youngest learners have the best possible opportunities in life by supporting early education through Head Start and quality childcare and by supporting afterschool programs through the child care and development block grant.

He has sought to increase the affordability of higher education by authorizing the Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act, and he has helped Americans obtain good-paying jobs by strengthening workforce development programs.

RICHARD was also a member of the bipartisan group that shepherded the Great American Outdoors Act through Congress. Two years ago, I was proud to join him when that bipartisan bill was signed into law. This historic legislation fully funds the Land and Water

Conservation Fund that supports access to the great outdoors for all Americans. It is preserving and creating recreational opportunities from the Outer Banks to the Pacific coast.

Perhaps less well-known but also important is the fact that RICHARD has been a champion of civil rights. He spearheaded the passage of the ABLE Act—one of the most important laws for individuals with disabilities since the Americans with Disabilities Act.

He partnered with Congressman John Lewis, the late civil rights icon, to reauthorize the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Act to right the wrongs committed against African Americans that were never investigated.

When in 2010 former Senator Joe Lieberman and I led the fight to repeal the discriminatory don't ask, don't tell law that prohibited patriotic Americans from serving in the military due to their sexual orientation, RICHARD stepped forward to help ensure that successful repeal.

As chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, RICHARD oversaw the Agencies that helped to keep our Nation safe and ensured that they had the tools needed to guard against foreign threats.

In addition, as Senator WARNER has mentioned, at a time of intense partisanship, he led the investigation into Russian attempts to meddle in U.S. elections. He deserves enormous credit for keeping our committee focused on the task at hand and for producing a fact-based account of the events surrounding the 2016 election.

There is a final story that I want to end with about RICHARD, and it is repeating in many ways what our chairman, MARK WARNER, has said.

I, too, have accompanied RICHARD Burr as he has visited with our men and women of the intelligence community at stations around the world. He doesn't just receive the intelligence briefings, as you would expect. No. He goes beyond that. He makes the effort to thank each and every one of our intelligence community's staff, who are serving in stations, sometimes in dangerous conditions, often being separated from their families or enduring hardship. He thanks each and every one of them. That tells you a lot about who RICHARD Burr is.

RICHARD, thank you for your countless contributions to the U.S. Congress and to our Nation. I join your friends and colleagues in wishing you and Brooke all the best in the years to come.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, in calculating, it may be possible that I have served on the Intel Committee longer than anybody besides RICHARD Burr currently on the committee, with some time in the House—but not all of the time in the House—and in the Senate. It is truly amazing the depth of understanding he has of programs, of



capacity, of the places we are all over the world.

I think he and Senator WARNER have done a great job of maintaining that committee as a bipartisan committee, working together, understanding that most of what we do and that most of what we talk about is only seen by us and the staff of that committee. It is an important responsibility to ask questions and hear answers that others Members can't. RICHARD's leadership has been incredible.

I want to spend a few minutes talking about the other portfolio he has that I am also involved in as the appropriating chairman on the Health and Education and Labor Committee.

In so many ways, particularly after COVID, RICHARD, we became the team—the authorizing and the appropriating—so we could make this all work together.

Efforts are extraordinary as well. We heard the long list of things he did to create an understanding of what we needed to do—the whole idea of rapid response, of BARDA, of having a stockpile. All of this is—not only is so much of it RICHARD's idea, but also RICHARD has kept the idea alive.

I will just tell you this is from absolute personal and occasional knowledge in the press—they are wondering: Now, why are you still spending that money on the stockpile? We didn't use it last year, and we didn't use it the year before. Why do you think we need to have things in that stockpile that are usable and have efficacy now?

RICHARD has been there. Often, the only people advocating for the stockpile, advocating for being ready for things we hope don't happen, are the manufacturers who are willing to manufacture this and RICHARD BURR and others—that very small group of people who say: We have got to be ready.

Now we are talking about, with RICHARD's leadership again, being ready in other ways, where we are ready to manufacture and have a rapid response like we did with COVID, where we now, maybe, have the capacity to figure out very quickly what we need and produce that, but you have to have the kind of relationship to have that rapid production.

You know, when something like this happens, everybody is willing to do everything, and, frankly, everybody is willing to spend everything, but that is likely too late. You have to be willing to plan everything and be prepared to execute a plan rather than "Now we have a problem; let's do whatever it takes." RICHARD BURR has been there in thinking about how we plan, how we prepare, what kind of relationships we need to have.

On top of that, the biomedical research and the new interest in synthetic biology—so much of that leaves this building and this floor when RICHARD leaves. I think there are so many ways he can be and will be available to the country and will be a service to the country, but showing up every day, in

every Congress, in every session, and to every meeting with the knowledge he has brought to those issues is incredibly important.

We see the possibility of health used in a warlike way. We see the interest and the need to look into this to see what has happened or what could happen. Let me just say that, from the Health, Education, and Labor job that I have had, I have been able to see, maybe like nobody else has, the Health, Education, and Labor commitment and understanding he has. I am grateful for that. I am grateful for his friendship.

I look forward to things he and I could continue to find to do together, but I am grateful for the fact that he has been here when he was so needed and stepped up in such a significant way.

Our good friend Lamar Alexander on that committee, in the height of COVID, also very close to both of us, was very dedicated to this work. When Lamar left, I said one of the things I am most grateful for is that I got to serve in the Senate that included Lamar Alexander. I am also grateful that I got to serve in the Senate that included RICHARD BURR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I am here on the floor to congratulate my friend from North Carolina, the Tar Heel State.

We go back a few years. He is from Winston-Salem, where my wife is from. Our spouses actually waitressed together back in Winston-Salem during high school, and they are still buddies. Brooke and RICHARD are dear friends.

More importantly for today, RICHARD has been a terrific representative of the State of North Carolina—first, in the House of Representatives, where I served with him when I was a Member there from Ohio; and then he snuck over to the Senate, a little bit ahead of me, and kind of laid the groundwork.

We have had the opportunity to work on so much together, RICHARD.

I think of every major bipartisan achievement in this place, and you will see RICHARD's fingerprints on it.

So to his staff who are here, I know those are your fingerprints as much as his; so congratulations.

They haven't always been easy issues. Sometimes they have put RICHARD in a difficult political position, but he did what he thought was right for his beloved State of North Carolina and for the country.

Today, I have heard a lot about healthcare. I like healthcare. That is great to talk about it, but I want to talk about something else. But first, on healthcare, I must say, on Operation Warp Speed, it was remarkably successful. I think everyone has to acknowledge that now. No one in this Chamber was more responsible for laying the groundwork for that than RICHARD BURR. I am not sure people understand that. But on all the discussion

about RICHARD's innovation and your work on healthcare, I think that is one that perhaps needs to be emphasized.

You have also done a good job in other areas, as we talked about today, and the Intelligence Committee, in particular. I will tell you that RICHARD and I have traveled the world a little bit together. We will go to some hot spot, and I will be dutifully going to the meetings, you know, with the political leadership of the country, and RICHARD will disappear, and he will show up a few days—no, a few hours—later. We will have a good conversation about things he is not allowed to tell me about. So he doesn't tell me everything. But the bottom line is, he is in touch with intelligence people not just here in Washington but around the world and expressing our support for them and our encouragement for them for the difficult jobs that they do on behalf of our country and, really, you know, keeping the world a less dangerous and less volatile place.

RICHARD, I have seen you in action on that, but I want to talk about something else, which is his love of the outdoors and his work on conservation.

We are cochairs of what is called the International Conservation Caucus. This is a group of Members, two Democrats and two Republicans—Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator COONS for the Democrats, Senator BURR and I for the Republicans—who talk about international conservation issues around the world. These are issues that are directly related to economic development, directly related to security, to terrorism.

When you think about it, the wildlife trafficking that goes on in places like Africa, where people are trafficking in ivory or rhino horns and so on, so much of that is related to providing funding for terrorist groups over there and causing a lot of insecurity in those areas.

It is the same thing in terms of economic development. Many of these natural areas, once destroyed, don't provide the ability for clean water, for food, for ecotourism, which brings in money for these countries. So it is all related.

But, ultimately, I think RICHARD got involved because of his love of nature and the outdoors. And the biodiversity that he has helped to maintain around the world, not just here in this country, has been one of the beneficiaries.

There is a piece of this that I think also hasn't gotten enough notice today—that is my job to sort of clean up here—and that is not just his work on what is called the Great American Outdoors Act, and there were a number of provisions in there. One of mine was on the national parks, which RICHARD helped me with, restoring our national parks. But there is one piece in there that I believe would not have been successful without RICHARD's advocacy over many years.

He really wanted to make sure that we put our money where our mouth

was in terms of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, or LWCF. If you don't know what that is, then ask any of your county commissioners or Governors or others who take advantage of it, township trustees, community leaders, and, certainly, conservation groups, because this is funding that helps with matching funding—typically, local, State, sometimes other Federal funding—to ensure that areas are protected, that parks can be built, and so on.

Congress is very good about saying: We are all for that. We are going to—what we call around here—authorize the legislation to do that, but then we didn't provide the money.

What RICHARD said over the years was: Well, if this is such a good idea, why don't we fund it like we are supposed to?

That was actually falling on deaf ears for quite a while, I think it is fair to say, but RICHARD was persistent.

I recall being at the White House signing ceremony for that larger legislation, the Great American Outdoors Act, knowing that one of the most significant elements of that was full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. That was because of one Senator, and that is RICHARD BURR.

So, RICHARD, it has been a pleasure to serve alongside of you. I wish you and Brooke, William, and Tyler the very best going forward.

I suspect if you want to see RICHARD, you are going to have to go to his beloved North Carolina shore, particularly, the Outer Banks, where you might see him fishing for tuna or doing something else very productive.

So Godspeed, my friend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, we have heard a lot of great comments. First, we heard great words from Senator BURR. I hope that people yield and learn from the lessons.

We have also learned a lot about his body of work over the 28 years that he has been in the House and the Senate.

He mentioned Speaker Boehner earlier, who was probably crying as he listened to RICHARD's comments. I have a tendency, when I see a friend leaving, to get a little sappy too. So to make sure that we keep Speaker Boehner on the leaderboard for the one who cries the most, I want to talk a little bit about our relationship.

We knew each other before I came here. I was speaker of the house when I first met him. But I learned a lot from him over the last 8 years, and I have seen him work in a way that is unique among many Members.

I feel like you sum up RICHARD BURR by his patience, his practicality, and his persistence.

He is a very patient person. He doesn't think in terms of, we have got to get this done this Congress. He looks at the reality of the situation, and he just continues to build support until he gets it done.

He is practical. He looks at something, the face of the policy, and he decides whether it makes sense. And he is willing to take the political hits to get good policy done—policy, to use RICHARD's words, that has purpose and meaning.

And, man, is he persistent. We have had a lot of people talk about the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I watched him work this, and he worked it for quite some time. And when it was finally set up to get passed, he was making a few people and his own conference a little bit uncomfortable because of his encyclopedic knowledge of procedure.

I can remember one scene when he was walking down this aisle, when we were working to get agreement, that it reminded me of a scene in a western comedy from many years ago.

People down there were saying: Don't shoot him; it will just make him mad.

He knows how to get things done. I have learned a lot from him, and I am going to miss him. But with all due respect to John Boehner, I am going to have your friendship for the rest of my life.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, interspersed among the farewell speeches, which are always enjoyable to listen to as people reminisce about their time in the Senate and that causes all of us to reflect on our role and what we have done to help our country and help our constituents—and no one has done it better than the Senator from North Carolina—we also have a few things to do before we break for the holidays. Perhaps the next important thing that we have to do is to pass the National Defense Authorization Act, which, of course, provides the authorities necessary to strengthen our Armed Forces, to modernize our defense, and to maintain the peace.

This year's Defense authorization act includes a significant increase in defense funding, which, in light of the range of threats confronting our country and the world, is appropriate, coming in roughly at \$45 billion above the White House's most recent budget request.

This is a bipartisan increase in the authorization, which is the appropriate role of Congress to tell the White House: We think you have low-balled the number, and we think the threats deserve even more support in terms of the funding.

These investments are absolutely critical to our military and our national security, but we all know this legislation is more than just about funding levels. It includes a range of bipartisan bills to support those who wear the uniform and their families, our allies, and our national defense as a whole.

It really includes a lot of different bills in this umbrella of the National Defense Authorization Act. One exam-

ple of one of those components is the Protecting Our Servicemembers through Proven Methods Act, which I introduced with Senator SINEMA of Arizona and a bipartisan group of colleagues.

The goal of this bill is to focus on proven methods that empower military leaders to prevent sexual assault and harassment in the military from happening in the ranks.

The RAND Corporation, the think tank, published a 10-step approach to strengthen sexual assault prevention in the military, and step one is all about data. We need a clear picture of the problem before we can craft the most appropriate and effective solutions.

Our bipartisan bill specifically answers that recommendation by requiring the Department of Defense to collect data on the causes behind sexual assault, harassment, and domestic violence in the military.

That data will better inform our decision making within the Department and beyond. It will help guide our work in the Senate, too, where there is a bipartisan commitment to ending sexual assault and harassment in the military. And I hope it leads to stronger prevention efforts across the board.

Our bill requires the Department of Defense to confer with universities and public health institutions to best identify the practices that will combat these abuses, whether that is in the workplace or on college campuses. Reliable data will then inform our prevention efforts and help stop those acts before they occur.

We go to great lengths to keep our servicemembers safe on the battlefield, and these efforts need to extend to every part of their service. I am glad this legislation was included in this year's National Defense Authorization Act, and I appreciate all of our colleagues who fought to make that possible.

The Defense authorization bill provides a great opportunity to support our friends and allies around the world, and this bill takes big steps to further support Ukraine against the outrageous invasion effected by the Russian Federation on February 24 of this year.

We know that the United States can't focus on countering Russia or supporting Ukraine; we need to do both. Over the last 10 months, we supplied Ukraine with critical military assistance, and this year's Defense Authorization Act will give Ukrainian soldiers even more resources to keep up the fight.

And I am glad this bill also includes a provision which will impose greater costs on Mr. Putin and the Russian Federation. Since Russia launched its attack on Ukraine, the United States and our allies have imposed sanctions on Russian businesses and oligarchs and cut off Russian banks from the global financial system.

But, in typical fashion, Russia has found a loophole in the current sanctions. It has taken a page out of Venezuela's playbook by using the purchase and sale of gold to bring in cash. The Russian Federation started buying gold to offset the devaluation of the ruble and then selling that gold on international markets for high-value currency. In short, Russia is laundering money through the gold market, and we need to put a stop to it.

That is why I introduced the Stop Russian GOLD Act with Senators KING, HASSAN, and HAGERTY to end this practice. This legislation would apply sanctions to anyone who helps Russia finance their illegal war against Ukraine by buying or selling or transporting Russian blood gold. That means anyone who buys or transports gold from Russia's central bank holdings would be the target of sanctions themselves, a deterrent for anyone considering doing this sort of business with Russia.

So we need to do everything we can to cut the financing to Putin's war machine, and this is one important way to do it, while we continue to support Ukraine in their will to repel and defeat Russian aggression and invasion of their sovereign territory.

I am glad the NDAA will build on the work we have done to strengthen our semiconductor supply chain. I know we have all learned a lot about the vulnerability of our technology, everything from our television sets to our computers to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, or even our cell phones—the threat of high-end semiconductors being cut off at supply.

And over the last couple of years, we have done big things, made major strides to bolster domestic chipmaking. As our colleagues know, this is a matter of both economic and national security. Made-in-America semiconductors, microcircuits, mean more jobs, investments, and more growth here in the United States, and a strong domestic supply means we aren't at the mercy of other countries for our most critical technology.

Congress funded the CHIPS Act earlier this summer, and we are already seeing a glimpse of the sort of investments it will bring to the United States, most notably in places like Arizona and Ohio but also in New York and in Texas and in many other places around the country.

There is more we can and should do to safeguard our critical supply chains. At this moment, Chinese companies with known connections to the Chinese Communist Party are actively selling semiconductors to companies that do business with the U.S. Government. That is a huge red flag and a major vulnerability. It puts us at risk of cyber attacks and threatens the disclosure of sensitive information.

And our reliance on these Chinese companies is a risk in and of itself. If the Chinese Communist Party wanted to starve the United States of our access to chips, it could use these compa-

nies to help in that effort. With the snap of President Xi's finger, they could cut off the supply of chips to companies that supply products to the U.S. Government.

We are well aware of the risks associated with reliance on other countries for semiconductors, which is why this has been such a big priority over the last couple of years. Now we need to ensure that the U.S. Government isn't purchasing chips from companies connected with the Chinese Communist Party.

U.S. military assets shouldn't be threatened by using these chips, which could be sabotaged by the Chinese Communist Party and the People's Republic of China. Senators SCHUMER and WICKER and I have worked together on an amendment which will address this vulnerability. Our amendment would prohibit the U.S. Government from doing business with Chinese companies with known links to the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese military. It specifically mentions three companies with known links.

This ban will be phased in, in a responsible way, to ensure it doesn't lead to paralyzing supply chain disruptions; but once it is fully implemented, it will ensure that taxpayer dollars are not spent on chips from Chinese military contractors. I am glad this amendment made its way into the NDAA, and I want to thank Senator SCHUMER and Senator WICKER for working together to make this possible.

Those are just a few of the pieces of legislation contained within the National Defense Authorization Act, but it also includes other important provisions too. It includes bipartisan legislation I introduced to prohibit former members of the intelligence community from working for our foreign adversaries, including state sponsors of terrorism.

What we have seen is occasionally when people retire, they are hired by other foreign governments with the knowledge that they take along with them which came in the form of protecting the United States but could then be used by our adversaries to endanger the United States.

We also, in the NDAA, amended existing drug trafficking laws to crack down on countries like China that are known to export precursor chemicals used in deadly drugs like fentanyl, the synthetic opioid that took the lives of 71,000 Americans last year alone.

This also includes—the National Defense Authorization Act—the work product of the Environment and Public Works Committee, known as WRDA, the Water Resources Development Act; and, specifically, so far as it applies to my State of Texas, this bill authorizes the Texas Coastal Spine Project, which will safeguard communities and critical industries along the Texas gulf coast against inevitable future hurricanes.

The bill also requires the President to document, catalog, and preserve evi-

dence of war crimes committed in Ukraine so that justice will eventually be served.

I want to commend Senators INHOFE and REED for the bipartisan work that they have done on the Defense authorization bill. My only regret is it has taken us this long to get to it since it came out of the Armed Services Committee last July, but we know that they have done their best under the circumstances to include bipartisan recommendations and legislation that will keep our country strong and help maintain the peace.

We know that both Senators REED and INHOFE have fought tough headwinds getting the bill to the floor, and my hope is that tomorrow we will have a chance to vote on it, perhaps with a handful of amendments. This is a strong bill that will support our men and women in uniform and their families. It will help preserve our readiness against threats anywhere in the world and help preserve our national security.

I look forward to casting my vote in support of that bill, perhaps as early as tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The senior Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I would ask consent to speak as in morning business.

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

REMEMBERING SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SHOOTING

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise as so many of us are talking about today and reflecting upon the massacre in Newtown, CT, Sandy Hook Elementary School, 10 years ago today.

I rise for two purposes: One is to commemorate those who lost their lives that day—especially the children, 20 children, as well as 6 adults—to remember each of them today but also to commend and salute the work done by families and so many others across this country to make some measure of progress, limited though it has been, to reduce the likelihood of more gun violence across the country.

I wanted to start, though, Madam President, by reading the names and the ages of those who perished on that day at Sandy Hook Elementary School. For each individual, I will read their name and then the age they were on that day.

First, Charlotte Bacon, 6 years old; Olivia Engel, 6; Dylan Hockley, 6 years old; Madeleine Hsu, 6; Catherine Hubbard, 6; Jesse Lewis, 6; Ana Marquez-Greene, 6; James Mattioli, 6; Emilie Parker, 6; Jack Pinto, 6 years old; Noah Pozner, 6; Caroline Previdi, 6; Jessica Rekos, 6; Avielle Richman, 6 years old; Benjamin Wheeler, 6; Allison Wyatt, 6; Daniel Barden, 7 years old; Josephine Gay, 7; Chase Kowalski, 7; Grace McDonnell, 7, just age 7.

They are the children, and here are the adults who were killed on that day:

Victoria Soto, 27 years old; Rachel D'Avino, 29; Lauren Rousseau, 30; Dawn Lafferty Hochsprung, 47 years old; Anne Marie Murphy, 52; and Mary Sherlach, 56 years old.

When we remember those children and adults who were killed on that day, unfortunately for the Nation, it didn't stop there. And just as I have read those names, we could continue reading names from other cities and other years under different circumstances but all leading to the same place: death and darkness because of the scourge of gun violence all across America.

The children of Newtown, CT, came before the most recent massacre of children in a school in Uvalde, TX. There were many front-page newspaper stories in 2012 on this day—or I guess tomorrow; it would be tomorrow's newspapers—across the country. We had little, small pictures of each child and each adult.

I saved one from the Wall Street Journal. It was on my desk for a long time, and then I ultimately had it matted. But I still have one just from May of this year that is still in its newspaper form from Uvalde, TX—the same newspaper, the Wall Street Journal. But you could pick any paper in the country in 2012 or this past year. That tells us all we need to know.

So, as we remember and reflect upon that loss, I believe today it is also important to remember and commend what the parents did, what the families did, what their friends and relatives and supporters did, what volunteers did, all these years, who didn't know these families.

But let me start with the parents. These parents, of course, were consumed by grief, as anyone would be. But somehow—somehow—although they were consumed by their grief, somehow, by way of their own courage and the grace of God, they figured out a way to come together in common purpose, remembering and trying in their own way to pay tribute to their children, to form organizations which have been highly successful in making the case as to why we have to take action here on the Senate floor and not far away on the House floor, to take action on gun violence.

For example, groups like Sandy Hook Promise and Newtown Action Alliance and so many others and related groups that have sprung up got involved in the debate and made the case to legislators personally. Parents burdened by their own grief made the case to legislators. The progress has been all too slow, but because of the courage of the parents of those Sandy Hook children and because of so many other families and parents who have loved and lost, we made some progress just this past year.

But, unfortunately, in the last 10 years, it took thousands more mass shootings and hundreds of thousands of gun deaths for Congress to finally act. Let me say that again—hundreds of thousands of gun violence deaths for Congress to finally act.

This past summer, we even had Republican Senators join us—not enough but enough to pass a bill in the Senate—to pass a bill that had common-sense gun safety measures in the bill. This bill that passed this summer not only will save lives, but there is some evidence it is already doing that, by some of the data and analysis done by law enforcement.

But this bill, if anyone is being honest about it—this bill, this effort, this ongoing effort to reduce gun violence deaths, has to be just the very beginning of our work. People are still being killed and injured by gun violence every day in cities and communities all across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the Nation. We owe it to the families of those 20 children and those 6 adults who died in Newtown, CT, at Sandy Hook Elementary School, and so many other places that we can name and catalog here today. Because of the length of that list, we don't have time to go through all of them today.

We have work to do to make sure that we not only pay tribute to those families who have loved and lost and done so much to help other families, but we owe so much to them in the form of passing legislation.

We have to continue to make sure that those who lost their lives on that awful day—a day that most Americans will never forget—we have to make sure that all the efforts that their parents undertook and that their family members undertook will not be in vain.

We have more work to do to pass commonsense gun safety measures. My God, a background check supported by 90 percent of the American people has not yet been passed into law, but it will be. We are going to get there here in the Senate and across the country.

So we have more work to do, but on this day, as we commemorate and reflect on those young souls we lost, we also have to be positive about what their families have done since that day, showing uncommon courage and dedication to not just the memory of their children but to the betterment of the country as a whole.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The senior Senator from Alabama.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I come to the Senate floor for what will probably be one of my last times—perhaps not my last time but close. I want to start off by thanking the people of Alabama, my home State. They have put their trust in me for more than 50 years. It is more than I could ever wish for, and this has been truly been an experience of a lifetime—something I could have never dreamed.

I came to the House 44 years ago and served 8 years as a Democrat coming from the State of Alabama. I had a good run in the U.S. House, and I appreciate that. I am grateful for that. However, I always wanted to come over here to the U.S. Senate.

In 1986, I ran for the Senate against the incumbent, Jeremiah Denton—a prominent war hero, a great man—and I won that race by 6,854 votes. It was razor, razor thin, as you can imagine.

In 1994, after years of being told to join the Republican Party and that I should be there, from President Reagan and all the way down, I decided to switch parties. I joined the Republican Party. Some people would say that I was in the vanguard of the realignment of the Republican Party in the South. That is for history to decide.

During my time in the Senate, I have been given the great opportunity of chairing four committees—four committees—something I couldn't have believed. In these positions of leadership, I have tried to influence legislation that will have a lasting impact, creating conditions to improve our country.

On the Select Committee on Intelligence, I served there for 8 years and was chairman of the full committee.

On the Banking Committee, where I am grateful to still serve after 36 years, I was chairman for three Congresses and was ranking member for three Congresses. On that committee, I worked with various Senators.

I had the opportunity, as some of you have had, to chair the Rules Committee, which is important to the running of the Senate. We worked together and instituted some very serious legislation.

But, finally, after many years of work, I chaired the Appropriations Committee. Working across the aisle in a bipartisan way, we passed and enacted the most on-time spending bills in 2018 for the first time in 22 years. We did that, I believe, by working together.

As I look back on the Senate, I think of some of the people who were here who are not with us anymore, but they have had a lasting impact on this body—the Senate.

I think of Senator Bob Dole—Presidential candidate, Vice Presidential candidate, majority leader, minority leader, friend, mentor—I thought had a lasting impact.

I think of Senator Byrd—Democrat of West Virginia, former majority leader, later chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He had strong views and was a man of the Senate.

We also had Senator Mark Hatfield—a Republican, former Governor of Oregon, distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee—whom I had the opportunity and privilege to serve with here in the Senate.

We had Senator Ted Stevens—Republican of Alaska, well known, strong views, Appropriations chairman, and a good role model for me on the committee. He spent 40 years in the Senate.

We had Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii—a Democrat, a war hero. He was a great Senator and chairman of the Appropriations Committee and powerful chairman of the Defense Subcommittee of Appropriations for years.

We had here in the Senate—who we called the lion of the Senate—Senator Ted Kennedy, a Democrat. He was involved in a lot of stuff. A lot of it I voted against; some of it I didn't. But he would reach out. One thing about Senator Kennedy—if he told you something, he kept his word. That is so important, not just in the Senate, but everywhere.

I remember my good friend Bob Kerrey—a war hero, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, former Governor of Nebraska, Senator. We served together on the Intel Committee and the Appropriations Committee.

On the Banking Committee was Paul Sarbanes of Maryland—a stalwart here, a Democrat. We had our differences, philosophically. I was ranking and then chairman of the Banking Committee, and he was ranking, and he was chairman. But we made things work because we worked together toward that end.

Senator Harry Reid was here—former majority leader, right here, an old friend of mine from our House days, a personal friend. People knew that. People knew. They would see us talking and say: Why are you all speaking today?

And I would say: Well, we are talking about everything. It may be personal; it may not be. We may be trying to get something done.

We had Senator Cochran from Mississippi—a nice man, a real gentleman, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who served here 40 years.

And my friend from Maryland, Barbara Mikulski, a Democrat—what a fighter—chairman of the Appropriations Committee. We worked together, when I was ranking on the Appropriations Committee, to get things done, and we did.

I would like to touch on some of my colleagues whom I served with from my State of Alabama. First I want to mention that today is the 203rd birthday of my State of Alabama. Today, they became a State 203 years ago. I was not there then.

As for some of my colleagues from Alabama—Senator Howell Heflin, who some of you will remember, was bigger than life and larger than life. He served 18 years here in the Senate.

Jeff Sessions—a lot of you remember Jeff—he served 20 years in the Senate.

Luther Strange, who is here on the floor now—his tenure was short, but we remember him well. He is a dear friend.

Doug Jones served here for 3 years in the Senate. He was a Democrat from Alabama, and we had a good relationship. We did a lot of things together in a bipartisan way.

My current colleague, TOMMY TUBERVILLE—he is doing well. He is ending his second year in the Senate. He was a great coach—too great a

coach when he played Alabama. He beat the dickens out of us a few times. So I said: Let's keep him in the Senate.

I want to mention my friend PAT LEAHY—chairman of the Appropriations Committee, President pro tempore of the Senate, long-term serving member of the Appropriations Committee. When I was chairman, he was ranking. We worked together on the committee, and we got things done.

I told him that I would rather be chairman, but if a Democrat is going to be chairman, it had to be him because he was the only one in the room when I said that.

PAT and I have worked together to get some things done. We have got work to do before this year is out, and we, hopefully, are on the right track.

MITCH MCCONNELL is sitting right here—friend, accomplished leader, the longest serving Senate Republican Leader, majority leader, minority leader now, a long-term friend with deep roots in Alabama, but from Kentucky.

MITCH, I have said to other people that I have seen a lot of people work, but you know how to work the Senate and you know how to make it work. I consider you a friend, and I have enjoyed my time with you.

During my time in the Senate, I have had the great privilege to serve with eight Presidents of the United States: Jimmy Carter; Ronald Reagan; George H. W. Bush; Bill Clinton; George W. Bush; Barack Obama, who was a former colleague of ours; Donald Trump; and Joe Biden now, former colleague and Senator. That is a great honor.

I want to speak just a few minutes here to what I think is important here in the Senate. We are in the Senate, but we are the Senate. I want to speak about why bipartisanship is important. It is important because it is good for the country. It is important because it brings people together. It is important because we all have our differences in philosophy, but the country, I believe, should be first, the Nation should be first. It is important, I also believe, because of the oath we take—all of us—when we are sworn into the Senate.

And I want to share this with you. You have done it, you have taken it—all of us do—you take that oath and you swear:

I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic—

That is a lot—

That I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

That covers a lot of ground. Everybody here knows that. As I look back on my years here this afternoon, a lot of it was at a time when we did things together here. We ate together. We socialized together. We worked together. But today I think we have become too polarized, and there are a lot of reasons for that. We understand.

But I can say that we need to get back to the basics and put the country first. We must not put ourselves or our party first. We must put America first. We have to. And many of us—a lot of you—have tried to do this at times. We all have, in our own way. Senator LEAHY and I have worked toward that end.

I have always believed—and this goes back—that we should strive for Plato's instruction to all of us—to strive to work for the ideal. I know that he means the utopia. That is probably never going to happen, but that is the goal.

In the Senate, having taken that oath of office, I have always thought that the security of the Nation is the No. 1 obligation of the Senate and the House, the Congress, and the President of the United States. My parents taught me this, and I believe this, and it is referenced in the oath of office that I just shared with you.

It is important to have, I believe, priorities. I have done my best to focus on things that will have a big impact on America and also my home State of Alabama. I always look at it that—being in the U.S. Senate, I am a Senator from Alabama, but I am also a United States Senator—for America. We all are.

Some of my priorities have been national security. As you well know, I have chaired the Intel Committee. I have worked and I was on the Armed Services Committee with Senators Nunn and Warner.

Education is a high priority for all of us, on both sides of the aisle. It has to be. Creating manufacturing and workforce development—that is education and training. You have to have it.

Infrastructure is so important. It covers everything from communications to roads.

Outstanding Federal judges that we vote on here are very important.

Also, as my days are ticking away, I want to mention my successor that is coming, Senator-elect Katie Britt. She is here today. She will be coming into office. I think she will serve the Nation and all of us well. She has a lot of promise.

Lastly, toward the end, I also want to thank my family for their enduring support. I want to thank my wife Annette, who is here, my wife of 62 years. My service here would not have been possible without her. I am also immensely grateful for her dedication to my career, and her ambition and ability to break her own glass ceiling in academia along the way.

I want to thank my two sons, Richard and Claude. I want to thank them for their support and perseverance while growing up in political times and in a political family. It was tough on them.

I also want to thank my two grandchildren. One of them, Anna Shelby, is here, and my grandson William—he better be in the library studying.

I want to thank my parents for everything—I mean, everything.

I also want to say thank you to my staff over the years. Many of them are here today, and there have been many of them. They are outstanding people. I couldn't have done anything without them.

I don't know where I would start calling the staff roll, but I do want to thank Anne Caldwell. A lot of you know Anne. She has been with me 44 years. Wow. I thank her for her loyalty, her perseverance, and for getting me to meetings on time.

Anne, thank you, very much. Thank you.

Also, lastly, I have had a lot of chiefs of staff. I have had good ones—many good ones. But I have a young man working for me now, and he took a leave of absence from a big job with a big pay to work the last 2 years up here, Watson Donald. Thank you, Watson.

I want to thank my friends back home in Alabama for their support over the years, as well as my friends here in the Senate.

And, importantly, I want to thank the people of Alabama for electing me 12 times to public office. It has been the honor of my lifetime.

I yield the floor.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Vermont.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD C. SHELBY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I am going to take the prerogative as President Pro Tempore to speak because I know the distinguished Republican leader has already spoken, and I, of course, would have yielded to him had he not.

It is always hard to say goodbye to friends, especially one as good as Senator SHELBY, and one with whom I will walk out of here arm in arm.

But I would say that we have to think about the time when this body and Nation are as divided as ever, Senator RICHARD SHELBY's tenure exemplifies a commitment to cooperation and fairness.

I have seen that not only in his public life, and what we see on the floor, but I see it in meetings we have in his office or my office, quiet meetings between the two of us, knowing we will always keep our word.

And so I would say at the conclusion of the 117th Congress, the Senate will lose a skilled leader and a true Senator of his word. That has been the way with our decades of service together.

Senator SHELBY's legacy, one marked by his intellect, his integrity, will undoubtedly persist in this body and throughout the country.

My great mentor when I came here as the junior-most Member of the Senate was Robert Stafford of Vermont. Senator Stafford was Mr. Republican from Vermont, and he took me under his wing, and he said to me: Patrick, always keep your word, but you find you will be the best Senator if you learn to work across the aisle. You can work with people of integrity, both Repub-

licans and Democrats, and you will find, among both parties, you will develop close friendships.

But more than a fellow Senator, I am proud to consider Senator SHELBY one of those great friends.

The reference we have seen before to distinguished Republicans and Democrats—of course, we are all called distinguished Senators, but we consider in my family, in my house, some more distinguished than others but for different reasons. And a devotion to public service is ingrained in Senator SHELBY's character.

After he obtained his juris doctorate, Senator SHELBY served as the Birmingham city prosecutor—I always like Senators who have been prosecutors—and an Alabama State senator.

I never got elected—or the opportunity to be elected as State senator.

But he began in 1978 his congressional career by serving Alabama's Seventh District in the House of Representatives, and for the last 36 years, Senator SHELBY tirelessly served Alabamians in the Senate—a person when they think of whom they look to, they look to him.

And he has been fortunate to serve with some very good Senators from his State that have been friends of mine, a couple on the floor today.

He built an impressive resume. He served on the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Intelligence Committee and the Banking Committee and the Rules Committee. And on the Appropriations Committee, Senator SHELBY fought to allocate Federal dollars to key institutions and infrastructure across Alabama, but he did it openly and honestly. He should take great pride in his reputation as a leader who has truly improved the lives of his constituents—something Senators should do.

And as two of the most senior Members of the Senate, I worked alongside Senator SHELBY for decades. We spent countless hours working to pass the annual appropriations bills.

Together, we negotiated the end of the longest government shutdown in U.S. history.

And I remember, Senator SHELBY, you and I sitting there and deciding: OK. We have an agreement ending the longest shutdown, and we told our leaders—a Republican leader and a Democratic leader—that we had worked out an agreement and here are the details. And they said, if you two have worked it out, that is good enough. And within hours, the longest shutdown ended—Senator SHELBY coming on the floor announcing and me having the honor of joining him.

We also share memories from traveling the world together on a variety of key diplomatic missions.

Now, during that time, we had long discussions, candid discussions, open discussions. Thank God, discussions did not have a record, as we discussed what could be done better and should be done better in the Senate.

We formed a great friendship. Our wives—his wife, Dr. Annette Shelby, my wife, Marcelle—also had that friendship. And Dr. Shelby was able to quietly give history lessons on every single place we went to and would have—you remember this, Senator SHELBY. The Senators and spouses were with us of both parties and would just sit there and quietly listen to Dr. Shelby—Professor Shelby.

This came in very handy once in a visit to Cuba, where the leader in Cuba, President Raul Castro, was looking at us with suspicion, concern. Dr. Shelby talked about the Cuban students she taught at Georgetown, and, you remember, the whole atmosphere changed, and we all got along well after that.

I could say so much more, and I will later, but I wish both you, my dear friend, and Annette the best in the next role of life. I will miss you. This will not be the same place without you, and it makes my leaving here that much easier.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, as we near the end of the 117th Congress, we are also preparing to say farewell to some of the body's most dedicated public servants.

Among those is Alabama's own RICHARD CRAIG SHELBY.

I have known Senator SHELBY for many years, but I have most enjoyed getting to know him as a colleague and a friend in Congress.

You know, his help and guidance have been invaluable to me since I came to the Senate 2 years ago. It was quite the transition from college football to politics, but I jumped into the ring because I care deeply about the future of our Nation, and I realized very quickly so does RICHARD SHELBY.

My transition to public office was supported by some great advisers who shared my belief in America. Chief among those allies is Senator SHELBY.

Even though he is a lifelong Alabama fan and pulled against me for 10 years, we still became friends.

Congress is like a football team. It has a lot of great players in different positions, but to come together, form a game plan, and get some wins for our country, those players need good coaches.

Senator SHELBY has been one of the best.

Born in Birmingham, Senator SHELBY graduated from the University of Alabama and the Birmingham School of Law, becoming a city prosecutor in Tuscaloosa. For all my Auburn folks back home, at least we can all agree that Senator SHELBY is one of the finer things to come out of Tuscaloosa.

Senator SHELBY has represented Alabamians in Congress since 1979 and has served in the Senate since 1987—always keeping an eye on the future and the other eye on the people he has been serving.

To say Senator SHELBY committed his career to the betterment of his State and the Nation would be a huge understatement.

His retirement is well-earned, and his work should be celebrated.

So, today, I want to honor the countless hours—countless hours—he has spent fighting for Alabama and the many achievements he has championed for the betterment of all Americans.

Senator SHELBY's work has hit almost every corner of Alabama.

No. 1, his focus on national defense, manufacturing, infrastructure, and education will be the hallmarks of his legacy.

First, Senator SHELBY's commitment to our State's defense industry is second—and I mean second—to none.

His support for America's military and his belief in the abilities of Alabamians cemented our State's role as a leader in America's national defense infrastructure. In nearly every position he has held in the Senate, he has used the tools available to bolster our armed services and utilize resources Alabama offers.

More recently, as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee on Defense, Senator SHELBY delivered billions in crucial defense funding. His efforts helped significantly expand the capabilities of Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL. Redstone Arsenal has grown from a U.S. Army base to a collection of crucial facilities for our national defense and the Federal Government.

The resources and responsibilities secured by Senator SHELBY for the Redstone Arsenal increased its capabilities, missions, and tenants. Behind the fence at Redstone Arsenal today, we have the Army Materiel Command, the Army Aviation and Missile Command, the Missile Defense Agency, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, the Missile and Space Intelligence Center, and the expanding presence of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Under Senator SHELBY's leadership, the FBI's presence in Alabama will be its second largest, only behind Washington, DC.

Along with myself and the entire Alabama delegation, Senator SHELBY has also been instrumental in the work to permanently relocate U.S. Space Command to Redstone Arsenal—a move we hope to applaud after an official announcement by the Air Force in the very near future.

Second, thanks to Senator SHELBY's commitment to bringing jobs and industry to Alabama, our State has also grown into one of the country's leading manufacturing hubs.

After a visit to Germany by Senator SHELBY in the 1990s, he played a key role in bringing Mercedes-Benz and their suppliers to Alabama. Fast-forward a couple of decades, and today there are more than 40 German suppliers in West Alabama alone. The impact of the automobile industry's Alabama migration has been huge for the workforce and the economy thanks to Senator SHELBY.

He was also crucial in recruiting suppliers for Airbus and its South Alabama manufacturing plant in Mobile, which added hundreds of millions of dollars to our economy and created thousands of very, very quality jobs.

His work to establish manufacturing centers at universities helped make Alabama home for many aerospace and defense companies, resulting in thousands more jobs and countless opportunities for growth.

Third, that growth would not be possible without solid infrastructure, which Senator SHELBY has helped build for decades.

Alabama's vast and unique geography presented certain challenges for infrastructure but also many opportunities. Senator SHELBY's ability to both foresee challenges and imagine opportunities has made him an invaluable tool throughout our State's growth.

A lot of that growth has stemmed from our State's coastline and the Port of Mobile, one of the largest in the country. Now, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working on a project to deepen the Mobile Ship Channel, allowing bigger ships to navigate Mobile Bay. With Senator SHELBY's guidance and support, the Port Authority and terminals have steadily expanded the Mobile terminal, making it one of the fastest growing in the Nation.

As a key player in Senate appropriations, Senator SHELBY has secured many dollars for Alabama's infrastructure, upgrading highways, airports, and bridges.

Fourth, all of this growth in defense, manufacturing, infrastructure, and more would mean nothing without the talented men and women who serve in our military, lead our companies, and pioneer the new industries driving economic development. That talent and those ideas are cultivated through education, and Senator SHELBY believes in the value of quality education—even at Auburn University. He is the product of an Alabama public school and a State university. His personal experiences instilled in him a deep respect for the role of public education and a desire to make it the best it can be.

To make sure our State was on par or leading other prestigious educational institutions, Senator SHELBY fought to support and invest in Alabama schools. He delivered hundreds of millions of dollars to Alabama's universities to build math, science, and engineering complexes. These top-tier facilities have helped to bring students and experts from around the world to Alabama.

Today, Airbus works closely with the University of Alabama's engineering program—a relationship that is the perfect example of connection between premier education, talent, and economic opportunities. Senator SHELBY understands that relationship and its benefits, as does his wife, Dr. Annette Shelby, a decorated professor and life-long education advocate. That under-

standing has driven his priorities throughout his career and helped Alabamians along the way.

There are a lot of big personalities, big decisions, and big egos here in Washington, DC, but it takes commitment, humility, and patriotism to make a difference in the lives of others. Senator SHELBY is a giant in the Senate because he never forgets about the things that matter the most, the little things, the things that are most important to everyday Americans back home. They have supported him for decades because he has always had their backs.

As we bid farewell to Senator SHELBY, I encourage all my colleagues to honor his legacy by following his example. Put your family, your country, and your principles first, and the rest will fall into place.

We all know public service is not just a burden of time and effort for the servant; it is also for their families.

So to Dr. Shelby, thank you for your steadfast service to our State alongside your husband.

Senator SHELBY, thank you for your mentorship over the past 2 years. I will use these lessons learned by serving with you for the rest of my time in the Senate and beyond.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, a moment ago when I saw Senator SHELBY and Senator LEAHY shake hands warmly in the middle of the aisle, I thought of it as a century of service in the Congress. It is a century of learning lessons that fortunately they have both been able to share with us.

I mentioned in my farewell remarks the other day Senator SHELBY and Senator LEAHY and how, working with both of them on the Appropriations Committee and the Rules Committee, I learned so much from them. But I was reminded today—I have heard a number of these speeches in the time I have been in the Senate, and I don't think anybody ever has reminded us quite so well of the oath we take—the oath we take to the Constitution, the oath we take to do this job as well as we can, and the promise we make, frankly, to find a solution.

It is a lot easier in Washington these days and in the Senate it is a lot easier to find a fight than it is to find a solution. We have kind of fallen into a place where so many people now run for office talking about what they will never do. Frankly, when you start talking about what you will never do, that usually takes us out of the conversation of what can be done, and if anybody here has been a determined participant in finding what could be done, it is Senator SHELBY.

That certainly does not mean that he gives in easily. Many times I have been asked by other Members or the press: What do you think Senator SHELBY is thinking about this final deal? I would say: I don't know what he is thinking,

but I know he is thinking, and I know we are not going to find out what he is thinking until he is ready to tell us what he is thinking. But he is trying to figure out a way to come to a conclusion that can actually solve the problem. And in the appropriating process, that problem is usually keeping the government in business.

The other thing I have noticed especially about Senator SHELBY is how often he is willing to share things that he hears from his family. His older sister used to—I would hear from him: Well, I got advice from my older sister. And I must think—I am wondering, Well, how old is your oldest sister? So I would usually ask him and be reminded of that.

But I benefit from the advice too. Just like his sister was calling him and saying whatever it was they were talking about that day, he was always talking about his sons and always talking about Mrs. Shelby. You know, I have such great respect for her.

He said to me: You know, you are married to a strong woman too.

I said: Yes, I am.

He said: We better not forget it.

And he hasn't forgotten it, nor has he forgotten to appreciate her and brag on her and understand what an important part of his life and his career she has been. I hope I have learned something from that as well.

Team Shelby is pretty good. You know, RICHARD has surrounded himself with people who have stayed in his working orbit. They may go from one committee to another or maybe they stay right where they are, being sure they keep him on time. Maybe they find out that if you are going to travel, you are going to travel in a way that absolutely reaches the diplomatic conclusion and the helpful conclusion for the country and Alabama it was designed to make. So I have always been a big respecter of Team Shelby as well.

I was particularly impressed to watch Team Shelby—whether they knew it or not, they just produced their own Senator. I think Katie Britt is going to be a great Member of the Senate. One of the reasons is she was such an important part of Senator SHELBY's efforts here. He listened to her, she listened to him, and when it came time to step up, I don't think any Member in the Senate who I am aware of has ever made a greater commitment to try to be sure that they were replaced by somebody who would do the best possible job of following their legacy for the State.

It has been wonderful for me to get to be on the Appropriations Committee and the Rules Committee and work with Senator SHELBY but also all the many times we have had just to talk about what is going on that day, what was going on with his family, what was happening with his staff.

I am glad to be here today and share with him how much I benefited from the great friendship we have had but more importantly the great example

and to be reminded again of our oath to the Constitution and the importance of being a problem-solver rather than being the person who always wants to talk about the problem. RICHARD always wants to solve the problem, and the country is better for that, and so is the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I just wanted to add my congratulatory remarks and thanks to Senator SHELBY, the senior Senator from Alabama. For me, he will always be the chairman. He has certainly been my mentor, and I think the Senator from Missouri and others would say the same thing. He has been our mentor on appropriations—in my case, for 12 years—and I would have to say, to me, it is amazing how well he understands the process—of course, he has been at it for a while—how well he understands the process, how well he works it.

The people he hires are so good. That is something we have to work with as chairmen of the subcommittees, is our staff administrators as well, and in working with Chairman SHELBY, we are always going to get just absolutely the very, very best people. So it wasn't just his staff director for the full committee but the staff directors we had on the subcommittee. I think the Senator from Missouri would back me up on that. We were able to have such good people who really understood the process very well also, and that is incredibly important in appropriations because you have all these things that are authorized, and then we have to figure out what to fund and how to fund, and not only that but how to get those bills passed at the committee level and ultimately passed across the floor. Of course, everybody has a tremendous interest in what is in those appropriations bills. So it is not just the process he understood so well and worked so well but his understanding of people.

He wasn't the person who always talked, and he certainly wasn't always the person, when he talked, who talked the longest. But I have always believed that sometimes a person who can express a thought in the most cogent way—in other words, express a full, complete thought that is appropriate at the time and that actually makes the point in the fewest number of words—actually shows the keenest intellect. Try it sometime. Try saying as much as you can in terms of something important and making a point in the fewest possible words. It truly does take a keen mind.

The chairman not only had a keen mind for the policy in what needed to be done but in also working with people. I think, maybe, that that is something I appreciate even more. It is that, when you worked with Chairman SHELBY, he took the time to understand what was important to you. Then, to the best of his ability, he would try to help you accomplish that.

Now, if you kind of thought, Well, that is pretty good. I think I will go back and try to get a few more things, sometimes he would have to remind you that you have got to prioritize. He might remind you with, boy, you are kind of pushing for a lot there. In that respect, it gave you perspective. That is important too. That is important too.

Yet, for the things that really mattered and for the things that you needed to get done, he really took the time to work and make it happen. That might not have happened in one cycle. That might have been something that he would have recognized as being, OK. I get it. This is important to you, and we, maybe, can't chop that tree down with one swing at the ax, but do you know what? We will keep working on this. I will work with you on it. I will mentor you on it, and we will get that done.

He gave you the confidence that it actually would happen because you knew he was going to stick there with you. I guess, in return, you know, you had to try to make sure you were doing your part.

In that respect, that would be the one other part I would mention. He also understood there were times that you could accomplish and do what he wanted you to do and vote with him and that you probably should, but then he also recognized there were times when you couldn't, and he accepted that. I think that takes an awful lot, too, because there are a lot of type A personalities around here, and it can get a little demanding once in a while.

I think he understood both the leadership and the idea of, OK, let's get something done, but then also sometimes understanding that you had to make a decision that might not be exactly what he wanted in that situation and accept it.

I guess the final point I would make is—I really like sports. I have always enjoyed sports. Now that I am an old guy, all I get to do is watch them anymore, but Senator-Chairman SHELBY likes sports too. Anyone who knows him pretty well knows that he is somewhat partial to the Tide. He is kind of an Alabama fan. Now, that might be because he played football for Alabama. I don't know how many know it, but back in the day of Bart Starr, who, obviously, was an incredible football hero for the Green Bay Packers, I remember, as a kid, watching him win the first two Super Bowls with the Green Bay Packers against the Chiefs and the Raiders. So, when I got here and found out that Chairman SHELBY had been a tight end on the Alabama team where Bart Starr was the quarterback, I thought, Wow, that is pretty cool. As a result of that, I think I always looked to talk to him about sports. I would talk about the North Dakota State Bison football team. Not surprisingly, he would talk about his beloved Alabama football team.

I have to say, you know, probably most people when they watch the Tide



play—and that seems to be pretty frequently—you know, for a national championship or in important games, they think of Bear Bryant, Coach Bryant—the coach—and how he kind of got the whole Alabama football dynasty going. That is another thing that is interesting; that Chairman SHELBY knew Bear Bryant and worked with some of Bear Bryant's other really great players, like Joe Namath and a few others.

So I loved hearing those stories. I have to tell you that, not only now but for as long as I am around, I will always take an abiding interest in watching the Alabama football team play.

Most people probably think, you know, when they think about icons and are watching the Alabama football game and go, “Oh, yes, that Bear Bryant, didn't he start something amazing? Isn't that an amazing dynasty?”—oh, I have got to do one quick story, and that is we like to kid the chairman.

One year, Alabama had a particularly good football team, and a story we were kind of teasing him about was, Hey, did you see the new football rankings that came out for college football?

You know, we would say: Well, who was No. 1?

He would say: Well, Alabama, of course.

They would say: Well, then, who was No. 2?

Well, Alabama's second string.

Then we would say: Ah, that is good. How about No. 3?

Well, that is Clemson—or somebody else.

We would say: OK. Well, how about No. 4?

Well, that is Alabama's third string.

So we would like to tease and have fun.

But whenever I watch the Alabama football games now, it is not only about Bear Bryant; I think about Chairman SHELBY. I think about all of the amazing things that he has done in Congress, in the House and in the Senate, not only for Alabama—and he has done quite a few good things for Alabama, but he has done an awful lot of good things for this country. I think, where the rubber really hits the road on so many of these things when legislation gets authorized, whether it is defense or anything else, it has got to be funded.

So, if you really look back at the length of this gentleman's career in the House and in the Senate and at what he has actually done and at all of the things that he has been a part of and been involved with, it is monumental. It is iconic. It is a big, big deal, and we are going to miss him a lot.

I just want to say thank you to Senator SHELBY and to his wonderful, beautiful, classy wife, Annette, from both myself and my wife, Mikey. It has been great working with him. I hope we will see a lot of him in the future.

Congratulations on just an incredible career in the U.S. Congress and U.S. Senate.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. KAINÉ assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. BOOKER assumed the Chair.)

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

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

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES AND MEXICO BILATERAL RELATIONS

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I do rise for multiple purposes. The first is to acknowledge that earlier this week, on Monday, December 12, we marked the historic bicentennial of diplomatic relations between the United States and Mexico.

Our two countries share a 2,000-mile border, an extensive trade, security, economic, cultural, and familial ties.

Our cultural ties are particularly deep. Forty million Americans have Mexican heritage, many of whom are proud residents of Virginia. People of Mexican origin represent nearly 60 percent of our Nation's Hispanic population, and 2 million Americans live in Mexico. These people-to-people ties are invaluable.

The two countries share an important tradition of democracy, and those traditions require consistent work and maintenance to ensure strong and independent institutions, rule of law, and democratic freedoms.

We know that upholding democracy in both our nations isn't always easy, but it is a vital endeavor, and it is the bedrock of our partnership. As we celebrate the bicentennial, it is crucial that the Senate and the U.S. Government as a whole continue all efforts to advance this relationship.

I want to commend the Biden administration for working side by side with Mexican leaders and taking on the many challenges we face together. This is exactly what we should be doing with such a close neighboring partner, and I am committing to continue to support these efforts through my role on the Foreign Relations Subcommittee over the Americas, which I chair.

Through the high-level economic dialogue, the high-level security dialogue, the North American Leaders' Summit, and innumerable local and national engagements, the United States and Mexico have worked more closely in addressing our shared priorities.

We have got to ensure that the future of the U.S.-Mexico relationship continues to be grounded in shared prosperity and the protection of fundamental freedoms that are so important to both of our people.

I will have a more formal and detailed statement on the bicentennial that I will have submitted for the RECORD.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Now, Mr. President, if I may continue, I want to rise, together with my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN, to seek consent to advance the nomination of a friend, Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta for Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues. And I would like to ask if I might yield time now to my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you to my colleague from Virginia, Senator KAINÉ. I am really pleased to join you on the floor in support of Dr. Gupta to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues at the Department of State.

Sadly, this isn't the first time that I have come to the floor to raise Dr. Gupta's nomination here with our colleagues in the Senate but also with our colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee.

I have to admit that it is disappointing to still be standing here trying to convince my colleagues that women's rights matter. They matter whether they are in the United States, in Afghanistan, in Iran, in China, or in Venezuela.

Partisan obstruction should not prevent a qualified nominee from undertaking the necessary work of the Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues. I have to be honest, it feels to me like what is at issue here is more than just the Office of Global Women's Issues. It feels like the Members of this body don't understand the role of that office and think that anytime there is something that has “women” in the title, that we must be talking about reproductive rights. Well, that is not what the Office of Global Women's Issues does. Reproductive rights are not part of that office, and it is disappointing that we are here still debating whether we are going to put in an Ambassador into that office, when since the beginning of the Trump administration, we have only had about a year when we have had an Ambassador at the Office of Global Women's Issues.

I would say to my colleagues across the aisle who are worried about Dr. Gupta's record to meet with her. Sit down and talk about what she would prioritize as Ambassador for Global Women's Issues. They should request a briefing with USAID's Office of Global Health because that is where their work is done to address women's healthcare.

What USAID's Office of Global Health has done is to reduce maternal deaths by 30 percent annually. It saves the lives of 1.4 million children under 5 each year, and it decreases—let me repeat that—it decreases the number of abortions, particularly unsafe abortions, that happen around the world. But that is not what the Office of Global Women's Issues does.

I hope they won't continue to hold up Dr. Gupta's nomination because they

don't understand how women's health is supported by the U.S. Government or which offices do the work that they object to.

The Office of Global Women's Issues is charged with advancing the rights and liberation of women and girls around the world through our U.S. foreign policy. It endeavors to empower women and eliminate barriers that prevent them from achieving equity and equality, particularly economic equity and equality.

Not only does the Office of Global Women's Issues prioritize policies and programs to advance the status of women around the world, it ensures that U.S. policies incorporate a gender lens at all levels of policy and decision making.

And now more than ever, we need an office that is charged with leading U.S. policy on women, because around the world, what we have seen as the result of the last few years of this pandemic is that the gender gap has grown. Girls are dropping out and staying out of school at a higher rate than boys; the female labor-force participation rate has declined, with women holding less secure jobs and taking on even more unpaid child and housing labor than before the pandemic; and gender-based violence has increased to such an extent that U.N. Women—the U.N. body charged with advancing the rights of women globally—now warns of what they are calling a shadow pandemic of violence.

These are issues of consequence to half—more than half—of the world's population. They need a champion in our U.S. foreign policy. They need Dr. Gupta.

Gender equity, equality, and the empowerment of women and girls must be a focal point of U.S. policy, and that is exactly what the Ambassador at Large is intended to facilitate.

The reason it matters to our foreign policy is because what we know is that when women are empowered, their families are empowered; they give back more to their families and their communities than men do; and societies that empower women are more stable societies.

These are issues that we need to pay attention to. We need someone in that role who is going to pay attention to those issues. And that is what Dr. Gupta would do if she is approved.

(Ms. SMITH assumed the Chair.)

So, Madam President, Senator KAINE, that is why we are here again on the floor in support of Dr. Gupta's nomination in hopes that our colleagues on both sides of the aisle—but particularly our Republican colleagues—will recognize what the Office of Global Women's Issues does and understand that it is not the office that is working on reproductive rights for women.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, in just a second, I will make a motion for unanimous consent. Before I do, I just

want to say, this Nation has a bipartisan track record of fielding fantastic women diplomats: Secretary Clinton, Secretary Rice, Secretary Albright. So this is something that we do well and we have done well in a bipartisan way.

My colleague from New Hampshire talked about what this important position does and what it doesn't do. I just want to say a few words about Dr. Gupta.

She is a nationally recognized leader and expert on women's contributions to economic prosperity and stability. She has over three decades of experience in research, policy formulation, advocacy, and the implementations of policies and programs to empower women and girls; that includes 5 years at UNICEF and a decade as the president and CEO of a U.S.-based research institute.

She has taken, throughout her career, an evidence-based approach to demonstrate again and again one irrefutable fact: Investing in women is one of the best tools to promote economic development and stability.

Because of her strong reputation, because of the importance of the role, because of the fact that this is not a position that deals with some of the issues that often cause controversy on the floor—reproductive rights—I now move to the following:

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee be discharged, and the Senate proceed to the following nomination: PN1578, Dr. Geeta Rao Gupta, to be U.S. Ambassador at Large For Global Women's Issues; that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that no further motions be made in order to the nomination; and that any related statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LANKFORD. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, let me clarify what this motion is. This motion today is to ask for a unanimous consent of all 100 Senators to be able to move a nominee through the process, a nominee that, when she came through the Foreign Relations Committee, every single Republican opposed—every one of them.

It seems the frustration here doesn't seem to be with Republicans; it seems to be with the Democratic leader, quite frankly. This nominee was brought to the committee last year and then was voted out of the committee in July of this year but has never been brought to the floor for a vote—never. Instead, it has been to try to do a unanimous consent when my colleagues full well know that every single Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee opposes this nominee. And now the request is: Now that you opposed her in com-

mittee, now consent on the floor to be able to support her. That is not going to happen, obviously.

Now, we have not blocked a vote. If the Democratic leader wants to be able to bring this nominee to a vote, he has had plenty of opportunity to be able to do that and still has plenty of opportunity to be able to do that. No one is inhibiting a vote on the floor.

What we oppose is what is being pushed onto us to say: Now unanimously consent to someone you know you don't agree to in the first place. It has often been interesting in this conversation to say this nominee has nothing to do with reproductive rights, has nothing to do with that. I have heard that from my colleagues.

It is fascinating to me that Planned Parenthood put out a statement in strong support of this nominee and specifically stated in their release: because she will speak out on reproductive rights for women globally.

So either Planned Parenthood is not telling the truth or something else. So it is interesting, when we get into this dialogue, to say: OK, let's just have the vote on it and allow everyone to be able to speak out.

We have a disagreement on this nominee, but it is the right of the Democratic leader to be able to bring who he chooses to the floor for a vote at any time. But I would say, as one Republican of many, please don't ask me to unanimously consent to someone that we have a philosophical difference with.

So, with that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, in response to my colleague, might I modify my request because, certainly, someone should have the right to vote no if they want to vote no. So let me modify my request.

I would ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged and that the Senate proceed to the following nomination: PN1578, Geeta Rao Gupta, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues; and that the Senate vote on the nomination at a time to be determined by the Senate leadership.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LANKFORD. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I would say to my colleague that, obviously, I am not in the position to be able to make a decision for all of my colleagues at this moment whether that is acceptable. That is something we should discuss with the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee and with the Republican leader and allow our conference to be able to have that dialogue if that is an acceptable thing.

So at this point, I would object just saying I am not in a position because I am not going to speak for the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, who voted unanimously in opposition to this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Will my colleague yield for a question?

Mr. LANKFORD. Absolutely.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I think, perhaps, I wasn't clear. I didn't talk about Dr. Gupta's position on reproductive rights for women. I talked about the role of the Office of Global Women's Issues.

When I supported Kelley Currie, who was nominated by President Trump to be the head of the Office of Global Women's Issues, I didn't ask what her position was on choice; I asked her what she was going to do if she took that role. And she had an excellent history of working on issues that matter to women and foreign policy, and because that is not the Agency that is charged with women's reproductive health in our government, I didn't think that should be the basis on which I judged whether she was the appropriate person to take over that role.

And, sadly, what seems to have happened is that because Dr. Gupta personally says she is pro-choice, all of the anti-choice organizations have made her nomination an issue.

So I would ask my colleague: Have you sat down with Dr. Gupta? Have you asked her what she would do in her role if she is approved to be the head of Global Women's Issues and whether that was something that she was going to talk about or work on?

Mr. LANKFORD. If I may respond to my colleague as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Have I engaged in a colloquy, in a conversation? Actually, I have not. The members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as you serve faithfully in that role—that is not a committee I serve on, but I do know that all the Republican members of the committee have had the opportunity to be able to sit down with her personally and to be able to go through all of those notes.

I know how she came through the committee without any Republican support at all, and I know the different statements that have been put up—one by Planned Parenthood, a very strong statement in support of her specifically on the issue of women's reproductive rights.

That seems to say, at least somebody is saying this role is going to take on that issue. But that is not a committee that I currently serve on, but I do know those well who do.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I would just say to my colleague, having sat through those hearings, which my recollection is only one or two Republicans on the committee showed up and that most of the people who I talked to had not actually

talked to Dr. Gupta, didn't actually know what the Office of Global Women's Issues does. And it is very disappointing that they are going to make a decision based on a press release from Planned Parenthood as opposed to looking at what she would actually do in that role and the responsibilities of that office.

So I am—you know, you guys think that every time you see "women" in a title, as I said, we are talking about reproductive rights. That is not the case. There is a lot that women do besides having babies.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I would affirm, again, as a husband and as a dad of two daughters and as someone who is very passionate about global women's issues as well, I am fully aware that women do a lot more than have babies—regardless of Health and Human Services currently using the term "birthing people" and "menstruating persons," which, again, I find offensive in the process as well—that this is a group of people, half the population of the Earth, that has made tremendous contributions, including my own wife and my own family.

I would just simply ask the question: This is not a nominee that we are going to give unanimous support to, but I am unsure why the Democratic leader has not scheduled this vote now for months on the floor when there have been months that we have been in session but it has yet to be scheduled for a vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I said I was rising for multiple purposes. It is now my third purpose, but I would seek consent to speak—I know we have a vote call at 5—for about 5 minutes on legislation being contemplated tomorrow.

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

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, we are currently in consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act, and the leadership is working out a timing agreement for a vote possibly on one or more amendments and then a vote on the NDAA.

The Defense bill is the most important thing I work on every year as a member of the Armed Services Committee, and I think the Defense bill that our Armed Services Committee did with strong bipartisan support is a very strong one. The timing isn't to my liking, that it took so long to reach an agreement with the House. But it is what it is. The Defense bill is strong.

We are likely to have a vote on an amendment tomorrow offered by my friend and colleague JOE MANCHIN dealing with permitting reform, and I wanted to stand on the floor to express my objection not to the topic and even not to much of the substance but to

one particular provision that I think is horrible policy and I think will cause me to oppose the amendment.

Do we need to do permitting reform to accelerate infrastructure in this country? We do. We do. Many of the permitting reform rules—FERC, for example—are decades old, and they haven't kept up with new technologies or new needs of our population. I am strongly of the belief that we should do permitting reform, and I have introduced my own bills going back years to make at least that permitting process work better.

The amendment that we are going to be voting on tomorrow, at least as I have been told—I haven't seen the language, but I have been told it is very similar to an amendment that was offered in September. It is an 88-page permitting reform bill. Eighty-five pages are permitting reform; the last three pages are the opposite of permitting reform.

What do I mean by that? Eighty-five pages of the bill go deeply into permitting for infrastructure, especially energy infrastructure, and propose a whole series of reforms, many of which I strongly support.

Although I had no hand in the drafting of that bill and I think I could improve it if I was involved, I would give that bill a good solid B or B-plus, and I would have no trouble voting for it as an amendment to the Defense bill or a stand-alone bill.

However, the last three pages of the bill take a particular single project—100 miles of which is in Virginia—called the Mountain Valley Pipeline and exempts it from permitting reform. It, essentially, says this 85-page reform that sets up how a project should be considered and approved by administrative agencies and then reviewed by the judiciary if there are complaints about it—that is what the 85 pages does, but then the last three pages says the Mountain Valley Pipeline should be exempt from all of that, should get an administrative green light. And, in a provision that I find to be both unprecedented and really troubling, it suggests that if individuals want to seek judicial review of Mountain Valley Pipeline, the current jurisdiction in the Federal code which would suggest that that suit would be heard in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, which includes Virginia, the case about one project, the Mountain Valley Pipeline, will be stripped away from the court where it is currently being litigated and all future litigation must happen in the DC circuit.

Now, never in the history of this body has Congress gone into the middle of a case and, because a corporation was not happy with the rulings of the court, stripped the case away from that court and given it to another court. And I have verified that through my own staff in research since this provision came up in September: stripping a case away from a court.

Now, this is my hometown court. It is headquartered in Richmond. The

chief judge is somebody that I used to try cases against when I was a civil rights lawyer before I got into politics. He is an esteemed jurist.

Yes, the Fourth Circuit has rendered some rulings in this case that the pipeline operator doesn't like. I used to lose cases in the Fourth Circuit. I wasn't always happy with them. But the people that I represented—if you lose a case, you appeal; you don't rewrite the Federal jurisdictional code to say this court can no longer hear the case, in the middle of the case.

If we go down this path on this project, I can see it opening a door we will not want to open, a door that could even lead to corruption: I am a wealthy, powerful corporation; I don't like the way the Second Circuit is ruling on derivative shareholder suits. Maybe I can strip jurisdiction away from them. I don't like the way the Ninth Circuit is ruling on employment discrimination cases. Maybe I could strip jurisdiction away from them.

I get it that a big company is not happy because they have lost a case. Fifty percent of our litigants are unhappy. Someone wins and somebody loses, but the solution is not to take jurisdiction away from the court that is hearing the case and give it to another court. That is not the solution. The solution is to improve the permitting process.

There are two elements of the first 85 pages of the bill that actually help Mountain Valley Pipeline. One element would be, in the first 85 pages, that President Biden—the President, in the bill, is allowed to designate 15 projects of national significance and then expedite them. That is in the first 85 pages. And if President Biden decided the Mountain Valley Pipeline was so important to make that top 15 list, that permitting reform could help the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

And, second, there is a provision in the first 85 pages that would require that on matters that come up again and again and again, the panels on circuit courts have to rotate and randomly assign and not keep the same panel. That would solve one of Mountain Valley Pipeline's professed concerns.

So because I haven't seen the language yet, it may not still be final, and I would urge those pushing it: Do permitting reform, but don't exempt a project in my State from the permits, don't exempt it from judicial review, don't strip jurisdiction away from my hometown court and give it to another court.

I was never consulted about this. My constituents feel very, very passionately. Their land is being taken for this. The only way you build pipelines is to take people's land, and this is 100 miles in Virginia of people's land being taken, and this body should not greenlight a project and exempt it from permitting rules in a bill that we are saying is designed to improve permitting.

I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON MORA NOMINATION

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. 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 executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 391 Ex.]

#### YEAS—51

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

#### NAYS—45

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

#### NOT VOTING—4

|      |              |
|------|--------------|
| Burr | Hickenlooper |
| Cruz | Sanders      |

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.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, it is always an honor to speak on the Senate floor, and it is especially an honor when the Presiding Officer is one of my favorite Members of the Senate and especially an honor when I am going to be followed by the other Senator from Ohio, about whom I spoke yesterday.

#### SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Madam President, I think we can agree that we had a very productive 23 months in this session of the U.S. Sen-

ate. Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which will lower prescription drug costs, which will combat climate change, and which will hold corporations accountable when they reward CEOs at the expense of workers.

We worked together on a bipartisan basis, and I worked with my colleague Senator PORTMAN to pass a historic infrastructure bill. Presidents of both parties promised it, and we finally got it done, starting last year, with a new President and a new Senate. It means moving forward on projects Americans need, like the Brent Spence Bridge, which is in Senator PORTMAN's community on the other end of my State. It connects my State to Leader MCCONNELL's State. The Brent Spence Bridge—they say something like 3 percent of GDP crosses over that bridge every single day.

Senator PORTMAN and I also worked together to make sure that we had strong "Buy American" language—the strongest ever "Buy American" language. We teamed up because we know the jobs that creates in my State.

We passed the PACT Act, again bipartisan, the most comprehensive expansion of benefits for veterans who faced toxic exposure in our country's history.

Senator TESTER, who sits just two seats away from me here and who came to the Senate with me—Senator TESTER from Montana chairs the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I will be, next year, the second-most senior member of that committee. We wrote that bill together. I give more credit to Senator TESTER, but we worked together. It is the most comprehensive expansion of benefits.

I have been in 15 Ohio counties since that bill passed talking to people. If you are diagnosed as a veteran with one of the 23 illnesses this bill spells out and you were exposed to these football field-sized burn pits in Iraq or Afghanistan, you automatically will get coverage in the Cleveland VA or Dayton or Cincinnati or Chillicothe or in one of the community-based clinics in Zanesville or Mansfield or Parma.

After decades of inaction, we passed the first meaningful legislation on gun safety in decades, which will help make our schools and communities a bit safer.

This summer—again, bipartisan, with Senator PORTMAN and others—we passed the CHIPS and Science Act, which is already helping to reshore semiconductor manufacturing in the United States.

Earlier today, I was with a number of people from Intel, the company that is going to have a huge expansion. That company has promised, when they hire 5,000 workers—which they have already started to do the construction of the Intel manufacturing plant—that they are hiring a lot of so-called PLA, which means they will hire union workers.

And in the worst depths—and this is what I want to talk about in more detail. Sorry for the long lead-in.

In the worst depths of COVID, Democrats passed the American Rescue Plan, which temporarily expanded the child tax credit. It kept renters in their homes and saved the pensions of more than a million retirees. It saved the pensions already of 40,000 Ohio workers, and that number will grow to 100,000 by the time it is fully in effect.

I sat on the floor that day on March 6. I sat next to Senator CASEY, one of my best friends here, from Pennsylvania, and I turned to him when we passed the child tax credit and the pensions bill, keeping renters in their homes. I said: This is the best day of my career, because I knew what it would mean to do the child tax credit.

The bill passed on March 6, at 12:30 in the afternoon, after a 12-hour vote. It passed by one vote two different times. The President signed it 2 days later.

I called Secretary Yellen, the Secretary of the Treasury. She immediately enlisted the head of the Internal Revenue Service, who began the process. By mid-July, checks were going out to hundreds of thousands of families in Minnesota and Ohio and across the country. We saw in the space of about 3 months a 40-percent—40 percent—reduction in the child poverty rate.

I heard from parents all around the State—helping them afford childcare, groceries, rent, new school clothes, summer camp. For many kids it was the first time ever to go to a summer camp. We know what a difference this made at a time when families struggled to keep up with rising costs.

Unfortunately, the child tax credit expansion ended in 2021. It shouldn't have happened, and we have an opportunity now to get it going again. The bipartisan work of this Congress doesn't have to be done yet.

Here is what we need to do.

In 2017, the tax law Republicans passed gave profitable corporations a 14-percent reduction in the corporate tax rate—a huge gift. I opposed it. Many of us did. It was a huge gift to the megawealthy and corporations. Part of that law changed the rules for business deductions. It said: You get a 14-point cut to the corporate rate, but now you have to amortize R&D, research and development expensing. There is going to be more of a limit on the interest you can deduct. You won't be able to deduct all of your investments in the year you make them, just four-fifths.

Now businesses are asking us to undo these new rules. In exchange, are they offering to give back a point on the corporate rate? No.

They got a huge windfall 5 years ago. They want more now. Are they offering maybe a half point, a quarter point? No, they just want another tax cut.

Here is what I want everybody to hear:

In this body and throughout the United States, the Democrats are willing to do it. We believe we should invest in manufacturing. We should be-

lieve in American families and American children. As part of a balanced package, we will make the changes the businesses are asking for. We have already offered to make these changes. All we are saying is that it needs to be balanced. If we are going to give huge tax cuts to large corporations, we are going to at the same time make sure that we take care of children. This isn't just the lowest income kids. They certainly are part of it. This is 90 percent of children in Ohio. This is 2 million Ohio children. It is all but the wealthiest 10 percent of families who get this tax cut.

Do you know what that means? Think about if this child tax credit had been in effect in the last year and how it would have blunted the damage from inflation that inflicted so many families. If they had been getting that \$250 or \$300 per child, per month, as they had gotten through calendar year 2021—from July until the end of the year and then the beginning of the next year—imagine how much easier their lives would have been and how much more they would have been able to cope with inflation if they had gotten that monthly \$250 or \$300 check.

It is a smart policy. It is a win-win for every single one of our States. One in four kids who is living in rural Idaho is left out of the full child tax credit. In Kentucky and Ohio, that number is one in three. We can fix that.

Raising kids is hard work. I heard time and again, after we passed the CTC, from people who said it made it just a little bit easier for families. We got so many calls and letters—I am sure Senator PORTMAN did too—about how this would make people's lives just a little bit easier. If you had had two children who were 2 and 4 years old, you would have gotten \$600 a month. If you had had three kids who were 7, 10, and 12, you would have gotten \$750 for a period of time.

So what are we here for in this body? We are not just here to give tax cuts to rich people and to corporations. We should try to make things just a little bit easier—I have heard that term over and over—for the families we represent.

There is a deal to be had here. Let's knock out one more bipartisan victory for the American people before we go home. Yes, let's do the research and development tax break—it will help us grow jobs—but at the same time, let's do the child tax credit expansion. It will help us grow our children. It will make a huge difference.

I ask my colleagues: Let's get this done.

I yield the floor.

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

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor for the 28th consecutive week since the Senate has been in session to once again discuss the war in Ukraine and why it is so important that all of us—the United States and

our allies—stand up for Ukraine at this point and provide them the military, economic, and humanitarian aid they need.

Over the weekend, I spoke at the annual holiday lunch of the Cleveland area's Nationalities Movement. As my colleague from Ohio knows, this was started during the Cold War to advocate for freedom for the former Soviet states. The group, today, includes people whose families have come from all over Eastern and Central Europe: Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovakia, of course Ukraine, and many other countries. All strongly support Ukrainian freedom and the right of Ukraine to chart its own course.

At the luncheon, I talked to some of my friends who were there, many of whom have family or friends in Ukraine. We talked about some of the hardships that their relatives and their friends in Ukraine are facing today and how, as we approach the holiday season here in America, we are thinking about Christmas shopping and putting up decorations and spending time with our families and friends over the holidays. They are thinking about something else. They are thinking about how they can survive. They are thinking about how to stay warm, whether they are going to have running water or electricity. They are living with fear and uncertainty in not knowing when the next Russian missile might strike.

The brutal, unprovoked, and illegal invasion of Ukraine has now turned into an outright attack on civilians and noncombatants.

This photo is something that we are seeing in communities all over Ukraine. This is some civilian infrastructure. You can see the power grid here and the power lines. This was the result of a Russian missile strike. All over, this is happening: drones, missiles, attacking infrastructure—killing civilians, by the way—and forcing people to live in the dark and in the cold as Ukraine's severe winter weather approaches.

Although these merciless Russian attacks are meant to weaken the resolve of the Ukrainians, it is not having that effect, actually. I have seen this from my recent trips to Ukraine. It is actually hardening people's resolve. The Ukrainians know that these are desperate missile attacks to the interior of the country. Why? Because Russia is losing on the actual battlefield.

As this map shows, the Ukrainians have shown courage and effectiveness in actually pushing out Russia from all of these red areas of Ukraine. This is where Russia was after February 24. Fifty percent or more of the country has now been liberated by Ukrainian troops. We forget about that. About 55 percent of Ukraine has now been liberated—again, thanks to the resolve and the courage and the military skill of the Ukrainians. Ukrainian soldiers continue to advance more slowly, but they continue to advance, giving the Russians no time to relax or to recover.

Here is where we are today. Remember, before, there was red all over the country of Ukraine. This is where the Russians are now. This striped red line is the part that Russia invaded back in 2014. The red part here is where they invaded on February 24 and are still occupying parts of Ukraine.

In the east, near Bakhmut, which is right here, Russian forces and Wagner Group mercenaries, who are fighting on behalf of Russia, are fighting a war of attrition. It is a grinding war of attrition with marginal gains to show for their massive losses in terms of manpower and equipment.

In its attempt to capture this town of Bakhmut, Russia has turned what used to be a quaint, tree-lined city that I visited back in 2018 into a bloodbath. This is what Bakhmut looks like today. It looks like something you would see out of a World War I film.

Ukrainian officials say Moscow is now losing 50 soldiers a day to maintain this slow, bruising advance to reach the city's eastern gates—all of this death and destruction over a city that has marginal strategic advantage for Russia. It appears to observers that Russia is willing to put their soldiers and mercenaries in harm's way in Bakhmut because it is the only place that Russian forces are genuinely advancing at all, and Vladimir Putin is eager—even desperate—to claim some sort of victory to try to salvage this failed military campaign that they are on.

I did go to Bakhmut back in 2018. It was then called the line of contact. I met with Ukrainian troops who were there holding the line, including the 54th Mechanized Brigade, which is still fighting there in that region. I saw men who were willing to die for their country, for their freedom, for their families. So I was not surprised by the bravery and resolve that the Ukrainian troops had shown since February 24. I was expecting it based on what I had seen in Bakhmut.

Those soldiers I met gave me this plaque when I was there. It is signed by a number of the soldiers whom I met.

It says at the bottom here:

Glory to Ukraine. Glory to the heroes.

“Slava Ukraini.” “Heroyam Slava.”

That is the rallying cry.

Of these troops who signed this flag to me, I am told, many of them are likely to be dead or injured now because the fighting in Bakhmut has been so intense.

So Godspeed to those troops who are holding the line against this Russian assault tonight as we talk on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

The Ukrainians are making progress elsewhere. You see here in Kherson—this was the city that the Russians took on February 24. It was the only provincial capital that they took, the biggest city they took early on. They have now abandoned Kherson, and Ukrainian troops have taken Kherson and liberated it. The liberation has been extraordinary. You see people

coming out of their homes and hugging the troops, and you see the war crimes that the Russians were committing. The withdrawal from Kherson that went through the west side of the river here has been a great victory for the Ukrainian troops. The relentless counteroffensive is actually working.

With this situation on the battlefield, the military outlook here for Russia looks bleak. It is precisely because they are not winning on the battlefield, though, that they are instead attacking civilian targets, these cowardly attacks we have seen all over Ukraine—electricity, natural gas, water—knocking out everything they can in order to try to break the will and the resolve of the people of Ukraine.

This past weekend, 1.5 million people were left without power after Russian airstrikes damaged the local energy infrastructure in Odessa. So 1.5 million people here were without electricity. Most of those people now have electricity again because the Ukrainians are moving quickly to try to restore it, but then it is bombed again and again.

Across the country, according to Ukrainian Prime Minister Shmyhal, after eight waves of missile attacks on the country, all thermal and hydroelectric powerplants in Ukraine have been damaged. In other words, every single powerplant—coal, natural gas, hydroelectric—has been bombed. Again, many have now been repaired again and again and again, but the bombings continue.

Last Friday, according to the deputy head of President Zelenskyy's office, 68 strikes in the Kherson region occurred—68 strikes across the line here in Ukrainian territory. This included a strike on a hospital in Kherson that damaged the children's ward. It included an attack on a morgue in this area.

In the northeastern part of Ukraine, up here near Kharkiv, there has also been great progress recently as you see where the Ukrainians have pushed the Russians toward the east. These Russian cross-border attacks on the city of Vovchansk, in that area, left thousands of people without heat in the midst of winter earlier this week.

I saw the effects of these missile attacks firsthand the last time I was in Ukraine. I visited Kyiv about a month ago with my colleague Senator CHRIS COONS from Delaware. We saw the destruction that these missiles were causing. In this case, it was at the headquarters of Ukraine's utility company.

We then, after that, actually had a dinner meeting with the Parliamentarians from Ukraine at a restaurant where the power had been taken out through these attacks. We had to conduct business with flashlights. It was incredible, later that night, to look at the city of Kyiv from an office building—a modern, 21st-century city completely dark.

Thanks to the dated air defense systems that they do have, the Ukrainians

have been able to intercept and destroy a lot of these Russian missiles. They are intercepting, actually, most of them—somewhere between 60 and 70 percent, probably, based on the information I have—but enough of them get through to cause this incredible damage to Ukraine's civilian infrastructure and to kill Ukrainians on the ground as these temperatures drop. The temperature in Kyiv tonight, as we talk here, is about 23 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ukraine isn't just trying to shoot down Russian-made missiles and Iranian-made drones—we know there are Iranian-made drones and these Russian missiles coming into Ukraine—but they also have to shoot down Ukrainian-made missiles. Why do I say that? Because according to Ukraine's Deputy Intelligence Chief, some of these missiles that Russia has fired recently have actually been missiles that Ukraine voluntarily gave to Russia as part of the 1994 Budapest agreement, the so-called Budapest Memorandum.

Recall that the Budapest Memorandum was a document that was signed by the United States, the UK, and Russia with Ukraine. This was after the fall of the Soviet Union. In the agreement, all parties, including Russia, promised to respect the independence and sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine in exchange for Ukraine's giving up its nuclear weapons but also providing missiles and strategic bombers to Russia. So now these very same missiles and very same bombers are being used by Russia in its ruthless campaign against innocent civilians in Ukraine.

There can be no clearer display of Russia's contempt for its international obligations and its total disregard for the Budapest Memorandum. Ukraine gave up its weapons in exchange for peace, and instead they have war.

There can be no more urgent or important request from Ukraine today, of course, than that of a better air defense system. That is what they need more than anything else. Every day, vital infrastructure is being destroyed, and civilians are being killed.

The news from the Biden administration yesterday that they now may be thinking seriously about sending Patriot missile systems to Ukraine, which is our most advanced anti-missile air defense weapon, is very encouraging to me.

Here is the patriot missile system.

This one is actually in Poland. We have provided this to the Polish Government. We now need to provide it to the Ukrainian Government. I have called for this for months, as have others, and I hope this comes to fruition.

We need to get these weapons into the hands of the Ukrainians quickly before there are more civilian deaths recorded, before there is more destruction of key infrastructure.

If the administration does not do this, I fear that as winter sets in, more and more Ukrainians will be forced to leave their communities, compounding

the humanitarian crisis that is already there. As you know, there are 6½ million people displaced internally in Ukraine already and over 7 million people—probably close to 8 million—who are outside of Ukraine as displaced individuals in places like Poland, throughout the EU, and even the United States.

I continue to urge the Biden administration to take a more assertive approach on military assistance in general. There are about 50 countries helping Ukraine on the military side. All the free world is stepping up to help, but America leads, and we need to provide Ukraine with more of the weapons that Ukraine says they actually need, like the Patriot missiles. But, also, they have asked for fourth-generation fighter jets, like the F-16 or similar European models. They are in Europe already. We have provided them to European countries, but we have to sign off for the European countries or other countries to provide them to Ukraine. They want modern main battle tanks, like the Abrams tank that is made in my home State of Ohio. They want more long-range missiles, like the ATACMS missiles that can be fired through these what are called HIMARS launchers and would give Russian soldiers few places to hide in the illegally occupied territory.

When I visited the region in March and again in May and August and in November, I got to meet a lot of these displaced people in Ukraine and hear their harrowing stories.

We were at a World Food U.N. site in Kyiv on our last trip, and there were a lot of refugees there, displaced people, internally displaced people from Ukraine who were getting the basics just to be able to survive. Many of them sat down with us and talked.

Two women told me one of these harrowing stories. It was about a young man who was tortured by his Russian occupiers—this was near the city of Kharkiv—and taken to the main square and tied up on the main square. Then, when he wouldn't answer whatever questions they were asking him, he was taken down below into a dungeon, basically, a basement. They found these basement chambers all over Ukraine where there was occupied territory.

The young man actually survived, miraculously, but he was in terrible shape when he came out. But his mother didn't survive. The angst and the anxiety and the despair that she felt about her son resulted in her death.

These women were telling this with tears streaming down their cheeks, and, of course, we were crying, too. But that is happening all over Ukraine.

These war crimes behind enemy lines in occupied territories are revealed every time there is a liberation. It is positive there is a liberation, but then you get this negative, which is, this is what happened to these people. So we really don't know the extent of the atrocities and the war crimes because

there is still so much territory that is occupied by Russia.

Anyway, these people have seen death and destruction that no person should have to experience.

Some of my constituents in Ohio have been very helpful. They know some of these refugees. They have personal connections—again, family or friends—and so they have helped. From Northeast Ohio, where we have a big Ukrainian community, Marta Licsynsky of the United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio and Andy Futey of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America—they are presidents of those organizations—they have both jumped in with both feet and helped. MedWish, which is a great organization up in Cleveland, provided a lot of medical equipment. They have provided everything—clothes, medicine, any kind of help for these refugees. They have provided armored vests from law enforcement all over Ohio, as an example, to the Territorial Defense Forces. So God bless them. They are doing what they can to help.

But unless we intervene with better ways to defend the air, there will be more and more of these displaced people and more and more humanitarian needs.

On that front, in addition to the possible news about the Patriot missile system from yesterday, I was also pleased to hear President Biden and President Zelenskyy speak over the weekend about the need for increased support for Ukraine. On Friday, the administration announced another \$275 million in military assistance, including more ammunition for those HIMARS missile launchers we talked about and other systems that will counter Russian and Iranian drones. There are dozens of allies who have provided military assistance—we are not doing this alone—but U.S. leadership has been key.

By the way, the 20 HIMARS—high mobility artillery rocket systems—that are in Ukraine have all survived. Not a single one has been taken out by the Russians. It is amazing. The Ukrainians have been quite resourceful to make that happen, and thank God we still have those weapons. Germany and the UK have also provided some of these weapons, and they are making a huge difference on the battlefield.

The long range and high precision of these weapons have enabled the Ukrainians to strike deep within the occupied territories to be able to disrupt Russian logistics and command and control centers. That has made the big difference. That is how Kherson was taken, was they cut off the supply chain to Kherson to the point that these Russian soldiers could not continue to hold the city and continue with their atrocities.

It is no wonder, by the way, that HIMARS are popular in Ukraine. In fact, when I was there, the Embassy staff sent out for some takeout food. The food came back in a bag—it was

hamburgers—and on the bag was scrawled “Thank you for the HIMARS” from a restaurant worker. I am also told that “HIMARS” is now a popular name for Ukrainian newborns. They are naming their children after the weapons provided by this body because they are making a huge difference in saving lives.

In addition to Patriot missiles, we have got to continue to provide Ukrainians with other air defense systems, like the midrange NASAMS system that we are starting to provide, but also cost-effective electronic warfare systems that would enable Ukraine to defend its skies over the long term. Those can be very effective against drones, as you can imagine.

We have seen this before. In 1940, the people of Great Britain suffered under a relentless bombardment from Nazi aircraft. Remember, they tried to bomb London into the stone age. At the time, many thought, Well, this is going to be the end of Great Britain. You can't push back against these Nazis.

But the Brits were resolute. They were defiant. Eventually, the Royal Air Force defeated Hitler's onslaught against innocent civilians in what is called the Battle of Britain and ensured that the country would survive the war. And, of course, the United States got engaged, and we went on to win that conflict.

Today, just as then, there is another indiscriminate bombing campaign going on, this time in Ukraine against civilians and civilian infrastructure. Ukraine is now fighting its own Battle of Britain. We have got to be sure we are there with them to provide them what they need to survive their battle.

I was also pleased to learn this week that the European Union proposed a new round of sanctions. If it is agreed to by the member states—and I hope it will be—this package of sanctions would ban exports of drone engines to Russia and also include other prohibitions that would hopefully stifle Russia's ability to supply its military.

This is very important. In my view, it should have happened a long time ago, but let's do it now. Let's cut off the ability for Russia to be able to repair and recreate the drones that are getting destroyed by the Ukrainians. Let's be sure that we are not giving the Russians what they need to continue their war machine.

Russia's assault, by the way, is not just limited to bombs and missiles, but I am hearing more and more about mines. According to reports, Russian forces have now endangered up to 65,000 square miles of Ukrainian territory with land mines. The United States is partnering with our Ukrainian allies to demine that area. This aid has come in the form of training and equipment, as well as U.S.-funded contractors and demining teams. So in areas where the mines are on the Ukrainian side of the line, we are actively trying to help. This is an important step, in my view. It is kind of the first step toward Ukrainian reconstruction.

When Russia resorts to these cowardly missile attacks on civilian targets, Ukraine has responded in kind with precise strikes on Russian military targets. So Russia is attacking civilian targets, and Ukrainians are responding with targeted attacks on Russian military targets.

For example, explosions have occurred here. This is Ukraine. This is the occupied area. Explosions have occurred deep in Russian territory here.

What are those areas? Well, these are Russian air bases deep inside Russian territory, but they are home to the bombers who have been targeting civilian infrastructure and killing Ukrainian civilians with cruise missiles over the past couple of months.

As the UK Ministry of Defense reported last week, these may be “some of the most strategically significant failures of force protection since [Russia’s] invasion of Ukraine.”

Over the weekend, Ukraine launched a series of HIMARS strikes on the Russian occupied city of Melitopol, which is here, including a strike on Russian military barracks that reportedly killed a lot of the Wagner mercenaries. This is in this area here.

America has been blessed with big, wide oceans on our east and to our west and friendly neighbors to our north and our south. It is hard for us to grasp what they are going through. It is hard for us to grasp what it is like to have a war ravage your homeland and force you to leave your home.

Russia’s atrocities and clear human rights violations against civilians are one compelling reason why supporting Ukraine is the right thing to do, and I hope this week in this Chamber we will once again provide support for Ukraine.

But another reason is that the death and destruction are not likely to end in Ukraine. Vladimir Putin is on record as saying, “The borders of Russia have no end.” He and his senior officials have also talked about recreating the old Soviet empire. They have said that Ukraine is just the first step.

I will tell you, other countries in Eastern Europe get that, and they are understandably quite nervous. That is why they stepped up big time to help Ukraine. That is why they have increased their own military spending. That is why they have expanded their military cooperation with the United States. Think of Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia—they are all doing that. Finland and Sweden certainly understand how dangerous Russia has become, which is why they have now decided they are going to join NATO after years of neutrality—Finland, Sweden.

In my view, the only way to get Vladimir Putin to back off and to negotiate an end to this ruthless and senseless war is to continue to demonstrate unity among free nations, to tighten the sanctions on the Russian economy, and to continue to help Ukraine win on the battlefield. That is how this thing

ends—through success. U.S. leadership and assistance is key to that strategy.

I am not advocating a blank check, by the way. I hope nobody is. I believe there needs to be accountability for the assistance that we provide, and there is. There is accountability on the state aid, there is accountability on the humanitarian aid, and there is accountability on the military aid.

I have seen it in action in meeting with the 101st Airborne in Poland, how they have end-use monitoring of the equipment we are sending. The Ukrainians themselves want to have transparency. They understand how important that is. That is why they have Deloitte Cincinnati, an American accounting firm, involved in monitoring and providing reports. That is why we are running our assistance through the World Bank, where they are auditing and reporting back to us. That is important to do.

But the alternative to helping Ukraine, to me, is unthinkable. What would have happened if the United States had said “We are not going to help here” and the rest of the world had said “Well, if the Americans aren’t going to step forward and provide some leadership, we are not going to either”?

First of all, it is clear to all of us that this country would be occupied by Russia today. And even if Russia didn’t go ahead and move into all these other countries they say they are going to move into—that Ukraine is just the first step and they want to recreate the empire or the Soviet Union—even if it is just Ukraine and they stopped at the Ukrainian borders, suddenly you would have three NATO countries that have a border with Russia that do not now and really a fourth because all Poland has is a very small outpost of Russia here.

So you would suddenly have NATO country the United States, under article V, is committed to protecting with an aggressive Russia on its border. We would be mobilizing thousands of troops. We would have massive amounts of weapons at the borders of these NATO allies at a tremendous cost to the U.S. taxpayer. Is that a better alternative than helping give Ukraine the tools they need to be able to do their own fighting, which has been successful up to now—more successful than anyone could have imagined?

Finally, I would say that allowing an authoritarian regime to take over an ally and a democracy with impunity—that sends exactly the wrong message to the rest of the world at a time we can least afford to have that happen.

Think about China. China is eyeing a potential military assault on Taiwan. Think about our ally Israel as they continue to face threats from Iran and others in the Middle East.

Both our adversaries and our allies are watching to see if the United States and our allies will help maintain that post-World War II world order or whether it is each country for itself. And if it is each country for itself because we aren’t helping Ukraine, the

militarization around the world increases dramatically, as do the nuclear weapons.

Ukraine just wants to live in peace with its neighbors, including Russia. But when attacked by Russian missiles and drones, Ukraine has fought to ensure that the flame of freedom here is not going to go out. From visits, I can say with certainty that they will never give up. And we must not give up on them.

The Ukrainian people tasted freedom when they embarked on their own Revolution of Dignity, as they call it, back in 2014. They threw off a Russian-backed corrupt government and, instead, embraced the West, the European Union, the United States of America, freedom, democracy, free markets. Ukraine chose to stand with us, with Europe, the United States, and other free nations. This is not the time for the United States and its allies to stand down.

So for my current colleagues and the Senators just elected, I urge you: Let’s continue our support for Ukraine in this worthy cause of protecting freedom.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany a bill (H.R. 7776) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill.

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer (for Manchin) Amendment No. 6513 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment), to provide for American energy security by improving the permitting process.

Schumer Amendment No. 6515 (to Amendment No. 6513), to add an effective date.

Schumer motion to refer the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 6516, to add an effective date.

Schumer Amendment No. 6517 (to the instructions) Amendment No. 6516), to modify the effective date.

Schumer Amendment No. 6518 (to Amendment No. 6517), to modify the effective date.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.



The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes with amendment No. 6513.

Charles E. Schumer, Joe Manchin III, Jon Tester, Martin Heinrich, Thomas R. Carper, Brian Schatz, Amy Klobuchar, Kyrsten Sinema, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Sheldon Whitehouse, Angus S. King, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher Murphy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Jacky Rosen, Richard J. Durbin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Joe Manchin III, Angus S. King, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Mark Kelly, Chris Van Hollen.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, December 14, be waived.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider calendar No. 861, Musetta Tia Johnson, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for a term of fifteen years to expire on the date prescribed by law; that there be 10 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, 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 and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 3846.

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

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 3846) entitled "An Act to reauthorize the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, and for other purposes", do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

LANCE CORPORAL DANA CORNELL DARNELL VA CLINIC

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5943.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5943) to designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Greenville, South Carolina, as the "Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell VA Clinic".

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 5943) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS' DAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 872, which is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 872) recognizing Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 14, 2022.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 872) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AUTHORIZING THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE SENATE SERGEANT AT ARMS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 873, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 873) to authorize the production of records by the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Sergeant at Arms.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Sergeant at Arms have received from the Department of Homeland Security subpoenas for personnel records of a Sergeant at Arms employee sought in connection with an administrative investigation.

In keeping with the Senate's practice under its rules, this resolution would authorize the Secretary and the Sergeant at Arms to provide these personnel records to the Homeland Security Department for use in this matter.

U.S. SENATE,  
OFFICE OF SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL,  
Washington, DC.

To: The Hon. Charles E. Schumer and The Hon. Mitch McConnell.

cc: The Hon. Sonceria Ann Berry and The Hon. Karen Gibson.

From: Patricia Mack Bryan and Morgan J. Frankel.

Re: Production of records of the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Sergeant at Arms.

Date: December 6, 2022.

The Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Sergeant at Arms have received from the Department of Homeland Security subpoenas for personnel records of an employee of the Sergeant at Arms. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is conducting an administrative investigation in an immigration marriage fraud matter focusing on a third party and has determined that the personnel records of a Senate employee are needed for the proper adjudication of that matter.

Both the Secretary and the Sergeant at Arms would like to cooperate with these

records requests of the Homeland Security Department.

In accordance with Senate Rule XI and the Senate's practice, the accompanying resolution would provide the Secretary and the Sergeant at Arms with authority to provide these personnel records to the Homeland Security Department.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 873) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ALASKA SALMON RESEARCH TASK FORCE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER: Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 644, S. 3429.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3429) to establish an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act".*

##### SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

*The purposes of this Act are—*

(1) *to ensure that Pacific salmon trends in Alaska regarding productivity and abundance are characterized and that research needs are identified;*

(2) *to prioritize scientific research needs for Pacific salmon in Alaska;*

(3) *to address the increased variability or decline in Pacific salmon returns in Alaska by creating a coordinated salmon research strategy; and*

(4) *to support collaboration and coordination for Pacific salmon conservation efforts in Alaska.*

##### SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

*It is the sense of Congress that—*

(1) *salmon are an essential part of Alaska's fisheries, including subsistence, commercial, and recreational uses, and there is an urgent need to better understand the freshwater and marine biology and ecology of salmon, a migratory species that crosses many borders, and for a coordinated salmon research strategy to address salmon returns that are in decline or experiencing increased variability;*

(2) *salmon are an essential element for the well-being and health of Alaskans; and*

(3) *there is a unique relationship between people of Indigenous heritage and the salmon they rely on for subsistence and traditional and cultural practices.*

##### SEC. 4. ALASKA SALMON RESEARCH TASK FORCE.

(a) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Governor*

*of Alaska, shall convene an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force (referred to in this section as the "Research Task Force") to—*

(1) *review existing Pacific salmon research;*

(2) *identify applied research needed to better understand the increased variability and declining salmon returns in some regions of Alaska; and*

(3) *support sustainable management of salmon in Alaska.*

(b) *COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT.—*

(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Research Task Force shall be composed of not fewer than 13 and not more than 19 members, who shall be appointed under paragraphs (2) and (3).*

(2) *APPOINTMENT BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Commerce shall appoint members to the Research Task Force as follows:*

(A) *One representative from each of the following:*

(i) *The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who is knowledgeable about salmon and salmon research efforts in Alaska and is from the Alaska Region.*

(ii) *The North Pacific Fishery Management Council.*

(iii) *The United States section of the Pacific Salmon Commission.*

(B) *Not less than 2 and not more than 5 representatives from each of the following categories, at least 2 of whom shall represent Alaska Natives who possess personal knowledge of, and direct experience with, subsistence uses in rural Alaska, to be appointed with due regard to differences in regional perspectives and experience:*

(i) *Residents of Alaska who possess personal knowledge of, and direct experience with, subsistence uses in rural Alaska.*

(ii) *Alaska fishing industry representatives throughout the salmon supply chain, including from—*

(I) *directed commercial fishing;*

(II) *recreational fishing;*

(III) *charter fishing;*

(IV) *seafood processors;*

(V) *salmon prohibited species catch (bycatch) users; or*

(VI) *hatcheries.*

(C) *5 representatives who are academic experts in salmon biology, salmon management, salmon ecology (marine and freshwater), or comprehensive marine research planning in the North Pacific.*

(3) *APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA.—The Governor of Alaska shall appoint to the Research Task Force one representative from the State of Alaska who is knowledgeable about the State of Alaska's salmon management and research efforts.*

(c) *DUTIES.—*

(1) *REVIEW.—The Research Task Force shall—*  
(A) *conduct a review of Pacific salmon science relevant to understanding and managing salmon returns in Alaska, including an examination of—*

(i) *traditional ecological knowledge of salmon populations and their ecosystems;*

(ii) *marine carrying capacity and density dependent constraints, including an examination of interactions with other salmon species, and with forage base in marine ecosystems;*

(iii) *life-cycle and stage-specific mortality;*

(iv) *genetic sampling and categorization of population structure within salmon species in Alaska;*

(v) *methods for predicting run-timing and stock sizes;*

(vi) *oceanographic models that provide insight into stock distribution, growth, and survival;*

(vii) *freshwater, estuarine, and marine processes that affect survival of smolts;*

(viii) *climate effects on freshwater and marine habitats;*

(ix) *predator/prey interactions between salmon and marine mammals or other predators; and*

(x) *salmon productivity trends in other regions, both domestic and international, that put*

*Alaska salmon populations in a broader geographic context; and*

(B) *identify scientific research gaps in understanding the Pacific salmon life cycle in Alaska.*

(2) *REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date the Research Task Force is convened, the Research Task Force shall submit to the Secretary of Commerce, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Alaska State Legislature, and make publicly available, a report—*

(A) *describing the review conducted under paragraph (1); and*

(B) *that includes—*

(i) *recommendations on filling knowledge gaps that warrant further scientific inquiry; and*

(ii) *findings from the reports of work groups submitted under subsection (d)(2)(C).*

(d) *ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—*

(1) *CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Research Task Force shall select a Chair and Vice Chair by vote from among the members of the Research Task Force.*

(2) *WORK GROUPS.—*

(A) *IN GENERAL.—The Research Task Force—*  
(i) *not later than 30 days after the date of the establishment of the Research Task Force, shall establish a work group focused specifically on salmon returns in the AYK (Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokim) regions of Western Alaska; and*

(ii) *may establish additional regionally or stock focused work groups within the Research Task Force, as members determine appropriate.*

(B) *COMPOSITION.—Each work group established under this subsection shall—*

(i) *consist of not less than 5 individuals who—*

(I) *are knowledgeable about the stock or region under consideration; and*

(II) *need not be members of the Research Task Force; and*

(ii) *be balanced in terms of stakeholder representation, including commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries, as well as experts in statistical, biological, economic, social, or other scientific information as relevant to the work group's focus.*

(C) *REPORTS.—Not later than 9 months after the date the Research Task Force is convened, each work group established under this subsection shall submit a report with the work group's findings to the Research Task Force.*

(3) *COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Research Task Force shall serve without compensation.*

(4) *ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary of Commerce shall provide such administrative support as is necessary for the Research Task Force and its work groups to carry out their duties, including support for virtual or in-person participation and travel expenses.*

(e) *FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Research Task Force.*

##### SEC. 5. DEFINITION OF PACIFIC SALMON.

*In this Act, the term "Pacific salmon" means salmon that originates in Alaskan waters.*

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Sullivan substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 6523), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act”.

**SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to ensure that Pacific salmon trends in Alaska regarding productivity and abundance are characterized and that research needs are identified;

(2) to prioritize scientific research needs for Pacific salmon in Alaska;

(3) to address the increased variability or decline in Pacific salmon returns in Alaska by creating a coordinated salmon research strategy; and

(4) to support collaboration and coordination for Pacific salmon conservation efforts in Alaska.

**SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) salmon are an essential part of Alaska’s fisheries, including subsistence, commercial, and recreational uses, and there is an urgent need to better understand the freshwater and marine biology and ecology of salmon, a migratory species that crosses many borders, and for a coordinated salmon research strategy to address salmon returns that are in decline or experiencing increased variability;

(2) salmon are an essential element for the well-being and health of Alaskans; and

(3) there is a unique relationship between people of Indigenous heritage and the salmon they rely on for subsistence and traditional and cultural practices.

**SEC. 4. ALASKA SALMON RESEARCH TASK FORCE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Governor of Alaska, shall convene an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force (referred to in this section as the “Research Task Force”) to—

(1) review existing Pacific salmon research in Alaska;

(2) identify applied research needed to better understand the increased variability and declining salmon returns in some regions of Alaska; and

(3) support sustainable salmon runs in Alaska.

(b) COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Research Task Force shall be composed of not fewer than 13 and not more than 19 members, who shall be appointed under paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) APPOINTMENT BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Commerce shall appoint members to the Research Task Force as follows:

(A) One representative from each of the following:

(i) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who is knowledgeable about salmon and salmon research efforts in Alaska.

(ii) The North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

(iii) The United States section of the Pacific Salmon Commission.

(B) Not less than 2 and not more than 5 representatives from each of the following categories, at least 2 of whom shall represent Alaska Natives who possess personal knowledge of, and direct experience with, subsistence uses in rural Alaska, to be appointed with due regard to differences in regional perspectives and experience:

(1) Residents of Alaska who possess personal knowledge of, and direct experience with, subsistence uses in rural Alaska.

(ii) Alaska fishing industry representatives throughout the salmon supply chain, including from—

(I) directed commercial fishing;

(II) recreational fishing;

(III) charter fishing;

(IV) seafood processors;

(V) salmon prohibited species catch (by-catch) users; or

(VI) hatcheries.

(C) 5 representatives who are academic experts in salmon biology, salmon ecology (marine and freshwater), salmon habitat restoration and conservation, or comprehensive marine research planning in the North Pacific.

(3) APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA.—The Governor of Alaska shall appoint to the Research Task Force one representative from the State of Alaska who is knowledgeable about the State of Alaska’s salmon research efforts.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) REVIEW.—The Research Task Force shall—

(A) conduct a review of Pacific salmon science relevant to understanding salmon returns in Alaska, including an examination of—

(i) traditional ecological knowledge of salmon populations and their ecosystems;

(ii) marine carrying capacity and density dependent constraints, including an examination of interactions with other salmon species, and with forage base in marine ecosystems;

(iii) life-cycle and stage-specific mortality;

(iv) genetic sampling and categorization of population structure within salmon species in Alaska;

(v) methods for predicting run-timing and stock sizes;

(vi) oceanographic models that provide insight into stock distribution, growth, and survival;

(vii) freshwater, estuarine, and marine processes that affect survival of smolts;

(viii) climate effects on freshwater and marine habitats;

(ix) predator/prey interactions between salmon and marine mammals or other predators; and

(x) salmon productivity trends in other regions, both domestic and international, that put Alaska salmon populations in a broader geographic context; and

(B) identify scientific research gaps in understanding the Pacific salmon life cycle in Alaska.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date the Research Task Force is convened, the Research Task Force shall submit to the Secretary of Commerce, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Alaska State Legislature, and make publicly available, a report—

(A) describing the review conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) that includes—

(i) recommendations on filling knowledge gaps that warrant further scientific inquiry; and

(ii) findings from the reports of work groups submitted under subsection (d)(2)(C).

(d) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—

(1) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Research Task Force shall select a Chair

and Vice Chair by vote from among the members of the Research Task Force.

(2) WORK GROUPS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Research Task Force—

(i) not later than 30 days after the date of the establishment of the Research Task Force, shall establish a work group focused specifically on the research needs associated with salmon returns in the AYK (Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim) regions of Western Alaska; and

(ii) may establish additional regionally or stock focused work groups within the Research Task Force, as members determine appropriate.

(B) COMPOSITION.—Each work group established under this subsection shall—

(i) consist of not less than 5 individuals who—

(I) are knowledgeable about the stock or region under consideration; and

(II) need not be members of the Research Task Force; and

(ii) be balanced in terms of stakeholder representation, including commercial, recreational, and subsistence fisheries, as well as experts in statistical, biological, economic, social, or other scientific information as relevant to the work group’s focus.

(C) REPORTS.—Not later than 9 months after the date the Research Task Force is convened, each work group established under this subsection shall submit a report with the work group’s findings to the Research Task Force.

(3) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Research Task Force shall serve without compensation.

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary of Commerce shall provide such administrative support as is necessary for the Research Task Force and its work groups to carry out their duties, which may include support for virtual or in-person participation and travel expenses.

(e) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Research Task Force.

**SEC. 5. DEFINITION OF PACIFIC SALMON.**

In this Act, the term “Pacific salmon” means salmon that originates in Alaskan waters.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3429), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**GREAT LAKES FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5973 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5973) to reauthorize the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 5973) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### ERADICATING NARCOTIC DRUGS AND FORMULATING EFFECTIVE NEW TOOLS TO ADDRESS NATIONAL YEARLY LOSSES OF LIFE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 544, S. 4460.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4460) to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.

*This Act may be cited as the "Eradicating Narcotic Drugs and Formulating Effective New Tools to Address National Yearly Losses of Life Act" or the "END FENTANYL Act".*

##### SEC. 2. ENSURING TIMELY UPDATES TO U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION FIELD MANUALS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not less frequently than triennially, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall review and update, as necessary, the current policies and manuals of the Office of Field Operations related to inspections at ports of entry to ensure the uniform implementation of inspection practices that will effectively respond to technological and methodological changes designed to disguise illegal activity, such as the smuggling of drugs and humans, along the border.

(b) *REPORTING REQUIREMENT.*—Shortly after each update required under subsection (a), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives that summarizes the policy and manual changes implemented by such update.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 4460), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third read-

ing, was read the third time, and passed.

#### LOBBYING DISCLOSURE IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 564, S. 4893.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4893) to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require certain disclosures by registrants regarding exemptions under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

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

The bill (S. 4893) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4893

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Lobbying Disclosure Improvement Act".*

##### SEC. 2. REGISTRANT DISCLOSURE REGARDING FOREIGN AGENT REGISTRATION EXEMPTION.

Section 4(b) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1603(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking ";" and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting ";" and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) a statement as to whether the registrant is exempt under section 3(h) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 613(h)).".

#### FEMA CASEWORKER ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 550, H.R. 5343.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (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, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

H.R. 5343

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "FEMA Case-worker Accountability Act".*

##### SEC. 2. REPORT ON STAFF TURNOVER.

*Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report containing—*

(1) *the turnover rate for case management personnel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;*

(2) *the average and median length of employment for the personnel described in paragraph (1);*

(3) *the steps that the Agency is taking, or plans to take, to lower the rate of turnover for the personnel described in paragraph (1);*

(4) *the number of personnel of the Agency that is detailed to work disaster recovery and then return to such personnel's full time assignment after a disaster, disaggregated by full-time, part-time, temporary, and contract personnel; and*

(5) *the average time and median length of the rotations of personnel described in paragraph (4) and how often rotations and reassignment of personnel occur for each disaster recovery position and function, disaggregated by full-time, part-time, temporary, and contract personnel.*

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

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

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 5343), as amended, was passed.

#### IDENTIFYING AND ELIMINATING WASTEFUL PROGRAMS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 572, S. 2135.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2135) to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Chief Operating Officer of each agency to compile a list of unnecessary programs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Identifying and Eliminating Wasteful Programs Act".*

##### SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY AGENCY PROGRAMS OR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

(a) *TRANSPARENCY OF PROGRAMS, PRIORITY GOALS, AND RESULTS.*—Section 1122(a)(3)(D) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (vi) and (vii) as clauses (vii) and (ix), respectively;

(2) by inserting after clause (v) the following: “(vi) to the extent practicable and consistent with guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, information provided in the annual budget justification materials submitted in conjunction with the budget of the United States Government submitted under section 1105(a) in accordance with section 3(a) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);” and

(3) in clause (vii), as so redesignated, by striking “accountability; and” and inserting “accountability, including information included in the list compiled under section 1127(b)(1); and”.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY AGENCY PROGRAMS OR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§1127. Identification of unnecessary agency programs or program activities**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 1108(a).

“(2) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ has the meaning given the term in section 1122(a)(1).

“(3) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term ‘program activity’ has the meaning given the term in section 1115(h).

“(b) AGENCY IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS OR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Not later than the 20 days after the date on which the President transmits the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) each year, and based on guidance provided by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chief Operating Officer of each agency shall—

“(1) compile a list that identifies any program or program activity of the agency that—

“(A) is unnecessary, defunct, or duplicative of another program or program activity of the agency;

“(B) another agency could administer more effectively; or

“(C) could operate more effectively if the program or activity were consolidated with other programs or activities;

“(2) publish the list compiled under paragraph (1) in—

“(A) with respect to each list compiled before the date of the implementation described in section 9601(b)(3) of title XCVI of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (31 U.S.C. 1122 note) of the program inventory described in section 1122(a)(2)(B)(i) of this title, the pilot program described in section 9601(b)(2)(B) of title XCVI of that Act; and

“(B) with respect to each successive list, the program inventory described in section 1122(a)(2)(B)(i); and

“(3) submit the list compiled under paragraph (1) to—

“(A) the relevant congressional committees of jurisdiction of the agency;

“(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(E) the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives.

“(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Based on guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the head of an agency may submit to Congress recommendations for statutory changes to eliminate or consolidate programs or program activities identified under subsection (b)(1).”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“1127. Identification of unnecessary agency programs or program activities”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Hassan substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 6524) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Identifying and Eliminating Wasteful Programs Act”.

**SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY AGENCY PROGRAMS OR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.**

(a) TRANSPARENCY OF PROGRAMS, PRIORITY GOALS, AND RESULTS.—Section 1122(a)(3)(D) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (vi) and (vii) as clauses (vii) and (viii), respectively;

(2) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

“(vi) to the extent practicable and consistent with guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, budget justification materials described in section 3(b)(2)(B) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);” and

(3) in clause (vii), as so redesignated, by striking “accountability; and” and inserting “accountability, including information included in the list compiled under section 1127(b)(1); and”.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY AGENCY PROGRAMS OR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§1127. Identification of unnecessary agency programs or program activities**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 1108(a).

“(2) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’ has the meaning given the term in section 1122(a)(1).

“(3) PROGRAM ACTIVITY.—The term ‘program activity’ has the meaning given the term in section 1115(h).

“(b) AGENCY IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS OR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 20 days after the date on which the President transmits the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) each year, and based on guidance provided by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chief Operating Officer of each agency shall—

“(1) compile a list that identifies any program or program activity of the agency that—

“(A) is unnecessary, defunct, or unnecessarily duplicative of another program or program activity of the agency;

“(B) another agency could administer more effectively; or

“(C) could operate more effectively if the program or activity were consolidated with other programs or activities;

“(2) publish the list compiled under paragraph (1) in—

“(A) with respect to each list compiled before the date of the implementation described in section 9601(b)(3) of title XCVI of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (31 U.S.C. 1122 note) of the program inventory described in section 1122(a)(2)(B)(i) of this title, the pilot program described in section 9601(b)(2)(B) of title XCVI of that Act; and

“(B) with respect to each successive list, the program inventory described in section 1122(a)(2)(B)(i); and

“(3) submit the list compiled under paragraph (1) to—

“(A) the relevant congressional committees of jurisdiction of the agency;

“(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(E) the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives.

“(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Based on guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the head of an agency may submit to Congress recommendations for statutory changes to eliminate or consolidate programs or program activities identified under subsection (b)(1).”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“1127. Identification of unnecessary agency programs or program activities”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill (S. 2135) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**NO TIKTOK ON GOVERNMENT DEVICES ACT**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar 642, S. 1143.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1143) to prohibit certain individuals from downloading or using TikTok on any device issued by the United States or a government corporation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

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

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

The bill (S. 1143) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1143

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “No TikTok on Government Devices Act”.

**SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF TIKTOK.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—  
 (1) the term “covered application” means the social networking service TikTok or any successor application or service developed or provided by ByteDance Limited or an entity owned by ByteDance Limited;  
 (2) the term “executive agency” has the meaning given that term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code; and  
 (3) the term “information technology” has the meaning given that term in section 11101 of title 40, United States Code.

(b) **PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF TIKTOK.**—  
 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Secretary of Defense, and consistent with the information security requirements under subchapter II of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall develop standards and guidelines for executive agencies requiring the removal of any covered application from information technology.

(2) **NATIONAL SECURITY AND RESEARCH EXCEPTIONS.**—The standards and guidelines developed under paragraph (1) shall include—  
 (A) exceptions for law enforcement activities, national security interests and activities, and security researchers; and  
 (B) for any authorized use of a covered application under an exception, requirements for agencies to develop and document risk mitigation actions for such use.

### HAZARD ELIGIBILITY AND LOCAL PROJECTS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1917.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1917) to modify eligibility requirements for certain hazard mitigation assistance programs, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Peters substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 6525) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects Act”.

**SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACQUISITION AND DEMOLITION ASSISTANCE PROJECTS.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) **COVERED PROJECT.**—The term “covered project” means a project that—  
 (A) is an acquisition and demolition project for which an entity began implementation, including planning or construction, before or after requesting assistance for the project under a hazard mitigation assistance program; and

(B) qualifies for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(3) **HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**—The term “hazard mitigation assistance program” means—

(A) any grant program authorized under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133);

(B) the hazard mitigation grant program authorized under section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c); and

(C) the flood mitigation assistance program authorized under section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4104c).

(b) **ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE FOR COVERED PROJECTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An entity seeking assistance under a hazard mitigation assistance program may be eligible to receive that assistance for a covered project if—

(A) the entity—  
 (i) complies with all other eligibility requirements of the hazard mitigation assistance program for acquisition or demolition projects, including extinguishing all incompatible encumbrances; and  
 (ii) complies with all Federal requirements for the covered project; and  
 (B) the Administrator determines that the covered project—

(i) qualifies for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);  
 (ii) is compliant with applicable floodplain management and protection of wetland regulations and criteria; and  
 (iii) does not require consultation under any other environmental or historic preservation law or regulation or involve any extraordinary circumstances.

(2) **COSTS INCURRED.**—An entity seeking assistance under a hazard mitigation assistance program shall be responsible for any project costs incurred by the entity for a covered project if the covered project is not awarded, or is determined to be ineligible for, assistance.

(c) **APPLICABILITY.**—This Act shall apply to covered projects started on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on use of the authority under this Act, including—

(1) how many applicants used the authority;  
 (2) how many applicants using the authority successfully obtained a grant;  
 (3) how many applicants were not able to successfully obtain a grant;  
 (4) the reasons applicants were not able to obtain a grant; and  
 (5) the extent to which applicants using the authority were able to comply with all necessary Federal environmental, historic preservation, and other related laws and regulations.

(e) **TERMINATION.**—The authority provided under this Act shall cease to be effective on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

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

The bill was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 1917), as amended, was passed.

### SMALL BUSINESS CYBER TRAINING ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 1687.

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

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 1687) entitled “An Act to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes.”, do pass with an amendment.

#### MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

### MORNING BUSINESS

#### TRIBUTE TO LARRY SUFFREDIN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, one of the frustrations of local government is that good work tends to go unnoticed. If the streets are clean and the trains run on time, it can be easy to overlook the hours upon hours of work and collaboration that go into good governance.

And in my home State of Illinois, we have a team of heroes working behind the scenes of local government every day, in the second-largest county in the country. They are the 17 members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. And each one of them is responsible for funding Cook County’s many agencies, keeping our streets safe, and providing oversight for everything from Chicago’s courtrooms to one of the largest health systems in America.

This year, one of Cook County’s best is retiring after nearly 20 years of effective, dedicated service to the 13th district. His name is Larry Suffredin. And I have been honored to count him as a friend and admire his leadership for many years.

Larry entered office as a reformer, a title he has proudly lived up to since he was first elected to the board of commissioners in 2002. Over the past two decades, he has been a staunch advocate for the health and safety of his constituents—from Rogers Park to Glencoe—and an expert on the innerworkings of county government.

But long before Larry was elected commissioner, his commitment to the people of Cook County was clear to anyone who knew him.

In fact, it is a commitment he demonstrated all the way back in the sixth grade, when he was hired for his first job: delivering newspapers to his neighbors in Westchester, IL. In Larry's words, it was a job that "helped me figure out how to deal with people." And it meant waking up early in the morning, keeping close track over each stop on his route, and—occasionally—outrunning his neighbors' dogs.

It was an experience that melded together two of Larry's great qualities: his assiduous attention to detail and his determination to help his community however he could.

By the time Larry graduated high school, he had set his sights on a career in law. And after earning his bachelor's degree from Loyola in Chicago, he made his way to Washington, where he—like me—attended Georgetown Law. He actually received his J.D. just 3 years after me.

With his law degree and sharp mind, Larry could have easily landed a comfortable job at a big law firm, but instead, he enlisted in the Air Force and served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

After being honorably discharged, Larry returned home to Cook County to serve his community as an assistant public defender. In just 2 years, he tried 32 cases to verdict.

It was around this time that Larry started developing a reputation as an outstanding attorney. He distinguished himself in the courtroom with his knowledge of the law and a masterful command of the complexities of State government. Soon enough, the calls started flooding into Larry's office, and over the past several decades, he has been hired to argue cases before courts at every level, even the U.S. Supreme Court.

But no matter how far his legal talents took him, Larry's heart always led him back to Chicagoland.

And soon after Larry was elected to the board of commissioners, he emerged as one of Cook County's strongest advocates. Over the years, I have had the privilege of working alongside Larry. For instance, in 2008, he was instrumental in saving the Cook County Health System from financial collapse. Under his leadership, the county created an independent health board, a decision that received criticism at the time but, in retrospect, was both courageous and wise. Thanks to Larry, the Cook County Health System is still in operation today, providing comprehensive care that would not have been possible without the creation of that independent board.

As commissioner, Larry has also been a champion for transparency. One of his first accomplishments was codifying the Cook County code of ordinances for the first time ever. Now, that may not sound like a big deal, but for the residents of Cook County, it was a game changer; it meant that everyday citizens could keep tabs on the

Cook County Board, along with the laws making their way through the legislative process. It was a testament to one of Larry's core values: that government works best when it is both clear and accessible. That is why, as commissioner, he has regularly held community meetings with his constituents—to personally answer their questions about newly enacted laws or provide his take on the latest county board meetings.

If you ask Larry, he would likely tell you that one of his proudest accomplishments in county government is the work he has done as Forest Preserve Commissioner. Cook County's forest preserves encompass 70,000 acres of wild, wonderful nature. In Larry's words, "it's one of the most beautiful things we have . . . [the preserves hold] about 85 percent of all the stormwater runoff in the area. It gives us oxygen, because of all the trees. There are so many things that this land does to improve the quality of life in our area that we just take for granted."

Well, under Larry's leadership, these forest preserves have never been taken for granted. In one of his last acts as commissioner, Larry pushed for a bond referendum to fund the cost of the preserves' restoration and maintenance. In last month's election, the referendum passed, with the vast majority of Cook County voters supporting it.

Perhaps one of the only enemies that Larry has made throughout his years of service to Cook County is the gun lobby. Back in 2006, he spearheaded an ordinance banning assault weapons in Cook County. And that measure has withstood one legal challenge after another, making Larry one of the most effective advocates for gun safety reform in all of Illinois.

It is hard to imagine Cook County government without Larry at the helm. But his legacy will be felt for years and decades to come by the more than 5 million Illinoisans who call Cook County home.

For every resident appealing a property tax assessment or enjoying a sunny day by Bullfrog Lake, Larry has made a world of difference.

Larry, I want to thank you for everything you have done for our friends and family in Chicagoland. I am grateful for your many years of partnership and friendship.

Loretta and I look forward to celebrating your retirement with you, your wife Gloria, and your two children, who have grown up right before our eyes, Tom and Elizabeth.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I would like to ask unanimous consent that the attached Joint Explanatory Statement appear in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in conjunction with H.R. 7776, the JAMES M. INHOFE National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

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

JOINT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY TITLE LXXXI OF DIVISION H OF THE HOUSE AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7776, THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022

[JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023]

Mr. Carper. Mr. President, the following statement is the Joint Explanatory Statement for Title LXXXI of Division H of H.R. 7776. An identical joint explanatory statement was submitted to the Congressional Record by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio on December 8, 2022.

H.R. 7776, the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA 2022) as passed by the House of Representatives and amended by the Senate is the legislative vehicle for the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2023. This joint explanatory statement, submitted on behalf of Chair Peter DeFazio and Ranking Member Sam Graves of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Chair Tom Carper and Ranking Member Shelly Moore Capito of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, reflects the view of the bicameral Chairs and Ranking Members responsible for managing negotiations to develop a final version of WRDA 2022, hereafter in this statement referred to as "the managers." This statement of the managers describes the intent of the final legislation and the manner in which provisions in disagreement between the House of Representatives and the Senate have been resolved.

#### Background

WRDA 2022 primarily addresses the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The bill supports the nation's global economic competitiveness and environmental resilience by authorizing the Corps to undertake projects, programs, and initiatives in their Civil Works program relating to navigation, ecosystem restoration, flood and coastal storm risk management, hydropower, recreation, emergency management, and water supply.

A water resources development act (WRDA) is the authorizing legislation for the programs and projects of the Corps' Civil Works program. Ideally enacted every two years, such an act is the main vehicle for authorizing water resources development projects to be studied, planned, and developed by the Corps. WRDAs typically authorize new water resources development projects pursuant to completed feasibility study reports from the Chief of Engineers, modifications to existing projects pursuant to reports from the Director of Civil Works, other modifications to existing projects, study authorizations for new projects, the authorization of miscellaneous projects consistent with the Corps' programs that also demonstrate a Federal interest, and other programmatic changes to the Corps' authorities. Projects and programs contained in WRDAs fall within one or more of the Corps' Civil Works' missions and authorities, which include navigation, ecosystem restoration, flood and coastal storm risk management, hydropower, recreation, regulatory, emergency management, and water supply.

#### General Overview of WRDA 2022

WRDA 2022 includes provisions that will strengthen the United States' economic and national security, reduce the Corps' administrative burdens, enable faster implementation of projects, increase water supply reliability, quality, and quantity, promote assistance to economically disadvantaged

urban, rural, and Tribal communities, address the impacts of changing hydrologic and climatic conditions, and upgrade our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Title LXXXI of Division H is broken down into four subtitles:

Subtitle A addresses general policy changes to the Civil Works program authorities. These changes include, among others: increased support for coastal-related restoration and infrastructure; enhanced authority for the Corps to modernize projects during the performance of maintenance and emergency repair activities; greater flexibility for non-Federal sponsors of Corps projects; changes to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of water resources development projects, programs, and other assistance, including assistance to Tribal communities, economically disadvantaged communities, and states with water supply concerns; improved accessibility to Corps expertise and increased affordability of Corps projects for economically disadvantaged, rural, and Tribal communities; and increased support for research and development, technical assistance, and planning assistance to states.

Subtitle B authorizes critical new feasibility studies to be conducted by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (Secretary), who jointly implements the projects and programs of the Corps with the Chief of Engineers and directs certain existing studies to be expedited to completion. The Secretary is also authorized or directed to complete assessments or reports pertaining to, among other things, dredge capacity, reservoir sedimentation, socially and economically disadvantaged small business concerns, and the economic valuation of preservation of open space, recreational areas, and habitat associated with project lands.

Subtitle C identifies antiquated or outdated projects, and parts of projects, that are no longer needed for a Federal purpose for deauthorization. This subtitle also modifies existing projects and related provisions, including environmental infrastructure authorities, and calls upon the Secretary to expedite the completion of specified projects and studies.

Subtitle D authorizes 25 new projects and six project modifications based on reports submitted to Congress by the Secretary or the Chief of Engineers. These projects address various mission areas of the Corps, including ecosystem restoration, flood and coastal storm risk management, navigation, and water storage for water supply.

#### *Discussion on Specific WRDA 2022 Provisions*

The transformative nature of the last four WRDA bills on the Corps' Civil Works program has provided the Corps and non-Federal interests (sponsors) with a tremendous number of new opportunities for advancing projects more quickly. The managers expect the Corps to issue implementation guidance on the new provisions contained within WRDA 2022 in an expeditious and transparent manner, and where appropriate, to solicit the views of, and consult with, a wide array of stakeholders in the formulation of implementation guidance. In that light, the managers direct the Corps to provide periodic, bipartisan briefings to the staffs of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on the status of implementation of WRDA 2022, and any other unimplemented WRDA provision enacted by Congress since 2014, with the first briefing to be hosted no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of WRDA 2022.

Generally, WRDA 2022 authorizes or directs the preparation of several assessments. The managers intend for the Secretary to con-

duct these assessments at Federal expense. Additionally, it is the managers' expectation that studies included in WRDA 2022 to modify authorized projects prior to or during construction, including studies to extend Federal participation in periodic nourishment, will continue to be initiated without a new start designation, in accordance with well-established budget policy.

WRDA 2022 includes several provisions intended to increase support for economically disadvantaged communities in both rural and urban areas. The managers included this direction to ensure that the Secretary gives equal consideration to economically disadvantaged communities in rural areas and in urban areas when implementing the applicable authorities. The managers do not intend for this direction to affect the Corps' ongoing rulemaking to define the term "economically disadvantaged community."

In addition, in each of the last few WRDAs, Congress has directed the Corps to make greater use of natural and nature-based features and other measures to enhance resilient solutions through all the Corps' missions and authorities. However, despite this clear direction, which is enhanced through additional policy provisions authorized in WRDA 2022, the managers are concerned that these enacted provisions are not being fully implemented by the Corps and directs the Secretary to ensure that the availability and suitability of these approaches are explored in each of the Corps' Districts and Divisions.

WRDA 2022 includes several significant provisions intended to enhance the Corps' authority to formulate, construct, maintain, and repair projects in a manner that holistically addresses the impacts of sea level rise and increasingly frequent and severe extreme weather events. Section 8102 of WRDA 2022 provides the Corps with increased flexibility to modify federally authorized hurricane and storm damage reduction projects during the performance of emergency repair and restoration activities to ensure that they perform adequately in response to changing conditions. In relation to this provision, the managers note that they received a request to authorize the construction of enhancements, including additional gulf side breakwaters, to improve the performance of the Grand Isle and Vicinity, Louisiana Beach Erosion and Hurricane Protection Project, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Accordingly, the managers direct the Secretary to consider the changes to section 5(a)(1) of the Act of August 18, 1941 (commonly known as the Flood Control Act of 1941) made by this section when repairing or restoring this project to account for increased storm damage.

Section 8103 of WRDA 2022 includes amendments to section 212 of WRDA 1999 that streamline the authority and incorporate shoreline protection and restoration into its scope. The managers intend for the Secretary to use this authority to give priority consideration to the protection and restoration of shorelines, riverbanks, and streambanks from erosion and other damaging impacts of extreme weather events. While the managers intend for the Secretary to address these hazards using nonstructural measures, natural features, and nature-based features to the maximum extent practicable, the formulation of projects that rely primarily on structural solutions is not precluded. Such solutions, however, must meet traditional economic or life safety justification standards if they do not otherwise satisfy the alternative standard in section 212(d) of WRDA 1999. Finally, while section 212, as amended, provides general authority for the Secretary to initiate studies, the managers do not intend for individually authorized studies, or studies carried out under programmatic authorities such as section 118(b)

of WRDA 2020, to be excluded from implementation under the terms of section 212 if such studies otherwise fall within the scope of the section.

Section 8106(a) of WRDA 2022 requires the Corps, when requested by a non-Federal sponsor for a study for flood or hurricane and storm damage reduction, to expand the scope of the study to include the formulation of measures to address damages attributable to all drivers of flood risk in the study area. When section 8106(a) is applied to a study for flood damage reduction, the federal interest in the formulation of measures to address flood risk in the study area will no longer be limited by the Corps' policy on minimum flows. When section 8106(a) is applied to a study for hurricane and coastal storm damage reduction, the Federal interest in the formulation of measures will extend to drivers of flood risk that do not coincide with coastal storm events, including flooding and erosion associated with sea level rise and so-called "sunny day tides." Further, the managers expect the Secretary to continue to account for the effects of sea level rise, including an increase in the extent, magnitude, and frequency of tidal flooding, in the formulation of both flood and coastal storm risk management and ecosystem restoration projects by fully implementing existing authorities such as section 113 of WRDA 2020.

Additionally, section 8106(b) of WRDA 2022 expands the Secretary's authority to formulate alternatives for any water resources development project, at the request of the non-Federal sponsor for such project, in a manner that increases a community's resilience to drought conditions. This provision will allow the Secretary to include individual measures for water supply and water conservation in a recommendation for a water resources development project as well as to design the water resources development project itself in a manner that maximizes the project's incidental benefits for those purposes.

WRDA 2022 includes several provisions to enhance support for Tribal communities. Section 8111 of WRDA 2022 amends the Tribal Partnership Program established by section 203 of WRDA 2000. The amendments clarify that coastal storm risk management and erosion control projects fall within the program's scope. Additionally, section 8111 provides an alternative standard for justifying flood and coastal storm risk management projects, including erosion control and streambank stabilization projects, when such projects do not otherwise satisfy traditional standards for justification on the basis of economics or life safety.

Section 8113 of WRDA 2022 clarifies the Secretary's authority to develop a comprehensive plan to replace Indian villages, housing sites, and related structures impacted by construction of The Dalles Dam, Bonneville Dam, McNary Dam, and John Day Dam in Washington and Oregon. The managers intend for the Secretary to work with the affected Tribes to develop the plan. With the clarifications made in this Act, section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 should no longer be interpreted as restricting the Corps' authority to provide housing assistance at multiple village sites to mitigate impacts from construction of The Dalles Dam or from the construction of any of the other three dams.

Further, section 8114 of WRDA 2022 amends section 1156 of WRDA 1986 to clarify that the cost share waiver for Tribes and territories is to be applied to reduce only the non-Federal share of study and project costs. In response to this amendment, the managers intend for the Secretary to correct the implementation guidance for section 1119 of WRDA 2016, which mistakenly provides for



the waiver amount to be applied to shared study costs instead of the non-Federal share of study costs.

Section 8130 of WRDA 2022 directs the Secretary to develop a strategic plan that identifies opportunities and challenges relating to furthering the policy of the United States to maximize the beneficial use of sediment obtained from the construction and operation of the Corps' water resources development projects. In carrying out this section, the managers are aware of ongoing scientific research into the use of nutrient-rich dredged materials as a potential source of fertilizer for plant growth. The managers encourage the Corps, through its Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), to undertake an assessment on the beneficial use of sediment for such purposes, including an assessment of whether such use is cost-effective, sustainable, and safe for human health and the environment.

Section 8146 of WRDA 2022 authorizes the Secretary to carry out capital improvements for the Washington Aqueduct. The managers intend that the definition of customers found in this section means the existing legal entities that purchase potable water from the Washington Aqueduct, namely the Fairfax County Water Authority, the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority, and Arlington County, Virginia.

Section 8152 of WRDA 2022 authorizes the Secretary to provide assistance to pump stations when the failure of such pump stations would demonstrably impact the function of the federally authorized flood or coastal storm risk management project, which includes the impairment to water drainage from areas interior to a federally authorized flood or coastal storm risk management project. Congress directs the Secretary to consider this authority to provide such assistance to the Pointe Celeste Pump Station in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

Section 8154 of WRDA 2022 authorizes the Secretary to carry out a pilot program to evaluate the extent to which the provision of temporary relocation assistance enhances the completeness, effectiveness, efficiency, acceptability, and equitable implementation of nonstructural flood and coastal storm risk management projects involving the elevation or modification of residential structures. The managers intend for the Secretary to offer the non-Federal interest for each project covered by the section an equal opportunity to participate in the program.

Section 8155 of WRDA 2022 directs the Secretary to continue construction projects that exceed or are expected to exceed maximum project cost limits during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2024. Though the Corps is still required to submit all relevant documentation to the House and Senate as required under section 902 of WRDA 1986, section 8155 ensures that supply change disruptions, inflation, and other factors contributing to rapid and unavoidable cost increases do not jeopardize the Corps' ability to execute the increased amounts of funding provided to the agency during this Congress to reinforce the nation's water infrastructure. Finally, in light of the number of Corps projects potentially requiring statutory cost increases that have only recently come to the attention of Congress, section 8155(b) establishes a new, permanent requirement that the Corps notify the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works of any water resources development project that exceeds or is expected to exceed its maximum cost under section 902 of WRDA 1986.

Section 8158 of WRDA 2022 directs the Secretary to establish a Western Water Coopera-

tive Committee to help mitigate the potential for conflict between the operation of Corps projects and state water rights. A bipartisan coalition of 19 Western Senators wrote to the Office of Management and Budget on September 17, 2019, in opposition to the proposed rulemaking entitled "Use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reservoir Projects for Domestic, Municipal & Industrial Water Supply" (81 Fed. Reg. 91556 (December 16, 2016)), describing the rule as counter to existing law and court precedent. On January 21, 2020, the proposed rulemaking was withdrawn. The Corps should consult with the participating Western States to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that operation of flood control projects in such States is consistent with the principles of the first section of the Act of December 22, 1944, and section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958. Furthermore, the Western Water Cooperative Committee shall make recommendations that only apply to the defined list of Western States and ensure that any recommended changes or modifications to policy or regulations for Corps projects would not adversely affect water resources within other states.

Section 8160 of WRDA 2022 modernizes the Corps' authority to carry out research and development activities. Included in this section is a temporary authority for the Corps to utilize transactions other than contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants for purposes of prototype projects. The managers intend for the Corps to expedite implementation of this authority by relying on, to the maximum extent practicable, existing U.S. Department of Defense guidance on other transaction authority.

WRDA 2022 includes several provisions to support and enhance the delivery of public recreation benefits at Corps projects. The Corps operates more recreation areas than any other Federal or State agency, apart from the U.S. Department of the Interior. Nationally, visitors to nearly 600 Corps-managed dams and lakes spend an estimated \$12 billion per year and support 500,000 jobs. Lakes managed by the Corps are economic drivers that support local communities. The managers remain concerned with the costs of ongoing operation and maintenance of these public recreation sites, which provide an enormous benefit to the country. Specifically, section 8161 of WRDA 2022 expresses the sense of Congress that the Secretary spend at least 80 percent of the revenue generated by each site on activities for the operation, maintenance, and upkeep of such site to encourage their continued use and economic benefit.

Section 8212 of WRDA 2022 directs the Corps to provide the County of San Luis Obispo, California, with right of first refusal for any potential conveyance of the project for Salinas Dam, California. The managers are aware that the County and the Corps have engaged in negotiations for several years regarding the disposition of the Salinas Dam project and associated infrastructure and reservoir. The managers direct the Corps to engage in a collaborative process with the County with the goal of transferring the facility to the County as expeditiously as possible under conditions that are acceptable to all parties. Further, the managers direct the Corps to not take any action that would preclude the Corps from serving as the Federal agency solely responsible for disposal of the facility unless the County agrees with an alternative approach and the managers are satisfied that all parties are best served by the alternative approach. In addition, the managers direct the Corps to not take any action that would in any way assign responsibility for the facility to any military installation or other Federal agen-

cy until collaborative negotiations are complete, and all parties are in agreement with a disposal plan.

Section 8303 of WRDA 2022 includes additional locations to an existing pilot program to utilize forecast informed reservoir operations (FIRO) at Corps owned dams and reservoirs. Additionally, the section authorizes a new pilot program in the North Atlantic Division. The managers urge the Secretary to ensure that sufficient budgetary resources are allocated to FIRO projects to more fully utilize this process in appropriate situations and to provide for the update of existing water operations control manuals to incorporate FIRO at reservoirs identified under the two pilot programs.

The final version of Section 8327 of WRDA 2022 substantially incorporates the language contained in the original section 309 of the Senate amendment to H.R. 7776. Although an authorization of appropriations has been added to subsection (c) of section 8327 for future major maintenance, the managers do not intend for this paragraph to impose a requirement for additional funds to be appropriated to implement this subsection for the currently planned major maintenance if sufficient amounts are available in the existing allocation for major maintenance of the Indian River Inlet navigation project.

Section 8346 of WRDA 2022 authorizes and directs the Corps to carry out water level management activities as part of the operation and maintenance of the navigation channel projects on the Upper Mississippi River and on the Illinois River (also called the Illinois Waterway) to help redress sedimentation and to improve the quality and quantity of habitat available for fish and wildlife. Because studies have shown that water level management activities carried out by the Corps produce important ecosystem benefits, the managers intend that such activities be routinely carried out and conducted as part of the operations and maintenance of the navigation channels as quickly as possible, and prior to the routine update of water control manuals for the covered projects.

Section 8363 of WRDA 2022 states that the non-Federal interest for the project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, Colleton County, South Carolina, may be eligible to receive credit for construction and design work carried out by the non-Federal interest before a partnership agreement is executed for the specified project. The managers have agreed to this language based on the understanding from the Corps that all applicable laws and regulations, including the Davis-Bacon Act, would need to have been complied with for the work of the non-Federal interest to be creditable.

WRDA 2022 authorizes significant new Federal investments in environmental infrastructure for communities across the nation. The managers intend for the Secretary to interpret all environmental infrastructure authorities to include, at a minimum, assistance for water supply storage, distribution, and treatment; wastewater collection and treatment; drainage; stormwater management; surface water resource protection and development; and water quality enhancement. Additional purposes may be expressly authorized for individual programs. With respect to implementation of specific programs, the managers intend for the additional appropriations authorized under section 8376(b)(8) for the environmental infrastructure authority authorized under section 594 of WRDA 1999 to be administered in a manner consistent with the previous funding authorized under section 594. Further, the managers intend for the Water Replenishment District of Southern California to be eligible for assistance under Section

219(f)(93) of WRDA 1992, as amended by section 8375(b)(2)(C) of the WRDA 2022.

#### *Other Policy Matters*

Both the House and Senate committee reports on the chambers' respective WRDA 2022 bills include direction on implementation of previously enacted authorities. To the extent consistent with the Act and this statement, the managers intend for the Secretary to follow the direction on previously enacted authorities provided in those reports.

In addition to the direction in the House and Senate committee reports on previously enacted authorities, the managers encourage the Corps to continue to explicate comprehensive documentation of benefits in project planning. As the Secretary implements the Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies, as directed by section 110 of WRDA 2020, the managers expect these agency-specific procedures to foster a comprehensive, consistent, and clear assessment in project planning documents that allows for full participation by project sponsors.

Further, the managers seek to clarify the scope of existing authorities for periodic renourishment and mitigation of shore damages attributable to Federal navigation projects.

To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary is directed to provide periodic nourishment in accordance with subsection (c) of the first section of the Act of August 13, 1946, and subject to section 156 of WRDA 1976, for projects and measures carried out for the purpose of restoring and increasing the resilience of ecosystems to the same extent as periodic nourishment is provided for projects and measures carried out for the purpose of coastal storm risk management.

For all future projects to mitigate shore damage attributable to navigation projects under section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, the Secretary is instructed that shores damaged by navigation features and projects for which the Corps has assumed responsibility through any method, including the Cape Cod Canal, are eligible for assistance under the section. Although the Cape Cod Canal jetties were initially constructed by private interests, the Cape Cod Canal project has been under Federal control for over 100 years. The Federal Government owns the project and has reconstructed, operated, maintained, repaired, and rehabilitated the project numerous times since acquiring the channel. The project does not have a non-Federal sponsor. This section provides clear authority for the Secretary to implement mitigation measures to address the shore damage caused by the Cape Cod Canal jetties at full Federal expense. The Secretary is directed to exercise this authority without further delay. Further, the Secretary is directed in the future to apply this section in a manner that does not preclude Federal participation in the cost to mitigate damages caused by a navigation project or feature solely because the project or feature was initially constructed by a non-Federal entity.

The managers remain concerned about the impacts of drought to the nation's water supply, including the current drought in the State of California and other arid States. Section 221 of WRDA 2020 directed the Corps to submit a report to Congress on the benefits and consequences of including water supply and water conservation as a primary mission of the Corps. Section 221 of WRDA 2020 directed this report be transmitted to Congress by June 2022; however, the Corps has now significantly missed this statutory deadline on an issue of critical importance to communities concerned about long-term

water supply availability. The managers direct the Corps to prioritize and expedite completion of this report, and to provide a bipartisan briefing to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works within 90 days of the date of enactment of this Act on the status of such report.

During consideration of WRDA 2022, the managers received a request related to public safety at federally authorized hurricane and storm damage reduction projects, such as the project at Cape May Beach in Cape May, New Jersey. The managers encourage the Secretary to work with the State of New Jersey, the non-Federal sponsors of similar hurricane and storm damage reduction projects in the region, and other interested stakeholders and public safety officials to examine whether the rate of head, neck, and spine injuries sustained at Cape May Beach as reported by the New Jersey Department of Health and the City of Cape May Beach Patrol is similar to or differs from those reported at other federally authorized projects in the region.

The managers received a request related to the Corps' use of its existing authority to perform advance maintenance of the nation's federally authorized navigation channels. These channels are essential to keeping the international supply chain open and operating efficiently during this period of economic recovery. The managers strongly urge the Corps to make optimum use of available authorities to ensure that these waterways are adequately maintained and able to accommodate global shipping needs and generate economic benefits during this critical time. The use of advance maintenance can be particularly impactful in channels with high shoaling areas. Over time these areas naturally silt in and are especially vulnerable to the advent of more intense storms, and repeated advance maintenance efforts may be necessary to guard against depth reductions which can lead to draft restrictions for larger global vessels. The managers encourage the Corps to maintain Federal channels at their approved advance maintenance depth.

The managers are aware that the Corps utilizes a wide range of platforms, sensors, and other technologies to conduct a range of research and monitoring activities, including the use of uncrewed platforms and sensor packages. The managers encourage the Secretary, in coordination with the Corps' Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), to consider establishing an Uncrewed Systems Innovation Center to ensure the appropriate development and utilization of innovative uncrewed technologies, including autonomous, remotely operated airborne, terrestrial, and maritime vehicle systems.

The managers received a request to consolidate the management of all active Miami-Dade County water resource projects into the Jacksonville District. The managers encourage the Corps to transfer project management of the Miami-Dade Back Bay Coastal Storm Risk Feasibility Management from the Norfolk District to the Jacksonville District.

The managers received several requests related to the potential modification of lock and dam structures on the inland waterways system to allow for remote operations, including concerns with the vulnerability of remote operations to cyber-attacks and the potential impact of remote operations on current Corps' employees. The managers remind the Secretary that section 222(b)(1)(B)(V) of WRDA 2020 set forth a security framework for studies carried out by the Corps. Results from that effort should be used to address cyber security concerns for

Corps structures, particularly locks and dams, that utilize remote supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) type products for automation control systems as part of the Corps' national security interests. The managers request a bipartisan briefing on these activities. The managers also recognize that remote lock operations along commercial and recreational waterways can increase the availability and capacity of the locks, especially in lower-use waterways, and can support other economic drivers in counties throughout America. The managers received a request to consider potential expansion of remote operations to additional locations, such as in the Upper Allegheny Locks in Armstrong County, Pennsylvania. However, the managers remind the Secretary of recent Congressional action to statutorily declare Corps' lock and dam employees as inherently governmental and direct the Secretary to report to the managers on any potential workforce impacts of any proposed automation and remote operations activity before they are carried out, and to ensure that any recommendations in a completed study will not result in the loss of jobs for current lock and dam employees.

As part of the Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification Project in Kern County, California, the Corps is building the U.S. Forest Service a new visitor center to replace a facility that was demolished due to this project. The managers note discussion on this visitor center started a decade ago, but understands the Corps is now in the process of acquiring private property on which to build this facility from a willing seller. Accordingly, the managers support the Corps efforts on this project and direct the Corps to continue to work expeditiously to bring this visitor center to fruition.

The managers direct the Corps to consult with the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority and the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake to validate proposed solutions to resolve water supply needs and eliminate overdraft in the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin in California. This validation effort shall review and develop measures needed to provide water supply resiliency in the basin and for the critical Federal defense assets that overlie it, including, but not limited to, the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, implementation, utilization, conservation, or importation of water, infrastructure needs, and related land resources in the basin. Such plans shall consider the potential and projected water supply needs of the critical defense assets and future growth within the basin. The Corps is directed to report to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works within 180 days of enactment of this Act on the validation effort.

The Success Reservoir Enlargement Project was authorized by section 101(b)(4) of WRDA 1999 to improve both flood damage protection and water supply in Tulare County, California. In House Report 116-460, the managers previously encouraged the Corps to advance this project. The managers note their support for this project and continue to encourage the Corps to expedite this project through completion.

The managers received a request related to completion of the Comite Diversion project, Louisiana, authorized as part of the project for flood control, Amite River and Tributaries, Louisiana, pursuant to section 101(11) of WRDA 1992. The managers direct the Secretary and any other relevant agencies to take all steps necessary to ensure completion of the project as quickly as possible. The managers request, within 90 days of the

date of the filing of this report, that the Secretary provide a bipartisan briefing on the status of completion of the project.

The Port Fourchon, Belle Pass Channel, Louisiana, navigation project, authorized in WRDA 2020, features as a key component 100 percent beneficial use disposal of project dredge material. The managers are encouraged that progress has been made between the Corps and the non-Federal sponsor in designating a beneficial use disposal site that will meet National Economic Development goals, as well as satisfy the local community's need for beneficial use disposal at impacted coastal areas. The Corps is expected to provide the non-Federal sponsor with a revised Project Management Plan (PMP), delineating tasks and costs associated with addressing remaining conditions contained in the Port Fourchon, Belle Pass Channel, Louisiana, authorization, including a revised dredge material disposal plan that will designate the beneficial use disposal site. As such, the managers direct the Secretary to negotiate and complete a PMP that is satisfactory to the Secretary and the non-Federal sponsor, including the selection of a beneficial use disposal site agreed upon by the non-Federal sponsor, as soon as possible.

#### 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES AND MEXICO BILATERAL RELATIONS

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, on December 12, 1822, Jose Manuel Zozaya y Bermudez presented his credentials as Mexico's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to U.S. President James Monroe, which established formal relations between our two countries.

On December 12, 2022, the United States and Mexico celebrated the 200th anniversary of our bilateral relations. Our relations with Mexico remain strong and vital, based on mutual respect as sovereign states. Mexico remains one of the United States' closest and most valued partners. Our bilateral relationship directly benefits the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans and Mexicans, whether the issue is trade and economic development, educational and cultural exchange, citizen security, control of illicit drugs, migration, human trafficking, entrepreneurship, innovation, environmental protection, climate change, or public health.

The scope of relations between the United States and Mexico extends beyond diplomacy. It encompasses extensive commercial, cultural, educational, and familial ties. Our countries share a 2,000-mile border with 47 active land ports of entry. Hundreds of thousands of people cross the border legally each day, strengthening people-to-people ties and deepening our integration. In addition, an estimated 1.6 million U.S. citizens live in Mexico, and nearly 40 million persons of Mexican descent reside in the United States. The U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Group has been held regularly since 1961 to bring together legislators from both countries to discuss priority issues and identify ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation. Although our countries share a great number of ties, without a

doubt, our peoples represent our strongest, deepest and most lasting bond, which will unite us forever. The bicentennial celebration serves as an opportunity to honor our personal ties and our shared history, while affirming our commitment to build a brighter future for our two nations.

As the United States and Mexico reflect on 200 years of bilateral relations, we must celebrate the greatness of our peoples and commit to seize the opportunities ahead of us. The bicentennial allows us to reflect on our historical ties and grants us an opportunity to build on our shared priorities: economic prosperity, clean energy, security, migration, and our mutual understanding of one another.

The United States and Mexico have enduring connections encompassing all aspects of life. As we address our shared challenges and work together for a prosperous future, we celebrate this era of cooperation and respect. This anniversary allows us to reflect on the past and more importantly, to chart a course for the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL CHARLES A. RICHARD

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate ADM Charles "Chas" A. Richard on his retirement from the U.S. Navy. I would also like to give my warm regards to his wife Lisa and children Chase, Ally, and Emily for supporting him throughout his years of selfless service to our country.

Born in Decatur, AL, Admiral Richard is a dedicated officer who represents the best our Nation's military has to offer. I have had the privilege of knowing the admiral since he took over for Gen. John E. Hyten at U.S. Strategic Command in 2019.

As the ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee's Strategic Forces Subcommittee, we have direct oversight over STRATCOM's mission areas. STRATCOM also happens to be located in Nebraska, the State I proudly represent in the U.S. Senate. For these reasons, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Admiral Richard, and I have come to appreciate his thoughtful insights and brilliant strategic mind. I know many in this Chamber have come to rely on him and his expertise, especially those of us working on nuclear deterrence.

Like other distinguished STRATCOM commanders, he can say with pride, "We deterred great power conflict and nuclear war" during one of the most challenging national security environments of the last six decades. For any STRATCOM commander, that is truly their greatest accomplishment.

Admiral Richard has had a decisive impact on U.S. Strategic Command. He spearheaded the creation of the Risk of Strategic Deterrence Failure Assessment. This assessment distilled a decade's worth of analytics down to a set of fundamental questions and answers

that were vital to reevaluating our strategic posture and reemphasizing the importance of strong deterrence. You only need to look at Russia's continued war of aggression against Ukraine to understand the value of such analysis.

Given STRATCOM's mission is a global one, Admiral Richard never let one region of the world overshadow the serious threats posed by another.

With respect to the Indo-Pacific, Admiral Richard worked tirelessly to alert our country to the scope and speed of China's military buildup, including Beijing's breathtaking expansion of nuclear capabilities. He has been the canary in the coal mine, warning us all about the growing threats we face and the role nuclear deterrence must play in the 21st century.

His foresight wasn't just restricted to the rise of China. From day one, Admiral Richard understood the need to address our electronic warfare capabilities. Under his leadership, STRATCOM created the first ever doctrine on Joint Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations, and he helped lead the development of NATO's electronic warfare doctrine. Under his watch, STRATCOM accomplished more on electronic warfare in the last three years than in the previous 20.

He also always understood the importance of America's nuclear triad, and he fought to ensure it remained our top defense priority. Overseeing the modernization of all three legs of the nuclear triad is a herculean task, and Admiral Richard has done a remarkable job working with the services and the National Nuclear Security Administration to keep these programs on track.

STRATCOM has also made huge strides in the modernization of our Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications—NC3—architecture over the last 3 years. He oversaw the creation of the state-of-the-art NC3 Intelligence Fusion Center and the first-ever NC3 enterprise dashboard with critically needed quick-status viewing. Here, too, the admiral broke records. I am told that more was accomplished in the last 3 years than in the previous 10 in the modernization of our nuclear arsenal.

Admiral Richard's leadership weathered challenging times. And his steady hand during the pandemic was a masterclass in true leadership. As our Nation and our world were grappling with the first global pandemic in over a century, he kept STRATCOM on the right track. In just 4 short days, he oversaw the largest shift to telework in STRATCOM's history, from just a few individuals to nearly 1,400+ people. And many of them had to conduct telework at a classified level.

If you ask Admiral Richard about any of his many accomplishments, he will avoid the spotlight and heap praise on others. But he was the leader, and STRATCOM is all the better for his leadership.

When I learned Admiral Richard was retiring, I knew we would be losing a

great leader. I also knew that we would be losing a great man, and I knew I would be losing a friend. I learned something every time I met with him, and I appreciated his thoughtful insights on the many threats our country faces. His clear-eyed, straightforward, and honest advice to the Senate Armed Services Committee directly led to stronger, safer policies to protect our Nation being signed into law.

After over 40 years of exemplary service, Admiral Richard's retirement is well-earned. I wish him and Lisa the very best, and I thank him on behalf of myself and the people of Nebraska for his dedication and service to our country.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO AL JAEGER

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I want to honor the 30 years of distinguished service of a remarkable North Dakota public servant who is retiring from office at the end of December.

Alvin Jaeger took office as North Dakota's 14th secretary of state in January 1993, when I was the executive director of the North Dakota Republican Party. That year, he and newly elected Governor Ed Schafer became the second and third Republicans to be voted in to a State office after several years of Democrats occupying them. Today, all State office holders are Republicans, the significance of which is not lost on neither Al nor me.

A Beulah, ND, native, Al came to the Secretary of State's office having previously served in the North Dakota National Army Guard and having been a business analyst for the Mobil Oil Corporation, a Fargo real estate broker, and a high school teacher in western North Dakota.

In his 30 years in office, Al has brought wisdom, intelligence, and dedication to everything he has undertaken. He has served on the State Board of University and School Lands, the North Dakota Emergency Commission, and the State Historical Society of North Dakota, making his participation in the work of these boards a top priority. Al has also been active in the National Association of Secretaries of State and most recently was a member of its executive committee.

When first elected, Al oversaw the development of the office's first website and subsequently supervised the ever evolving modernization and digitization of services and information that we now expect to be found online. He led in updating North Dakota's election code and developing more sophisticated tracking of election results. He has become the "go-to" authority on issues related to election security and uniform voter identification. And he and his staff have set a high standard for election integrity in North Dakota not enjoyed by many other States.

One of the projects Al championed and which will be among the greatest legacies of his years in office is the North Dakota Blue Book. This publication traces back to the Territorial Legislature in 1887, 2 years before North Dakota became a State, with early titles more commonly referred to as "legislative manuals or handbooks." They were put out sporadically until Al came to office in 1993, when he committed to resuming a biannual publication of the book. Over these past 30 years, each book has provided a comprehensive chronology of all current and State office holders, a summary of significant laws passed during that biennium's legislative session, as well as historical features and data about the State. With each edition providing information about North Dakota not readily available elsewhere, the value of the commitment by the Secretary of State's office to regularly publish these books cannot be overstated.

When Al Jaeger retires on December 31, he will become the second longest serving secretary of state in North Dakota, overseeing and codifying the laws of 15 legislative sessions. It is going to take a long time for the impact of his years of service to be adequately measured. On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank him for his years of service as secretary of state. I congratulate him on his well-earned retirement and wish him many years of health and happiness in the future.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 4017. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 111 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, as the "James D. Todd United States Courthouse", and for other purposes.

S. 5060. An act to redesignate the Federal building located at 212 Third Avenue South in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the "Paul D. Wellstone Federal Building", and for other purposes.

At 5:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 558. An act to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 789. An act to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians.

S. 2607. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979–1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

S. 5229. An act to direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to remove the bust of Roger Brooke Taney in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol and

to obtain a bust of Thurgood Marshall for installation in the Capitol or on the Capitol Grounds, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 7077) to require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 5244. A bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2023, extending various health programs, 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-5803. A communication from the Branch of Administrative Support Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Updating Entries for Two Species on and Removing Johnson's Seagrass From the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants Wildlife and Plants" (RIN1018-BG87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5804. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (21-1.5e)" ((RIN2070-AB27) (FRL No. 8582-01-OCSPP)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5805. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Addition of Certain Chemicals; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting" ((RIN2070-AK26) (FRL No. 5927-02-OCSPP)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5806. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Canola Oil Pathways to Renewable Diesel, Jet Fuel, Naphtha, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, and Heating Oil" ((RIN2060-AV55) (FRL No. 9075-02-OAR)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5807. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "NPDES Small MS4 Urbanized Area Clarification" ((RIN2040-AG27) (FRL No.

10123-02-OW)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5808. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Plan Submittals for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 10414-02-R1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5809. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standards and Practices for All Appropriate Inquiries" (FRL No. 9334.1-01-OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5810. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plan for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: New Hampshire; 111(d)/129 Revised State Plan for Existing Large and Small Municipal Waste Combustors" (FRL No. 8778-02-R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5811. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination To Defer Sanctions; California; Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 10217-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5812. A communication from the Branch of Administrative Support Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of Eugenia woodburyana From Endangered to Threatened With a Section 4(d) Rule" (RIN1018-BD01) received in the office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5813. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Canoe Creek Clubshell and Designation of Critical Habitat" (RIN1018-BF82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5814. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Technical Amendments for Southeastern Mussels, Snails, and a Reptile" (RIN1018-BF29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5815. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With

Section 4(d) Rule for Sickie Darter" (RIN1018-BF82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5816. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for the Dixie Valley Toad" (RIN1018-BG21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5817. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat" (RIN1018-BG14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5818. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for Puerto Rican Harlequin Butterfly and Designation of Critical Habitat" (RIN1018-BE16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5819. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment" (RIN1018-BB27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5820. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amount Paid by Suffolk County, New York, to Residents for Septic System Upgrades" (Announcement 2022-26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5821. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2022 Base Period T-Bill Rate" (Rev. Rul. 2022-21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5822. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Health Care Transitions for Individuals Returning to the Community From a Public Institution: Promising Practices Identified by the Medicaid Reentry Stakeholder Group"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5823. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to activities of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5824. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Computa-

tion of Annual Liability Insurance (Including Self-Insurance), No-Fault Insurance, and Workers' Compensation Settlement Recovery Threshold"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5825. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5826. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Origin for Goods Imported into the United States" ((RIN1515-AE77) (CBP Dec. 22-25)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5827. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Refund Procedures for Craft Beverage Modernization Act Federal Excise Tax Benefits Applicable to Imported Alcohol" (RIN1513-AC89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5828. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; CY 2023 Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment and Coverage Policies; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements; Implementing Requirements for Manufacturers of Certain Single-dose Container or Single-use Package Drugs to Provide Refunds with Respect to Discarded Amounts; and COVID-19 Interim Final Rules" ((RIN0938-AU81) (RIN0938-AU95) (RIN0938-AU31) (RIN0938-AU32)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5829. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Program; Implementing Certain Provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and other Revisions to Medicare Enrollment and Eligibility Rules" (RIN0938-AU85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5830. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Norway, Sweden, and Spain, for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad (Transmittal No. DDTC 22-053); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5831. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Estonia in the amount of

\$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22-056); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5832. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Brazil in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22-018); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5833. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, and technical data to Ukraine in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22-044); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5834. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Belgium and the Netherlands in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22-041); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5835. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22-050); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5836. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Italy in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22-052); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5837. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Italy in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22-054); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5838. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22-048); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5839. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5840. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, Department of

Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's annual report for calendar year 2021; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5841. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Sections 506(a) (1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5842. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Sections 506(a) (1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5843. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide military assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5844. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide military assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5845. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide military assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5846. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Medication-Assisted Treatment for Recovery from Addiction report to Congress for fiscal year 2022"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5847. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease: 2022 Update"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5848. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prudence and Loyalty in Selecting Plan Investments and Exercising Shareholder Rights" (RIN1210-AC03) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5849. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tobacco Products; Required Warnings for Cigarette Packages and Advertisements; Delayed Effective Date" (RIN0910-AI39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5850. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Listing of Color Additives; of Color Additives Exempt From Certification;

Antarctic Krill Meal; Confirmation of Effective Date" (FDA-2018-C-1007) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-5851. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods" (RIN0910-AI44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1143. A bill to prohibit certain individuals from downloading or using TikTok on any device issued by the United States or a government corporation (Rept. No. 117-256).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1316. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make a declaration of a significant incident, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-257).

S. 4654. A bill to amend section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects (Rept. No. 117-258).

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

H.R. 7211. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, review a final rule of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-259).

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3278. A bill to protect children and other consumers against hazards associated with the accidental ingestion of button cell or coin batteries by requiring the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety standard to require child-resistant closures on consumer products that use such batteries, and for other purposes.

S. 3429. A bill to establish an Alaska Salmom Research Task Force.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment:

S. 3533. A bill to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to improve the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 4246. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to provide grants related to advance air mobility infrastructure, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4293. A bill to prevent unfair and deceptive acts or practices and the dissemination of false information related to pharmacy benefit management services for prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services.

Air Force nomination of Col. David C. Epperson, to be Brigadier General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Thomas P. Sherman, to be Brigadier General.

\*Marine Corps nomination of Maj. Gen. Francis L. Donovan, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Donald K. Carpenter and ending with Brig. Gen. Mark D. Piper, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 14, 2022.

\*Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Steven S. Nordhaus, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Col. Paige M. Jennings, to be Brigadier General.

Navy nomination of Capt. Jonathan T. Stephens, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Marcus B. Annibale and ending with Brig. Gen. Calvert L. Worth, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 5, 2022.

\*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Charles R. Hamilton, to be General.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Air Force nominations beginning with Kimberly N. Barr and ending with Benjamin D. Youngquist, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 3, 2022.

Air Force nominations beginning with Nathan J. Abel and ending with Bai Lan Zhu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 3, 2022.

Air Force nominations beginning with Billy S. Allen and ending with Joshua D. Wild, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 3, 2022.

Air Force nominations beginning with Allen Y. Agnes and ending with Jose L. Zambrano, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 3, 2022.

Air Force nominations beginning with Daniel A. Bunch and ending with Michael William Suden, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 3, 2022.

Air Force nominations beginning with Dear Beloved and ending with John T. Szczepanski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on August 3, 2022.

Air Force nominations beginning with Karla E. Adams and ending with Jesse M.

Wickham, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 8, 2022.

Air Force nominations beginning with Jacqueline E. Bvlgari and ending with Kelly L. Vermillion, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 8, 2022.

Air Force nomination of Keenan E. Dalrymple, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Susan D. Baumgartner, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Stigen A. Westberg, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Beau D. Graham, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Kristen M. Barra, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Evans R. Wright, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Jeremy A. Krohngold, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Chandramouli Rajaram, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Sean P. Hutchison, to be Major.

Army nomination of Andrew K. Arrington, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Christopher A. Kreiler, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Michael A. Rizzotti and ending with Brett C. Shepard, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 7, 2022.

Army nomination of Ronald W. Sprang, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Ryan C. Agee, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Phillip J. Deaguilera, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Brian C. Beldowicz, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Christopher A. Benson, to be Major.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with David Ahn and ending with Jay M. Zarra, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 7, 2022.

Navy nomination of Tapeka C. Pringle, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Space Force nomination of Ashton M. Shelton, to be Major.

\*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.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5249. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to encourage participation in advanced payment models; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 5250. A bill to modify requirements for certain employment activities by former intelligence officers and employees of the intelligence community, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5251. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to promote mental wellness and resilience and heal mental health, behavioral health, and psychological problems through age and culturally appropriate community programs, and award grants for the purpose of establishing, operating, or expanding community-based mental wellness and resilience programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 5252. A bill to establish the right of adults to engage in private, non-commercial, consensual sexual conduct in the exercise of their liberty; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5253. A bill to require the President to remove the extension of certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices if Hong Kong no longer enjoys a high degree of autonomy from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. WICKER, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 5254. A bill to provide for the publication by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of physical activity recommendations for Americans; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. LEE, and Mr. KING):

S. 5255. A bill to streamline the budget process at the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 5256. A bill to increase students' and borrowers' access to student loan information within the National Student Loan Data System; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 5257. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the time during which a qualified disaster may have occurred for purposes of the special rules for personal casualty losses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 5258. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Conservation Act to provide that consumer room air cleaners are covered products to which certain energy conservation standards apply, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 5259. A bill to require certain interactive computer services to adopt and operate technology verification measures to ensure that users of the platform are not minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 5260. A bill to define "obscenity" for purposes of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5261. A bill to protect certain victims of human trafficking by expanding the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant such aliens continued presence in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 5262. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against

income tax for equity investments by angel investors; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5263. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to create a national zero-emission vehicle standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 871. A resolution condemning the illegal abduction of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 872. A resolution recognizing Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 14, 2022; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 873. A resolution to authorize the production of records by the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Sergeant at Arms; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 403

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 736

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 736, a bill to regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2076, a bill to establish a program to develop antimicrobial innovations targeting the most challenging pathogens and most threatening infections.

S. 2215

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2215, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs.

S. 2266

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 2266, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2405

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2405, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 2872

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2872, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the adjusted gross income limitation for above-the-line deduction of expenses of performing artist employees, and for other purposes.

S. 3018

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 3018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3357

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3357, a bill to substantially restrict the use of animal testing for cosmetics.

S. 4003

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4003, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for training on alternatives to use of force, de-escalation, and mental and behavioral health and suicidal crises.

S. 4042

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4042, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage for all physicians' services furnished by doctors of chiropractic within the scope of their license, and for other purposes.

S. 4227

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4227, a bill to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, and for other purposes.

S. 4587

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator

from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4587, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Benjamin Berell Ferencz, in recognition of his service to the United States and international community during the post-World War II Nuremberg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal justice and rule of law.

S. 4621

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4621, a bill to promote low-carbon, high-octane fuels, to protect public health, and to improve vehicle efficiency and performance, and for other purposes.

S. 4649

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4649, a bill to amend the Global Food Security Act of 2016 to improve the comprehensive strategic approach for United States foreign assistance to developing countries to reduce global poverty and hunger, achieve food and nutrition security, promote inclusive, sustainable, agricultural-led economic growth, improve nutritional outcomes, especially for women and children, build resilience among vulnerable populations, and for other purposes.

S. 4787

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4787, a bill to provide support for nationals of Afghanistan who supported the United States mission in Afghanistan, adequate vetting for parolees from Afghanistan, adjustment of status for certain nationals of Afghanistan, and special immigrant status for at-risk Afghan allies and relatives of certain members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 5203

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5203, a bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 47

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 47, a concurrent resolution



commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 80 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

S. RES. 183

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 183, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 837

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 837, a resolution recognizing Israeli-American culture and heritage, the contributions of the Israeli-American community to the United States, and condemning antisemitic violence and discrimination.

AMENDMENT NO. 6514

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6514 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7776, a bill to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 5250. A bill to modify requirements for certain employment activities by former intelligence officers and employees of the intelligence community, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. CORNYN. President, I ask unanimous consent to print my bill for introduction in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The bill modifies requirements for certain employment activities by former intelligence officers and employees of the intelligence community.

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

S. 5250

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

#### SECTION 1. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES BY FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (b) of section 304 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3073a) are amended to read as follows:

“(a) POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS.—

“(1) COVERED POST-SERVICE POSITION.—

“(A) PERMANENT RESTRICTION.—Except as provided by paragraph (2)(A)(i), an employee of an element of the intelligence community who occupies a covered intelligence position may not occupy a covered post-service posi-

tion for a designated prohibited foreign country following the date on which the employee ceases to occupy a covered intelligence position.

“(B) TEMPORARY RESTRICTION.—Except as provided by paragraph (2)(A)(ii), an employee of an element of the intelligence community who occupies a covered intelligence position may not occupy a covered post-service position during the 30-month period following the date on which the employee ceases to occupy a covered intelligence position.

“(2) WAIVER.—

“(A) AUTHORITY TO GRANT TEMPORARY WAIVER.—

“(i) WAIVERS OF PERMANENT RESTRICTION.—On a case-by-case basis, the Director of National Intelligence may temporarily waive the restriction in paragraph (1)(A) with respect to an employee or former employee who is subject to that restriction only after—

“(I) the employee or former employee submits to the Director a written application for such waiver in such form and manner as the Director determines appropriate;

“(II) the Director determines that not granting such waiver would result in a grave detrimental impact to current or future intelligence operations of the United States; and

“(III) the Director provides the congressional intelligence committees with a detailed justification stating why not granting such waiver would result in a grave detrimental impact to current or future intelligence operations of the United States.

“(ii) WAIVERS OF TEMPORARY RESTRICTION.—On a case-by-case basis, the Director may temporarily waive the restriction in paragraph (1)(B) with respect to an employee or former employee who is subject to that restriction only after—

“(I) the employee or former employee submits to the Director a written application for such waiver in such form and manner as the Director determines appropriate; and

“(II) the Director determines that such waiver is necessary to advance the national security interests of the United States.

“(B) PERIOD OF WAIVER.—A waiver issued under subparagraph (A) shall apply for a period not exceeding 5 years. The Director may renew such a waiver.

“(C) REVOCATION.—The Director may revoke a waiver issued under subparagraph (A) to an employee or former employee, effective on the date that is 60 days after the date on which the Director provides the employee or former employee written notice of such revocation.

“(D) TOLLING.—The 30-month restriction in paragraph (1)(B) shall be tolled for an employee or former employee during the period beginning on the date on which a waiver is issued under subparagraph (A) and ending on the date on which the waiver expires or on the effective date of a revocation under subparagraph (C), as the case may be.

“(E) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director issues a waiver under subparagraph (A) or a revocation of a waiver under subparagraph (C), the Director shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees written notification of the waiver or revocation, as the case may be. Such notification shall include the following:

“(i) With respect to a waiver issued to an employee or former employee—

“(I) the details of the application, including the covered intelligence position held or formerly held by the employee or former employee;

“(II) the nature of the activities of the employee or former employee after ceasing to occupy a covered intelligence position;

“(III) a description of the national security interests that will be advanced by reason of issuing such waiver; and

“(IV) the specific reasons why the Director determines that issuing such waiver will advance such interests.

“(ii) With respect to a revocation of a waiver issued to an employee or former employee—

“(I) the details of the waiver, including any renewals of such waiver, and the dates of such waiver and renewals; and

“(II) the specific reasons why the Director determined that such revocation is warranted.

“(b) COVERED POST-SERVICE EMPLOYMENT REPORTING.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—During the period described in paragraph (2), an employee who ceases to occupy a covered intelligence position shall—

“(A) report covered post-service employment to the head of the element of the intelligence community that employed such employee in such covered intelligence position upon accepting such covered post-service employment; and

“(B) annually (or more frequently if the head of such element considers it appropriate) report covered post-service employment to the head of such element.

“(2) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—The period described in this paragraph is the period beginning on the date on which an employee ceases to occupy a covered intelligence position.

“(3) REGULATIONS.—The head of each element of the intelligence community shall issue regulations requiring, as a condition of employment, each employee of such element occupying a covered intelligence position to sign a written agreement requiring the regular reporting of covered post-service employment to the head of such element pursuant to paragraph (1).”

(b) DEFINITION OF DESIGNATED PROHIBITED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—Subsection (g) of such section is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (6) as paragraphs (5) through (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) DESIGNATED PROHIBITED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term ‘designated prohibited foreign country’ means the following:

“(A) The People's Republic of China.

“(B) The Russian Federation.

“(C) The Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

“(D) The Islamic Republic of Iran.

“(E) The Republic of Cuba.

“(F) The Syrian Arab Republic.”

(c) ADDITIONAL WRITTEN NOTICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) WRITTEN NOTICE ABOUT RESTRICTIONS.—The head of each element of the intelligence community shall provide written notice of the restrictions under subsection (a) to any person who may be subject to such restrictions on or after the date of enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023—

“(A) when the head of the element determines that such person may become subject to such covered intelligence position restrictions; and

“(B) before the person ceases to occupy a covered intelligence position.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of such subsection is amended in the paragraph heading by adding “ABOUT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS” after “WRITTEN NOTICE”.

(d) REVISED REGULATIONS.—

(1) DEFINITION OF COVERED INTELLIGENCE POSITION.—In this subsection,

(A) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The terms “congressional intelligence committees” and “intelligence community” have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(B) COVERED INTELLIGENCE POSITION.—The term “covered intelligence position” has the meaning given such term by such section 304.

(2) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each element of the intelligence community shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees new or updated regulations issued to carry out such section 304, as amended by subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The regulations issued under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) include provisions that advise personnel of the intelligence community of the appropriate manner in which such personnel may opt out of positions that—

(i) have been designated as covered intelligence positions before the effective date established in subsection (e) of this section; or

(ii) may be designated as covered intelligence provisions before such designation becomes final; and

(B) establish a period of not fewer than 30 days and not more than 60 days after receipt of the written notice required under paragraph (3) of subsection (d) of such section 304, as added by subsection (c)(1) of this section, within which such personnel may opt out of a covered intelligence position and the accompanying obligations imposed by subsection (a)(1)(A) of such section 304, as amended by subsection (a) of this section.

(4) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees—

(A) a written certification for each head of an element of the intelligence community who has issued new or updated regulations pursuant to paragraph (2); and

(B) for each head of an element of the intelligence community who has not issued such new or updated regulations, an explanation for the failure to issue such new or updated regulations.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE OF PERMANENT RESTRICTIONS.—Subsection (a)(1)(A) of such section 304, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, shall apply only to persons who occupy a covered intelligence position on or after the date that is 45 days after the date on which new or updated regulations are issued under subsection (d)(2) of this section.

(f) REPEAL.—Section 402 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1997 (Public Law 104–293) is hereby repealed.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 871—CONDEMNING THE ILLEGAL ABDUCTION OF CHILDREN FROM UKRAINE TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 871

Whereas, on January 12, 1951, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (commonly known as the “Genocide Convention”), of which the Russian Federation is a signatory, came into effect;

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation renewed their illegal and unprovoked large-scale invasion of Ukraine;

Whereas, on March 9, 2022, Russian forces attacked a maternity hospital in Mariupol, Ukraine, resulting in the deaths of 3 individuals and injuries to 17 other individuals;

Whereas, on March 22, 2022, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry announced that the Russian military had forcefully and illegally kidnapped 2,389 Ukrainian children from temporarily occupied areas of Ukraine;

Whereas, on June 2, 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy stated that 200,000 children are among the Ukrainians who have been forcefully resettled in Russia;

Whereas forcibly transferring children of one group to another group is a violation of Article II(e) of the Genocide Convention;

Whereas, Maria Lvova-Belova, Children’s Rights Commissioner for the President of Russia, admitted to kidnapping Ukrainian children and facilitating forced adoptions to Russian families;

Whereas Ukrainian authorities have stated that a number of the kidnapped Ukrainian children have families who remain in Ukraine, but have been separated due to the renewed Russian invasion;

Whereas on June 16, 2022, Russian authorities announced that children born in occupied Ukrainian territories after the February 24, 2022, invasion will be deemed Russian citizens;

Whereas, on June 22, 2022, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner has verified that at least 320 children have been killed since Russia’s renewed invasion began;

Whereas, on July 11, 2022, United Nations Secretary General António Guterres ordered an investigation into the deaths and injuries of Ukrainian children; and

Whereas, on July 13, 2022, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken issued a statement calling upon Russia to “immediately halt its systemic filtration operations in Ukraine”, which have caused the disappearance, detention, or forcible deportation of between 900,000 and 1,600,000 Ukrainians (approximately 260,000 of whom are children): Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) holds the Government of the Russian Federation, under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, responsible for the wrongful and illegal kidnapping of children from Ukraine and officially condemns these actions in the strongest terms;

(2) declares that the facilitation of illegal adoptions is contrary to Russia’s obligations under the Genocide Convention and amounts to genocide;

(3) claims that the Russian Federation is attempting to wipe out a generation of Ukrainian children, thereby crippling Ukraine’s ability to nurture the next generation of Ukrainian citizens and leaders and to rebuild their country after Russia’s unprovoked war, with the purpose of demolishing Ukraine’s unique language, culture, history, and identity; and

(4) asserts that the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has significantly increased the risks of children being exposed to human trafficking and exploitation, child labor, gender-based violence, hunger, injury, trauma, deprivation of education and shelter, and death.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 872—RECOGNIZING INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS’ DAY ON DECEMBER 14, 2022

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr.

YOUNG, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 872

Whereas, each December, the Senate recognizes the positive contributions of interscholastic athletic administrators;

Whereas the position of school athletic administrator is recognized as an important contributor to the educational community, which, like other academic professions, benefits greatly from continued education and certification;

Whereas the position of school athletic administrator has stewardship over the largest department of staff members and students in high schools in the United States;

Whereas the position of school athletic administrator involves serving as guardian over education-based athletics, which is one of the best dropout prevention programs in schools;

Whereas school athletic programs foster the development of students physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally by enriching students through the life lessons learned through participation and competition;

Whereas, for students, interscholastic athletic participation is an integral part of the educational experience and enhances the learning and maturation process;

Whereas school athletic administrators are committed to developing and maintaining comprehensive education-based athletic programs that seek to achieve the highest development of all student athletes;

Whereas school athletic administrators fulfill the professional responsibilities of those administrators with integrity and with a commitment to equality, safety, and instilling a passion for athletics in the next generation;

Whereas school athletic administrators preserve, enhance, and promote the educational values of athletics in schools through professional growth in the areas of education, leadership, and service;

Whereas school athletic administrators create and maintain high standards of ethics, sportsmanship, and personal conduct and lead coaching staffs, student athletes, and community members in pursuit of those high standards; and

Whereas the athletic programs run by school athletic administrators have impacts that extend well beyond playing fields, athletic venues, and even schools: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the annual recognition of Interscholastic Athletic Administrators’ Day on December 14, 2022;

(2) commends school athletic administrators for the commitment and leadership provided to student athletes at the secondary school level; and

(3) commends the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association as the leading organization that prepares individuals who lead secondary school athletics throughout the United States, providing continuous learning, compassion, and preparation within the profession.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 873—TO AUTHORIZE THE PRODUCTION OF RECORDS BY THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE SENATE SERGEANT AT ARMS

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 873

Whereas, the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Sergeant at Arms have received subpoenas for Senate personnel records from the Department of Homeland Security for use as evidence in a pending administrative investigation and adjudication;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate is needed for the promotion of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Sergeant at Arms are authorized to provide to the Department of Homeland Security records sought, respectively, by the subpoenas issued to them.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 6520. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 6521. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 6522. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 6523. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. SULLIVAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3429, to establish an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force.

SA 6524. Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HASSAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2135, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Chief Operating Officer of each agency to compile a list of unnecessary programs, and for other purposes.

SA 6525. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1917, to modify eligibility requirements for certain hazard mitigation assistance programs, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 6520.** Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 5946(b)(3), strike “A person” and insert “A person may possess, acquire, receive, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase a shark fin or a product containing a shark fin of a shark species that, on the date of the possession, acquisition, receipt, transport, offer for sale, sale, or purchase, was permitted to be harvested under a fishery management plan or plan amendment ap-

proved by the Secretary of Commerce under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.). In addition, a person”.

**SA 6521.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle J of title V, insert the following:

**SEC. 599C. PROHIBITION ON CONSIDERING STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS WHEN DETERMINING INDIVIDUAL DUTY ASSIGNMENTS.**

The Secretary of Defense may not use the agreement or disagreement of a member of the Armed Forces with the State laws and regulations applicable to any duty station when determining the duty assignment of the member.

**SA 6522.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle G of title X of division A, insert the following:

**SEC. 10. PROTECT CAMP LEJEUNE VETS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Protect Camp Lejeune Victims Ensnared by Trial-lawyer’s Scams Act” or the “Protect Camp Lejeune VETS Act”.

(b) **ATTORNEYS FEES IN FEDERAL CAUSE OF ACTION RELATING TO WATER AT CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA.**—The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 (28 U.S.C. 2671 note prec.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (h), (i), and (j) as subsections (i), (j), and (k), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

“(h) **ATTORNEYS FEES.**—

“(1) **LIMITATIONS.**—

“(A) **GENERAL RULE.**—Notwithstanding any contract, the attorney of an individual, or of the legal representative of an individual, may not receive, for services rendered in connection with an action filed under subsection (b) or any administrative action relating to such an action (as described in section 2675 of title 28, United States Code) (in this subsection referred to as an ‘administrative claim’), more than the percentage specified in paragraph (2) of a payment made in the action.

“(B) **AMOUNT OF PAYMENT DETERMINED AFTER OFFSET.**—For purposes of this subsection, the amount of the payment made in an action shall be the amount of the payment after any offsetting reduction under subsection (e)(2) is made.

“(C) **PROHIBITION ON ANCILLARY FEES.**—Attorneys fees paid in accordance with this subsection may not include any ancillary fees.

“(2) **APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE LIMITATIONS.**—The percentage specified in this paragraph is—

“(A) 2 percent for an administrative claim with respect to which a party entered a contract for services on or after August 10, 2022; or

“(B) 10 percent for—

“(i) an administrative claim with respect to which a party entered a contract for services before August 10, 2022;

“(ii) a resubmission of an administrative claim after the denial of an initial administrative claim, without regard to the date on which the party entered the applicable contract for services; or

“(iii) a judgment rendered or settlement entered in an action filed under subsection (b).

“(3) **PENALTY.**—Any attorney who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined not more than \$5,000.

“(4) **TERMS FOR PAYMENT OF FEES.**—Any judgment rendered, settlement entered, or other award made with respect to an action filed under subsection (b) or an administrative claim shall provide that—

“(A) the Government may not pay attorneys fees to an attorney directly; and

“(B) attorneys fees shall be payable to the attorney by an individual, or legal representative of an individual, after the individual or legal representative receives the amounts payable under the judgment, settlement, or award.

“(5) **DISCLOSURE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any judgment rendered, settlement entered, or other award made with respect to an action filed under subsection (b) or an administrative claim shall require disclosure to the Attorney General or to the court of the attorneys fees charged to an individual, or the legal representative of an individual.

“(B) **REPORTING.**—The Attorney General shall collect the disclosures under subparagraph (A) of attorneys fees charged and submit to Congress an annual report detailing—

“(i) the total amount paid under such judgments, settlements, and awards;

“(ii) the total amount of attorney fees paid in connection with such judgments, settlements, and awards; and

“(iii) for each such judgment, settlement, or award—

“(I) the name of the attorney for the individual or legal representative of the individual;

“(II) if applicable, the law firm of the attorney; and

“(III) the amount of fees paid to the attorney.”.

(c) **UPDATE OF REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall amend section 14.636 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, and any other relevant regulations, to comply with the amendments made by subsection (b).

**SA 6523.** Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. SULLIVAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3429, to establish an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force.; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Alaska Salmon Research Task Force Act”.

**SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to ensure that Pacific salmon trends in Alaska regarding productivity and abundance are characterized and that research needs are identified;

(2) to prioritize scientific research needs for Pacific salmon in Alaska;

(3) to address the increased variability or decline in Pacific salmon returns in Alaska by creating a coordinated salmon research strategy; and

(4) to support collaboration and coordination for Pacific salmon conservation efforts in Alaska.

**SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) salmon are an essential part of Alaska's fisheries, including subsistence, commercial, and recreational uses, and there is an urgent need to better understand the freshwater and marine biology and ecology of salmon, a migratory species that crosses many borders, and for a coordinated salmon research strategy to address salmon returns that are in decline or experiencing increased variability;

(2) salmon are an essential element for the well-being and health of Alaskans; and

(3) there is a unique relationship between people of Indigenous heritage and the salmon they rely on for subsistence and traditional and cultural practices.

**SEC. 4. ALASKA SALMON RESEARCH TASK FORCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Governor of Alaska, shall convene an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force (referred to in this section as the “Research Task Force”) to—

(1) review existing Pacific salmon research in Alaska;

(2) identify applied research needed to better understand the increased variability and declining salmon returns in some regions of Alaska; and

(3) support sustainable salmon runs in Alaska.

(b) **COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Research Task Force shall be composed of not fewer than 13 and not more than 19 members, who shall be appointed under paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) **APPOINTMENT BY SECRETARY.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall appoint members to the Research Task Force as follows:

(A) One representative from each of the following:

(i) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who is knowledgeable about salmon and salmon research efforts in Alaska.

(ii) The North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

(iii) The United States section of the Pacific Salmon Commission.

(B) Not less than 2 and not more than 5 representatives from each of the following categories, at least 2 of whom shall represent Alaska Natives who possess personal knowledge of, and direct experience with, subsistence uses in rural Alaska, to be appointed with due regard to differences in regional perspectives and experience:

(i) Residents of Alaska who possess personal knowledge of, and direct experience with, subsistence uses in rural Alaska.

(ii) Alaska fishing industry representatives throughout the salmon supply chain, including from—

(I) directed commercial fishing;

(II) recreational fishing;

(III) charter fishing;

(IV) seafood processors;

(V) salmon prohibited species catch (by-catch) users; or

(VI) hatcheries.

(C) 5 representatives who are academic experts in salmon biology, salmon ecology (marine and freshwater), salmon habitat restoration and conservation, or comprehensive marine research planning in the North Pacific.

(3) **APPOINTMENT BY THE GOVERNOR OF ALASKA.**—The Governor of Alaska shall appoint to the Research Task Force one representative from the State of Alaska who is knowledgeable about the State of Alaska's salmon research efforts.

(c) **DUTIES.**—

(1) **REVIEW.**—The Research Task Force shall—

(A) conduct a review of Pacific salmon science relevant to understanding salmon returns in Alaska, including an examination of—

(i) traditional ecological knowledge of salmon populations and their ecosystems;

(ii) marine carrying capacity and density dependent constraints, including an examination of interactions with other salmon species, and with forage base in marine ecosystems;

(iii) life-cycle and stage-specific mortality;

(iv) genetic sampling and categorization of population structure within salmon species in Alaska;

(v) methods for predicting run-timing and stock sizes;

(vi) oceanographic models that provide insight into stock distribution, growth, and survival;

(vii) freshwater, estuarine, and marine processes that affect survival of smolts;

(viii) climate effects on freshwater and marine habitats;

(ix) predator/prey interactions between salmon and marine mammals or other predators; and

(x) salmon productivity trends in other regions, both domestic and international, that put Alaska salmon populations in a broader geographic context; and

(B) identify scientific research gaps in understanding the Pacific salmon life cycle in Alaska.

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date the Research Task Force is convened, the Research Task Force shall submit to the Secretary of Commerce, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Alaska State Legislature, and make publicly available, a report—

(A) describing the review conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) that includes—

(i) recommendations on filling knowledge gaps that warrant further scientific inquiry; and

(ii) findings from the reports of work groups submitted under subsection (d)(2)(C).

(d) **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.**—

(1) **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—The Research Task Force shall select a Chair and Vice Chair by vote from among the members of the Research Task Force.

(2) **WORK GROUPS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Research Task Force—

(i) not later than 30 days after the date of the establishment of the Research Task Force, shall establish a work group focused specifically on the research needs associated with salmon returns in the AYK (Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim) regions of Western Alaska; and

(ii) may establish additional regionally or stock focused work groups within the Research Task Force, as members determine appropriate.

(B) **COMPOSITION.**—Each work group established under this subsection shall—

(i) consist of not less than 5 individuals who—

(I) are knowledgeable about the stock or region under consideration; and

(II) need not be members of the Research Task Force; and

(ii) be balanced in terms of stakeholder representation, including commercial, rec-

reational, and subsistence fisheries, as well as experts in statistical, biological, economic, social, or other scientific information as relevant to the work group's focus.

(C) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 9 months after the date the Research Task Force is convened, each work group established under this subsection shall submit a report with the work group's findings to the Research Task Force.

(3) **COMPENSATION.**—Each member of the Research Task Force shall serve without compensation.

(4) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall provide such administrative support as is necessary for the Research Task Force and its work groups to carry out their duties, which may include support for virtual or in-person participation and travel expenses.

(e) **FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Research Task Force.

**SEC. 5. DEFINITION OF PACIFIC SALMON.**

In this Act, the term “Pacific salmon” means salmon that originates in Alaskan waters.

**SA 6524.** Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HASSAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2135, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the Chief Operating Officer of each agency to compile a list of unnecessary programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Identifying and Eliminating Wasteful Programs Act”.

**SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND ELIMINATION OF UNNECESSARY AGENCY PROGRAMS OR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.**

(a) **TRANSPARENCY OF PROGRAMS, PRIORITY GOALS, AND RESULTS.**—Section 1122(a)(3)(D) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (vi) and (vii) as clauses (vii) and (viii), respectively;

(2) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

“(vi) to the extent practicable and consistent with guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, budget justification materials described in section 3(b)(2)(B) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);” and

(3) in clause (vii), as so redesignated, by striking “accountability; and” and inserting “accountability, including information included in the list compiled under section 1127(b)(1); and”.

(b) **IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY AGENCY PROGRAMS OR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.**—Chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 1127. Identification of unnecessary agency programs or program activities**

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **AGENCY.**—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term in section 1108(a).

“(2) **PROGRAM.**—The term ‘program’ has the meaning given the term in section 1122(a)(1).

“(3) **PROGRAM ACTIVITY.**—The term ‘program activity’ has the meaning given the term in section 1115(h).

“(b) **AGENCY IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS OR PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.**—Not later than 20 days after the date on which the President transmits the budget of the United States Government under section 1105(a) each year, and based on guidance provided by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chief Operating Officer of each agency shall—

“(1) compile a list that identifies any program or program activity of the agency that—

“(A) is unnecessary, defunct, or unnecessarily duplicative of another program or program activity of the agency;

“(B) another agency could administer more effectively; or

“(C) could operate more effectively if the program or activity were consolidated with other programs or activities;

“(2) publish the list compiled under paragraph (1) in—

“(A) with respect to each list compiled before the date of the implementation described in section 9601(b)(3) of title XCVI of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (31 U.S.C. 1122 note) of the program inventory described in section 1122(a)(2)(B)(i) of this title, the pilot program described in section 9601(b)(2)(B) of title XCVI of that Act; and

“(B) with respect to each successive list, the program inventory described in section 1122(a)(2)(B)(i); and

“(3) submit the list compiled under paragraph (1) to—

“(A) the relevant congressional committees of jurisdiction of the agency;

“(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

“(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

“(E) the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives.

“(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Based on guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the head of an agency may submit to Congress recommendations for statutory changes to eliminate or consolidate programs or program activities identified under subsection (b)(1).”

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 11 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“1127. Identification of unnecessary agency programs or program activities”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SA 6525.** Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1917, to modify eligibility requirements for certain hazard mitigation assistance programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects Act”.

**SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF ACQUISITION AND DEMOLITION ASSISTANCE PROJECTS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) COVERED PROJECT.—The term “covered project” means a project that—

(A) is an acquisition and demolition project for which an entity began implementation, including planning or construction, before or after requesting assistance for the project under a hazard mitigation assistance program; and

(B) qualifies for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(3) HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—The term “hazard mitigation assistance program” means—

(A) any grant program authorized under section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133);

(B) the hazard mitigation grant program authorized under section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c); and

(C) the flood mitigation assistance program authorized under section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4104c).

(b) ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE FOR COVERED PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An entity seeking assistance under a hazard mitigation assistance program may be eligible to receive that assistance for a covered project if—

(A) the entity—

(i) complies with all other eligibility requirements of the hazard mitigation assistance program for acquisition or demolition projects, including extinguishing all incompatible encumbrances; and

(ii) complies with all Federal requirements for the covered project; and

(B) the Administrator determines that the covered project—

(i) qualifies for a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(ii) is compliant with applicable floodplain management and protection of wetland regulations and criteria; and

(iii) does not require consultation under any other environmental or historic preservation law or regulation or involve any extraordinary circumstances.

(2) COSTS INCURRED.—An entity seeking assistance under a hazard mitigation assistance program shall be responsible for any project costs incurred by the entity for a covered project if the covered project is not awarded, or is determined to be ineligible for, assistance.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This Act shall apply to covered projects started on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on use of the authority under this Act, including—

(1) how many applicants used the authority;

(2) how many applicants using the authority successfully obtained a grant;

(3) how many applicants were not able to successfully obtain a grant;

(4) the reasons applicants were not able to obtain a grant; and

(5) the extent to which applicants using the authority were able to comply with all necessary Federal environmental, historic preservation, and other related laws and regulations.

(e) TERMINATION.—The authority provided under this Act shall cease to be effective on the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have four 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

**ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 15, 2022**

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, December 15, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of the Johnson nomination; further, that at 12 noon the Senate vote on confirmation of the Johnson nomination; 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 that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:33 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 15, 2022, at 10 a.m.

**CONFIRMATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Executive nominations confirmed by  
the Senate December 14, 2022:

FRANCISCO O. MORA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

ELIZABETH FRAWLEY BAGLEY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL.