



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

No. 105

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God most high, Your faithfulness endures through all generations. Hear our prayer. You desire truth and justice, and You are true to Your promises. Let Your presence be felt today on Capitol Hill.

Lord, open the hearts of our lawmakers to the guidance of Your Spirit as You empower them to serve with faithfulness. Dwell in them and those who support their labors, making them productive for the glory of Your Name. May our Senators hear Your call to rise and follow where You lead as You inspire them to be obedient to Your perfect will. Lord, give them patience with those who oppose them, and may they trust in Your perfect love, which never fails.

We pray in Your glorious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARDIN). The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1615

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, a little housekeeping.

I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1615) to prohibit the use of Federal funds to ban gas stoves.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

TAX REFORM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 6 months into the 118th Congress, the tale of two parties continues.

This week, House Republicans advanced a massive tax package, showing precisely where their loyalties lie—in helping large, multibillion-dollar corporations, Big Oil polluters, and those at the very, very top.

Today, the President is reminding the American people where Democrats' loyalties lie—with ordinary families who want to lower costs and who have had it with junk fees that nickel and dime people every single day.

President Biden used his State of the Union Address to call out companies that exploit consumers through surprise fees on everything from credit cards, bank overdrafts, hotel resort purchases, and air travel. Today, he is holding a roundtable discussion with companies at the White House on the progress they have made in eliminating surprise fees.

I cannot tell you how many times people have come up to me in New York, exasperated by junk fees, often-times at the last minute. Many times,

they know nothing about them until they are asked to pay them. It is precisely the kind of abuse that frustrates Americans to no end and which the Federal Government can address.

It is why, in the House, I authored legislation to protect Americans from surprise expenses on their credit card bills by requiring credit card companies to clearly break down all fees and interest rates. They call it the "Schumer Box"—a nickname I am proud has stuck.

And junk fees are everywhere. You want to switch your cell phone company? A termination fee can cost you \$250 or something exorbitant like that. Many people think the phone companies ask for it so you don't switch even if you are dissatisfied with their service.

You want to book a hotel room listed at \$300? Good luck. You will get the bill and discover the real price is much higher. More than a third of hotel guests have reported paying some kind of hidden fee.

The kind of abusive behavior from some large companies is exactly what Americans want to focus on, and it is the major difference between the two parties.

Republicans think it is best to spend time on cutting taxes for the very largest, billion-dollar corporations—that often don't pay their fair share—and on stoking the fires of the culture wars.

But Democrats want to focus on things ordinary families have to deal with every single day. We can all relate to the frustration of hidden fees. We can all relate to driving to work on dilapidated roads and crumbling bridges. We can all look out the window and see that wildfires, flooding, and extreme weather events are getting worse and harming our communities. These are the issues Democrats have legislated on over the past few years, and we are going to keep going.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S2105

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, on nominations, well, it has been a busy week for nominations here on the floor. This morning, the Senate will confirm Nusrat Choudhury, whom I was proud to recommend to President Biden to serve as district judge for New York's Eastern District.

When President Biden listened to my recommendation and nominated Ms. Choudhury, she made history as the first Bangladeshi American ever to be nominated to the Federal bench, and, today, Ms. Choudhury will make history as the first Bangladeshi American ever to be confirmed to the Federal bench. Ms. Choudhury will also be the first Muslim American woman and only the second Muslim American ever to serve as a Federal judge. It shows she is a history maker in more ways than one.

Ms. Choudhury is also a shining example of the American dream: the daughter of immigrant parents, a graduate of Columbia, Princeton, and Yale Law School. Ms. Choudhury has dedicated her career to making sure all people can have their voices heard in court.

It is a great day for our country. Our courts are at their strongest when they mirror the diversity and dynamism of our democracy. We have a vibrant Bangladeshi community in New York and in the United States. I am confident Ms. Choudhury will make an excellent judge.

Yesterday, the Senate also confirmed another excellent judge, Dale Ho, whom I was proud to recommend to be district judge for the Southern District of New York. As voting rights continue to come under attack, it is only fitting that we elevated one of the country's top voting rights experts to the bench to safeguard our democracy and preserve our most fundamental right as citizens.

With Mr. Ho and Ms. Choudhury, we will have confirmed 21 Asian Americans to the bench. Let me say that again. With these two new nominations, we will have confirmed 21 Asian Americans to the bench, a demographic that has been historically underrepresented in the judiciary.

I am proud of this majority's record of increasing both the demographic and professional diversity on the bench. This is how we strengthen the public's trust in our judiciary. And our work will continue.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nusrat Jahan Choudhury, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MENENDEZ). The Republican leader is recognized.

GERMANY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as I have discussed all week, the war in Ukraine has forced some of America's closest allies to sober up and start investing more seriously in their own defense.

Germany is exhibit A. Yesterday, Germany's Government released a comprehensive security strategy—another important step forward for a key member of the transatlantic alliance—but, as I mentioned at the Munich Security Conference, questions remain about whether the encouraging changes in Germany will be sufficient or enduring.

Some of these questions are being answered. Germany's national security strategy is an incremental shift. It is the product of a rather divided government, like our own, reaching difficult consensus, except with three different, sometimes internally divided political parties rather than just two.

But just consider where our German allies were before Putin's escalation. Europe's most powerful economy had let a major portion of its military fall into literal disrepair. German military spending reached barely halfway—halfway—to NATO's member target of 2 percent of GDP. And the country's precarious reliance on Russian energy was actually only increasing.

But as Ukraine dug in for a fight last February, Germany changed course. In the last 18 months, Berlin has made major contributions of key lethal capabilities to the Ukrainian cause and is on track to provide even more. The new German security strategy is clear-eyed about the Russian threat, and in light of hard-learned lessons, it prioritizes reducing dependence on foreign energy and integrating economic and security policy.

As Foreign Minister Baerbock put it this week:

We paid for every cubic metre of Russian gas twofold and threefold with our national security.

None of us should want to make the same mistake when it comes to Beijing, and in this regard, Germany's strategy indicates incremental progress toward a more realistic understanding of the challenge a revisionist power and systemic rival like China poses not only to neighbors but to the West as well. Germany's governing coalition continues to debate its approach to the PRC, and answers to how Germany plans to manage it are still forthcoming.

The world will want to know how Germany will balance growing realism about Beijing's behavior with its stated desire for economic partnership with China. They will want to know what Germany is prepared to do to assist vulnerable Asian countries that are the most threatened by the PRC's military aggression, espionage, and economic or diplomatic pressure. Of course, these same questions can still be asked about our own government's approach to the PRC.

More broadly, I am encouraged that Germany's strategy explicitly recognizes robust defense as a pillar—a pillar—of German security.

I have criticized Germany's slow pace of defense spending to meet urgent needs, but I am encouraged by Germany's new Minister of Defense, Boris Pistorius, who has a focus on rebuilding Germany's military and cutting through its calcified military procurement bureaucracy. To be successful, he will need cross-party political support and sustained defense spending above 2 percent of Germany's GDP. This new strategy does not necessarily guarantee such a commitment.

Ultimately, the biggest question for our German allies is whether their strategy sufficiently defines the priorities of their government and whether it provides the resources necessary to execute it. The very same question still applies to America's own national security strategy.

STUDENT LOANS

Mr. President, now on a totally different matter, in the coming days, the Supreme Court will rule on President Biden's plan to impose student loan socialism on millions of working families across America. The Court's decision will settle whether the President is allowed to use two-decade-old "emergency" authorities dating back to the early days of the War on Terror to put \$430 billion in debt on the American taxpayers without congressional approval. But the American people don't need to wait for the Supreme Court to explain to them why letting wealthy people dine and dash doesn't make sense; they know the Biden administration's plan adds up to a raw deal.

Almost a third of all student debt in America is held by the wealthiest 20 percent of households. Only 8 percent—8 percent—is held by the bottom 20 percent of households. Sure enough, one prominent analysis found that more than 70 percent of President Biden's so-called loan forgiveness could go to the top 60 percent of earners. It is no surprise when you consider that the median annual income of young college graduates is 55 percent higher than folks working with high school diplomas. In some cases, Americans who choose to go to college already have an extra leg up. More students at the Nation's most elite colleges have parents among the top 1 percent of earners than the bottom 50 percent.

The facts are so clear—so clear—that even a former top Obama administration economist has admitted that

“across-the-board student loan forgiveness is regressive”—student loan forgiveness is regressive.

So, Mr. President, it is really pretty simple. Millions of Americans choose—choose—to take on student loan debt and unlock higher earning potential. Millions of other Americans choose not to take on debt and make sacrifices to avoid it. The Biden administration wants to take that basic choice away and impose student loan socialism instead. They want working Americans to take on \$430 billion in debt they didn't sign up for, just to pad the pockets of Washington Democrats' base. What a raw deal.

Senate Republicans know that complex issues require thoughtful solutions, not partisan hatchet jobs. That is why several of our colleagues are working hard on legislation that actually gets to the root of soaring tuition costs. Senators CASSIDY, GRASSLEY, CORNYN, DAINES, TUBERVILLE, and TIM SCOTT have put forward ideas to increase transparency before students sign up for massive debt, to streamline repayment plans, and to go after the advanced-degree loans that are particularly responsible for driving up prices. I am grateful to our colleagues for their work on real solutions.

On the other hand, the Biden administration's student loan socialism plan is painfully, painfully unfair, and very soon we will find out if it isn't just downright illegal.

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

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

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in June, our Nation celebrates National Immigrant Heritage Month. It is a reminder that, with the exception of Native Americans and the descendants of enslaved people, every one of us shares something in common with the families arriving in America today, and that is the fact that our own ancestors once traveled far and wide to reach this land of liberty and opportunity. In my case, it was my grandmother. The year was 1911. She was forced to flee her home in Lithuania. She boarded a ship in Germany, bound for America, carrying two things in her arms: her Catholic prayer book and my infant mother. She arrived in our country with the same hopes as every immigrant who comes to America—from the immigrant business owners in my State of Illinois and communities like Little Village to all of the immigrant farm workers who keep food on our tables.

And today, the month of June is not only a chance to celebrate America's heritage as a nation of immigrants, it should also serve as a call to action for

us in Congress. That is because today, June 15th, marks the 11th anniversary of a life-changing program for a group of young people who share my mother's story—the Deferred Action For Childhood Arrival Program, DACA.

Back in 2010, on a bipartisan basis, the late Republican Senator Richard Lugar and I asked President Obama to use his power as President to protect from deportation hundreds of thousands of young people, many of whom arrived in our country as infants and toddlers, like my mom. And 11 years ago today, President Obama responded. He announced that he would use his executive authority to create the DACA Program.

These young people are known generally as Dreamers. They have grown up alongside our kids and grandkids. They pledge allegiance, as you said so many times, to the same American flag, and many have gone on to serve our Nation as members of the United States Armed Forces, first responders, and much more. In fact, over the years, Dreamers have become a household name. They have touched the hearts of Americans because in them, we see ourselves, our own history, our own families.

Dreamers have earned their place in the American story. But right now, they are still waiting on this Congress to finish the job that President Obama started with DACA.

This program was always intended to be a temporary solution. The permanent solution is obvious: Enact legislation—bipartisan legislation—that was introduced more than two decades ago—the DREAM Act. It would provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers all across America. Without the protections of the DREAM Act, these young people have been forced to live a life of uncertainty. They have to renew their status every 2 years, which means they can only plan their lives in two-year installments.

Today I want to tell you the story about one Dreamer. Her name is Sumbul Siddiqui. Her story is the 136th Dreamer story that I have shared on the Senate floor. Sumbul's family moved to the State of Georgia from Pakistan when she was 4 years old. With most of her relatives out of the country, she relied on her neighbors in Georgia as her chosen family. Growing up, she was a star student with no shortage of passions. She spent hours in the library getting lost in books, learned to play the viola, and fell in love with the arts. In her mind, she was just like any other kid, until she started applying to college and discovered officially, legally, she was not an American citizen.

So even though Sumbul graduated from high school with the highest honors, she feared that her immigration status would prevent her from pursuing a college education. Fortunately, it did not.

Instead, Sumbul was awarded a private merit scholarship to attend Agnes

Scott College in Atlanta, GA. During her first year, she was accepted into the DACA Program. She worked four jobs to cover the cost of tuition and graduated still a semester early with honors. She even found time to volunteer at a free health clinic. And it was in this role, working alongside doctors in her community, that she found her professional calling: medicine. So she decided to apply to a medical school that had supported Dreamers since the beginning of DACA. I am proud to say it is the Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago.

You see, back in 2012, the Stritch School of Medicine made a brave commitment. They became the first medical school in America to adjust its admission policy to welcome Dreamers. And in the years since, nearly 40 Dreamers have graduated from this program at that medical school.

Last month, Dr. Sumbul Siddiqui became one of those graduates. I had the honor of speaking at her commencement ceremony before she and her fellow graduating class, which included five other DACA recipients, walked across the stage to receive their medical degrees. With her medical degree, Dr. Siddiqui plans to dedicate her career to serving families in the Chicagoland area. Soon, she will begin her residency at the University of Chicago, where she will focus on supporting underserved communities.

Ask yourself a basic question: Would America be better off if Dr. Siddiqui and Dreamers like her were unable to work here in the United States, when our communities are in desperate need of doctors and nurses? Of course not.

Earlier this year, I reintroduced the Dream Act with my friend, Republican Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM. We have been on the cusp of passing the DREAM Act for years, but time and again, Congress has failed to finish the job.

Right now, this legislation is more important than ever. That is because one judge in Texas—who has repeatedly ruled against DACA—could soon end protections for nearly 600,000 Dreamers. That would be a disaster—not just for Dreamers, but for our entire country. It is time for Congress to step up and meet our responsibility to Dreamers once and for all—as well as our responsibility for America's future—on a bipartisan basis.

I think that time is already here, and I hope we will meet our obligation that is long overdue to solve this problem, not just for this wonderful young woman and the ambition she has shown to make a better life for herself, but for the future world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CHINA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the threat that China poses is widely recognized. Recent events laid bare the Chinese Communist Party's interest in spying on Americans. The Chinese military is growing more aggressive in the Indo-Pacific, especially toward Taiwan. And China is aligning itself with other adversaries like Russia, whose war against Ukraine China has helped support.

We need to make the right decisions now to ensure that the United States is able to counter China from a position of strength, which brings me to the majority leader's current China proposal. Last month, the Democrat leader launched an initiative Democrats are calling China Competition bill 2.0. While this proposal has some laudable goals, a lot of Republicans are rightly skeptical of this initiative. Leader SCHUMER's last China initiative massively ballooned in cost, and now it is being implemented by the Biden administration as a vehicle for advancing progressive policies.

I am not alone in fearing the Democrats' latest initiative will turn out to be just more of the same. If Democrats are serious about competing with China, one thing they should be doing is making passage of a robust National Defense Authorization Act a priority.

Unfortunately, the NDAA has not exactly been a priority for the Democrat leader over the past 2 years. In fact, last year, Senator SCHUMER refused to bring the bipartisan Senate Armed Services Committee-passed bill to the floor. This critical legislation was allowed to languish for months before a negotiated bill with the House and the Senate finally passed in December of last year.

Our national security should not be an eleventh-hour concern.

I am encouraged that the Senate markup of the NDAA is occurring next week and that the majority leader is inclined to bring it to the floor in July. And I hope that holds.

China has made investment in its military a priority. Over the last 10 years, China's defense budget has doubled. This year, it will increase by more than 7 percent for the second year in a row, not counting any additional defense funding that China hides. It comes as no surprise that China is outpacing our military in modern capabilities like hypersonic missiles and has amassed a larger Navy.

Recent U.S. war games positing a U.S.-China conflict following an attack on Taiwan have had grim results, showing enormous military and economic costs on both sides. These war games also made clear that the United States would run through its inventory of munitions, especially for long-range strike, in a matter of weeks, blunting our ability to sustain a protracted conflict.

The United States, along with our allies and partners, need to maintain a credible deterrence to ensure that the cost is prohibitively high and the odds of success are extremely slim for China to attack across the Taiwan Strait or further attempt to assert any absolute control within the so-called First Island Chain. To do that, we have work to do on boosting our military's resources and readiness. At the very least, that starts with taking up each year's Defense authorization and appropriations bills in a timely fashion.

Besides building up our military, one of the best ways to ensure our competitiveness with China is to strengthen American industry so we continue to lead in the breakthroughs, innovations, and advanced technologies that will define the future. How we attempt to do that matters.

The President and Democrats in Congress have shown their preference for heavy-handed and often costly industrial policy that bestows taxpayer-funded subsidies on certain select industries, and it would be wise to ask where this will put us in the next 5, 10, and 20 years. Will it stifle innovation in our most important engines of growth? What will be the result of government picking winners and losers? Will small businesses and new enterprises be able to compete with large, established, and government-subsidized firms?

The way the Biden administration has so far been implementing its subsidy programs makes me suspect that we are well on our way to having government bureaucrats play an outsized role in our economy, with correspondingly negative effects.

Look no further than the strings that the Commerce Department has attached to funding for semiconductor manufacturers. The Department is giving preference to companies using union workers and, in some cases, conditioning funding on companies offering employee benefits that align with the Biden administration's agenda. It is the opposite of creating a level playing field.

America succeeds when innovators and entrepreneurs are empowered to do what they do best, and government steps out of the way. Government should be focused, not on heavy-handed regulation or picking winners and losers but on creating the conditions on which all businesses, large and small, can thrive.

Republicans have shown how pro-growth policies like this lead to greater investment, more opportunities for workers, and a stronger economy for all. Take our 2017 tax reform legislation. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowered tax rates for owners of small- and medium-sized businesses, farms and ranches, and made it easier for them to recover the cost of investing in their businesses, which, in turn, freed up cash for them to invest in their operations and their workers.

It lowered our country's sky-high corporate tax rate to make American

businesses more competitive in the global economy. And it brought our international tax system into the 21st century so that American businesses no longer operated at a disadvantage to their foreign counterparts.

And it worked.

In the wake of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, incomes grew, unemployment fell to a 50-year low, the income gap in this country narrowed, and the list goes on. Business investment increased, inventions—which is tax speak for companies moving their headquarters overseas—stopped. Companies created new jobs and invested in their employees, and they opened new opportunities for American workers by moving production and capital into the United States and bringing substantially more than a trillion dollars in offshore funds home.

One major thing—one major thing—that we could do to help boost our economy and increase our competitiveness with China is to extend the expired provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to give certainty to American businesses and entrepreneurs, and in Democrats' case, commit to not repealing key Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provisions.

In the defense space, we can enhance the certainty for businesses by authorizing more multiyear acquisition contracts for key munitions like those used by the B-1 bomber, something that would both enhance economic growth and strengthen our Nation's defense.

We also need to resume a real and robust trade policy. For the last 2½ years, the Biden administration has put trade on the back burner to the detriment of our economy and our place in the world. Trade opens new jobs and opportunities for American workers. It helps businesses and agriculture producers access new markets, which grows our economy, and it provides an opportunity to develop important strategic relationships, foster ties with our allies, and advance U.S. priorities abroad.

Under the Biden administration, the United States has been essentially inactive—inactive—on trade, but the rest of the world has not. China, for one, is currently negotiating or implementing a number of new trade agreements, adding to its already large portfolio of trading partners. These agreements aren't just economically advantageous, they are allowing China to build sometimes predatory relationships that serve to expand its sphere of influence.

One of the most important things we can do to ensure that our country remains competitive with China is to re-engage on the trade front and get to work on trade deals that expand market access and strengthen our relationships with other countries, particularly those that neighbor China.

There are a number of other steps we can take to boost our competitiveness with China, things like unleashing American energy production to increase our energy security and to boost

American industry, developing critical mineral resources here at home instead of relying on China for so much of our critical mineral supply, expanding our own security and technological partnerships so we have a more agile and resilient supply chain, and more.

If the Democrat leader is serious about improving our competitiveness with China and not just funding progressive priorities, these are the kinds of things that he should focus on for his bill.

There is no question in my mind that the United States can successfully compete with and deter aggression from China. But to do that, we have to make sure that we are doing the right things to build up our military and ensure that American industry can thrive. And I hope that as we move forward, we will make securing our competitiveness with China a priority and ensure that any China initiative does not simply become a vehicle for more spending on progressive fantasies.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF NUSRAT JAHAN CHOUDHURY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Nusrat Jahan Choudhury to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Her historic confirmation will be an important step forward in this Senate's efforts to bring greater professional and demographic diversity to the Federal bench.

Ms. Choudhury is a seasoned litigator who has dedicated virtually her entire career to defending the civil rights of all Americans. She attended Columbia University and Yale Law School before clerking for Judge Denise L. Cote on the Southern District of New York and for Judge Barrington D. Parker, Jr., on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Following her clerkships, Ms. Choudhury began her career at the American Civil Liberties Union—ACLU—in New York, where she focused on racial justice and national security issues for nearly a decade. Since 2020, she has served as the legal director of the ACLU in my home State of Illinois, specializing in issues including prison reform, civil rights, and government transparency. Ms. Choudhury has spent the vast majority of her time in practice litigating in Federal court, and she has tried three cases to verdict. Her courtroom experience and commitment to ensuring equal justice under law will serve her well on the Eastern District of New York.

She will also bring important diversity to the bench as the first Bangladeshi American and first Muslim woman to serve as a Federal judge.

The American Bar Association rated Ms. Choudhury “well qualified” for the district court, and she has the strong support of her home State Senators: Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND.

I support Ms. Choudhury's nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask unanimous consent to start the regularly scheduled vote.

VOTE ON CHOUDHURY NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 164 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—1

Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). 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 Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, also with me today is Mr. James Shea, who is one of my colleagues.

ENERGY

Mr. President, the American people, as we all know, are facing many serious—one might describe them as grave—issues, some of which fall under

the purview of our U.S. Department of Energy. Average gas prices remain well above \$3 a gallon. That is a hardship on a lot of Americans. That is up 50 percent since President Biden took office. Average electricity prices—that is something we have to deal with every day—have increased 14.5 percent since 2022. Our aging power grid remains at risk for devastating cyber security attacks. While China's nuclear stockpile is growing, ours is getting older, and it is getting smaller.

These are weighty problems. The Presiding Officer knows that as well, if not better, than I do. These problems cost the American people a lot of money, and they place our national security at risk. They are all impacted by the U.S. Department of Energy and the policy that it creates. But instead of trying to get control over our gas prices or the national security issues I just mentioned, President Biden's administration and his Energy Department, frankly, seem more concerned about Americans' basic kitchen appliances, and suddenly dishwashers seem to be enemy No. 1.

The Department of Energy recently announced that it would be proposing a new rule to regulate the amount of water and the amount of energy used by dishwashing machines nationwide. Now, under the proposed rule—I want to describe it fairly. Under the proposed rule, dishwashers will only be able to use 3.2 gallons of water per cycle. Right now, the rule allows—although dishwashers don't use this much, the rule allows a dishwasher to use 5 gallons of water per cycle.

No person with a brain above a single-celled organism has asked for this change. No reasonable circumstance demands it. Instead, the Department of Energy and President Biden's administration have harkened to the extreme climate activists who, frankly, we have learned from bitter experience will find any reason to micromanage the lives of Americans, by force if necessary.

Let me give you a case in point. Most American dishwashers already use less than the 5 gallons of water that are allowed under current regulations. In fact, most American dishwashers use not 5, which is allowed, but 3.5 gallons of water per cycle. Why? Because the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, gave its Energy Star standard seal of approval to any dishwasher that will use 3.5 gallons or less. So even though a dishwasher can use up to 5, to get the seal of approval, which most dishwashers have and most manufacturers want, you have to use 3.5 or less.

Now, despite being EPA-approved, the Department of Energy's new rule will force manufacturers to abandon these efficient designs that we are already using to placate people who arbitrarily want not 3.5 but 3.2 gallons of water per cycle. And you may be thinking, OK, well, we will save 0.3 gallons per cycle. We will not.

I want to sidetrack a moment, but this is relevant. During President

Obama's administration, his regulators imposed a similar restriction. The results were disastrous. His rule was adopted in 2012, some may recall, and increased the price of dishwashers by \$100. That is \$100 in 2012 dollars; it is more today. In exchange for those higher prices, the regulation that President Obama promulgated forced Americans to buy machines that don't wash their dishes nearly as well as the older machines, and that will prove the case with this new rule that is being promulgated by the Department of Energy.

Now, if you have one of these dishwashers—not the ones that have yet to be approved by the Department of Energy but the ones mandated under President Obama—you know how it goes. You have to prewash the dishes. I mean, it defeats the whole purpose of a dishwasher. If you don't prewash the dishes, half the gravy is still going to be on the plate after the first run.

So that leaves families with a choice: You can run the dishwasher twice, which uses twice as much water, in order to get your dishes clean or you have to hand-wash your dishes, which is going to use about 17 gallons of water. Both of these options—and, once again, this is not the new rule yet. We are under President Obama's restrictive but less restrictive rule. Both of these options waste more water than the older washers.

Now, the Department of Energy itself admits that 20 percent of families who own a dishwasher never use it. Why is that? It is not because dishwashing is fun; it is because they don't want to taste last night's jambalaya in their morning Cheerios when these weaker machines don't do their job.

So now, instead of having dishwashers use enough water the first time to actually clean dishes, we are going to have even more families opting to use an average of 17 gallons of water per night to wash by hand.

Let me restate this. Under President Obama's regulation, which will be made even worse by the proposed regulation by President Biden, if you wash your dishes the first time, they don't get clean. And those of you who use a dishwasher know what I am talking about. You do save water the first round, but your dishes aren't cleaned. So you are forced to use the dishwasher a second time, which uses even more water, or you are forced to wash your dishes by hand, which uses three times more water.

Now, you don't need to be Euclid to see that this does not add up to water savings, and it makes even less sense when you consider the savings in electricity. The Department of Energy's new rule says it will cut the amount of energy that dishwashers can use by 27 percent. Shoot; we will all be for that. It will cut the amount of electricity, the energy, from 307 kilowatt hours annually to 223 kilowatt hours. That is for a standard dishwasher.

The Department of Energy under President Biden says that this will help

reduce "carbon pollution" and it is going to save the American people money, and, in reality, it won't.

By decreasing the amount of allowed energy use by 27 percent under this new proposed rule, the new rule will save 84 kilowatt hours annually. That is fewer kilowatt hours than it takes to run an LED light bulb for a year. We are not talking about serious energy savings.

How much will it save the American people? Using the very generous estimates of the Department of Energy, it is going to save Americans about 17 bucks annually every year. That is not even enough for a tank of gas under President Biden's inflation. However, once again, I will draw a parallel to the so-called water savings. Once again, the lesser performance capacity in these energy-efficient machines is going to result in more Americans choosing to run the machine twice or to hand-wash the dishes just to get the plates clean.

It is important to consider the context too. Louisianans—let me talk about my State. I know my State best, just as the Presiding Officer knows his wonderful State best. Louisianans are paying an extra \$740 a month—not a year, a month—because of President Biden's inflation. That is almost \$9,000 a year. And most of my people are not wealthy people.

Let me just read you—these are not my numbers; these are the numbers compiled by President Biden's own government. Electricity is up 20 percent; gas, 48 percent; eggs—I know they have come down a little bit, thank God. They are still up 67 percent. Potato chips are up 28 percent. Bread 27 percent. Coffee 30 percent. Rice 28 percent. Flour is up 24 percent. Milk is up 20 percent. Ice cream is up 21 percent. Chicken is up 21 percent. Bacon—I don't want to live in a world without bacon—it is up 10 percent.

I could keep going. I mean, the American people and my people are burning through their savings, and they are getting priced out of the housing market, but President Biden's administration seems to be obsessed with robbing our people of access to affordable appliances that actually get the job done; and I can't think of any better evidence of the fact that, in too many instances, this administration has a fatal attraction to nutty ideas.

I am not against regulation. I mean, I think the world is complicated and, in some cases, dangerous; and if we can make it more efficient and safer for our people, we ought to do it; but you have to weigh the cost and the benefit. You have to weigh the cost and the benefit.

This is what we know, after doing that, under this proposed new rule. The new rule is not going to save water. It is not going to save a significant amount of energy. It is not going to save the American people money. In fact, it is going to cost them money. This new policy is not going to be a win for America, but I will tell you

who it will be a win for—the People's Republic of China.

China is the world's largest producer of CO₂ emissions. We are reducing our CO₂ emissions; China is increasing its CO₂ emissions. China stands to benefit from this rule because it produces about 70 percent of the world's dishwashers, and China is probably going to produce 70 percent of the new dishwashers mandated by the Department of Energy—more business for China. The dishwasher manufacturers in China are delighted.

Now, these manufacturers in China, their factories, they don't run on solar panels. They don't run off of wind energy. They are not powered by fairy dust or unicorn urine, nor do the ships that have to bring the dishwashers from China to the American consumer. They all run off fossil fuels. Some of these manufacturers in China that our Department of Energy is giving business to run off coal.

Now, look, I care about our planet, and I know you do, too, Mr. President. I want clean air. I want bright water. We all do. But this new proposed rule by the Department of Energy is not going to help anything or anybody. It is only going to make the American people have to spend more money on less efficient machines. The costs dramatically outweigh the benefit. It is going to make most of them either stop using their dishwasher or use it twice, using twice as much water or energy, or frustrate them to the point that they are going to say, hey, I will just wash the dishes by hand, using three times the amount of water.

And it is not just dishwashers. If it were just dishwashers, I would chalk this up to, well, we have got some regulators that we need to talk to and rein in. There are other things on this looney list. In the past few months, the Biden administration has proposed new regulations for electric motors, for beverage vending machines, for microwaves, for ovens, for refrigerators, for furnaces, for air-conditioners, for light bulbs. Get ready. In fact, the Biden administration added more than 110 regulations since it has been in office on appliances and equipment during 2 years.

Most of these policies, if you weigh the cost and the benefits, make no sense—not in terms of CO₂ emissions, not in terms of energy savings, not in terms of water savings, and certainly not in terms of the pocketbook of the American people. They are sops to the woke wing of the Democratic Party—not all Democrats. I am not going to paint with a broad brush here. Not all of them.

But there are some members of the Democratic Party who think that we will all be better off if we had a rule for everything, and they think the American people are not capable of running their own lives. These new regulations will do little, if anything, to help the planet. But they do harm regular Americans—the Americans who get up every day, go to work, obey the law,

pay their taxes, try to do the right thing by their children, and try to save a little money for retirement. That is whom these new regulations are going to hurt. All these folks want is for their dishwashers to work. They want to spend less time on dishes because they want to spend time with their families. They don't want to have to hand wash the dishes every night. That is what they bought a dishwasher for.

Now, surely, the regulators who are proposing this know that, and that is why they are going to downplay—they already are—the dishwasher regulations. It is why they are going to act confused when Americans wonder if the Federal Government is coming to unhook their gas stoves next.

We have heard officials from the Biden administration say: If you like your gas stove, you can keep your gas stove. Not true. I am sorry; it is just not true. This administration is willing to regulate and try to control every aspect of American life. There are people in this administration who believe that. Why? To avoid empty criticism from the looney left—the looney left, which often ignores science and always insists on more control.

Don't listen to what politicians do or say. Don't. Never listen to what a politician says. You can listen to them, but you have got to compare it to what they do. What you do is what you believe; everything else is just cottage cheese.

President Biden and his administration are saddling Americans with harmful—maybe even hateful—regulations because they care more about what the activists say on TikTok than they do about the quiet suffering of everyday families in America all over this country.

They have a blind spot for the lives and concerns of ordinary Americans, and it is why this administration is more worried about dishwashers and gas stoves than the fact that the average Louisiana family is paying \$740 more a month—not a year—because of inflation. It is why they will kill American jobs, while continuing to buy solar panels and new dishwashers from the polluters in China. It is why they will give rich people tax credits to buy electric cars. How many poor people do you know driving electric cars? It is why they will give rich people tax credits to buy electric cars while people in rural areas in rural America struggle to pay for a full tank of gas and can't even dream of buying a used car because the used cars cost 30 percent more since President Biden took office.

All this is virtue signaling. To some, it may be it amusing, but it is not free. There is no free lunch, and you don't get one now. It costs money—money that Americans don't have—and it causes them pain that they don't deserve, Mr. President.

The new rule on dishwashers isn't yet settled. There is still time for my colleagues at the Department of Energy to scrap this rule and walk away from

this fallacious nonsense, and I hope that they will.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I wanted to come to the Senate floor this afternoon to talk about a scandal of incredible proportion.

Since President Biden became President of the United States, 300,000 unaccompanied children have been encountered at the border and then placed with sponsors inside the interior of the United States—300,000.

Ordinarily, there would be a process by which Health and Human Services would attempt to contact those minor children, in the custody of those sponsors, for a wellness check 30 days after they were placed with them. The New York Times has documented that at least 85,000 of those 300,000 children cannot even be reached—no response to the phone call or any other outreach.

So under the Biden administration's policies, an untold number of minor children have been placed with sponsors in the interior of the United States, and the Biden administration can't tell you where they are; the administration can't tell you what their condition is, whether they are being sent to school, whether they are being recruited into gangs, whether they are being sexually or otherwise physically assaulted, or whether they are being neglected. They simply don't know.

Now, I know it takes a lot to get people's attention these days because there is so much competing for our attention—so many different types of outrage. But the fact that this hasn't been front page news for a long time now or hasn't motivated the Biden administration to actually do anything to change this situation leads me to the conclusion that President Biden simply doesn't care. He doesn't care. He doesn't care what happens to these children. If he did care, he would do something about it, but he doesn't, apparently, care.

These are some of the most vulnerable individuals encountered at the border. They come to the United States, not in the care of their parents, but in the care of transnational criminal organizations, the cartels—the coyotes, as they are called—who treat them like a commodity. They don't treat them like a human being. They treat them like a commodity because the only thing these cartels care about is cold, hard cash.

This is a huge cash cow. And it is not just the children. It is the other 5 million migrants encountered at the border, as well. All of them pay these criminal organizations to transport them here to the United States.

I mentioned previously that when I went to Yuma, AZ, with a bipartisan group of Senators, that Border Patrol sector chief greeted us by saying: Welcome to the Yuma Sector. It is a sleepy little agricultural community.

He said: We encounter people from 176 countries, speaking 200 languages.

So people are literally being transported around the world to show up at our border and claim a right to be admitted, and the Biden administration continues to roll out the welcome mat and not deter illegal immigration by people who cannot qualify, whom we know will not qualify for any legal relief.

The children, particularly, endure a dangerous and long journey to our country, and they are often exploited en route. We heard from one of the witnesses in the Judiciary Committee yesterday about them being particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking, but we know they are subjected to violence and other forms of exploitation as well.

You would hope that once these children arrive at the border, they would be safe. I think that is our obligation, to make sure they are safe.

But over the last few years, we have seen mounting evidence that shows that tens of thousands of these migrant children who show up at our border without a parent or legal guardian are placed with sponsors and are essentially lost by the administration. Again, they don't know where they are. They don't know what is happening to them.

And, of course, we all should be concerned that they are being taken advantage of in a multitude of ways and being damaged in ways that we don't want to even imagine.

In August 2021, Bloomberg reported that Federal law enforcement was investigating unaccompanied migrant children who had been released to labor traffickers. This is kind of like modern-day slavery. The reporting uncovered situations where dozens of children were released to the same sponsor—dozens of children to the same person. You think that would have raised some questions, and maybe they tap the brake a little bit and investigate further—apparently not, because this same individual then exploited them for labor in poultry processing facilities. It is impossible for me to understand why the administration wouldn't see the warning signs.

About a year later, Reuters reported on another deeply concerning discovery. Federal and local officials were struggling to locate a dozen migrant children in Houston. They simply lost them. The Health and Human Services refugee office conducted an emergency review and found that 57 migrant children had been reported missing in Houston since the year prior—lost by the Biden administration.

As bad as those two reports are, the story does not get any better. Recent reporting by the New York Times has

confirmed that these aren't just the exception. These are part of a deeply disturbing trend, and it shows what bad things can happen to innocent children when their own government doesn't even care.

Of course, many of these are migrant children so, technically, I guess, the United States isn't their government. But we owe them a duty while they are in our country to protect them from the predators and the exploiters—the traffickers.

In February, the New York Times published its first story detailing widespread exploitation of migrant children. It includes countless stories of unaccompanied migrants who are working dangerous jobs that violate child labor laws: a 15-year-old girl, for example, who packages cereal at night in a factory; a 14-year-old boy working on a construction job; a 13-year-old day laborer; children working at meat processing plants, commercial bakeries, and suppliers for automakers. These are not after-school jobs. These are grueling and dangerous full-time jobs that are meant not for children but for adults.

Two months later, the Times published another story that detailed the extent to which the Biden administration officials knew about these abuses and chose to ignore them—willful ignorance.

The Health and Human Services Department received warning after warning that some of these migrant children were at risk. These warnings came through government staffers, outside contractors, and on the Department's own hotline established for that purpose. But not only were whistleblowers ignored, many were silenced, pushed out of their jobs. They were retaliated against for trying to protect these vulnerable children. These concerns made their way to the highest echelons of the Biden administration.

Health and Human Services Secretary Javier Becerra was aware of the credible reports of trafficking abuse but continued to push for the expedited placement of migrants with sponsors, with no regard for the dangers that presented.

At one point, he reportedly told his employees:

If Henry Ford had seen this in his plants, he would have never become famous and rich. This is not the way you do an assembly line.

So here is the highest level government official, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, a member of President Biden's Cabinet, who considers placing vulnerable migrant children in a dangerous situation, as he regards it as an assembly line.

Then-Labor Secretary Marty Walsh was aware of the situation as well. Last year, the Department's investigators identified major instances of child labor violations that took place in auto parts factories and meatpacking plants. Former Secretary Walsh even confirmed that the Department in-

cluded details about these situations in its weekly reports to the White House. So at least Secretary Walsh was appearing to do his job by reporting this to the top-level officials at the White House.

Until last month, Susan Rice served as the Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, where she oversaw virtually every aspect of domestic policy matters, including the placement of migrant children. When the border crisis reached a fever pitch during the summer of 2021, Ms. Rice's team received a memo from Health and Human Services managers about possible labor trafficking. Two people confirmed that Ms. Rice was told about the contents of the memo, but the White House now disputes that claim.

High-ranking Biden officials saw clear warnings that children were in danger and chose willful blindness. They did nothing to rescue these children from a dangerous situation or to prevent more young migrants from meeting the same fate.

In the wake of these damning reports, we have yet to see a thorough investigation or explanation of how this happened. How could the administration fail these children so badly over and over and over again? How could they not act on credible reports that children were being exploited?

This is a disgusting failure of leadership, and it is dangerous. We need to get answers and accountability, and we need to fix it, something the Biden administration apparently does not care enough to do. If they did care, they would fix it. But they obviously don't care.

Following the second New York Times report, I wrote a letter to Chairman DUBIN of the Judiciary Committee that was cosigned by every Republican. We urged him to invite these three Biden administration leaders who failed to act in the face of these warnings to testify in front of the Judiciary Committee. That included Secretary Becerra, former Labor Secretary Walsh, and former White House adviser Susan Rice.

The Judiciary Committee, on which I am privileged to serve, is charged with oversight of the Unaccompanied Children Program, and we have a duty to ensure that these children are treated humanely. We need to know who made the decision to loosen vetting requirements for sponsors and why those decisions were made. We need to hear from the current and former administration officials who knew about the widespread abuse of migrant children and yet chose not to act. We need a thorough explanation of how the Department is changing its policies, assuming it is, to prevent more children from being placed with dangerous sponsors. And we need to know how those responsible for these grotesque abuses will be held accountable.

But in the Judiciary Committee hearing yesterday, we didn't get any of that information. None of the officials

that I mentioned that we requested actually testified. They didn't show up. So not only have they neglected the cries of these vulnerable children to do something—anything—they didn't even care enough to show up at the Judiciary Committee yesterday to explain why they failed to act in the face of these cries for help. We didn't hear from a single current or former Biden administration official. There was not one witness on the five-person panel who could shed light on the decisions that caused so many of these migrant children to be exploited.

If our Democratic colleagues are as disturbed as I am about what I described, I hope they will join Republicans in a bipartisan push to get Secretary Becerra, Secretary Walsh, former White House domestic policy adviser Susan Rice to testify under oath before the Judiciary Committee and before the rest of the country.

These senior administration officials saw the warning signs, and they chose to ignore them. They continued to press for the rapid placement of these children with sponsors, and they didn't apparently care enough to make sure that they could track where these children were and what was happening to them. Now they need to explain their decisions on behalf of the Biden administration to the Senate.

I can't imagine the Biden administration doing a worse job responding to this border crisis than it has.

If you set out to design a system that would fail, it would look something like the current policies of the Biden administration. By refusing to secure the border, the administration has allowed criminal organizations to smuggle fentanyl and other deadly drugs into the country. It has enabled more than 1.5 million "got-aways" to evade Border Patrol and slip into the United States.

And it has released hundreds of thousands of migrants before we had sufficient information about who they were, where they were going, and when they needed to report to court. Migrants in some cities reportedly wait as long as 10 years to present an asylum claim in front of an immigration judge. And we know that only maybe 15, max 20 percent of them will be able to legitimately show a right to asylum.

So the 80 to 85 percent have had to wait in line for 10 years—or the 15 percent or so with valid claims have had to wait in line for 10 years because of the 80 to 85 percent who can't qualify; but they have gummed up the system so bad by the sheer volume of cases, even people with legitimate claims can't get heard. And now we are seeing how the administration looked the other way and allowed migrant children to be exploited on American soil.

So my question is, how long will we have to go before our colleagues join us in demanding a change? Because failure to do something is, in fact, a choice. Are we going to choose to let

this exploitation of these migrant children continue when the U.S. government who placed them with these sponsors doesn't even know where they are, whether they are getting a good education, whether their healthcare needs are being attended to, or whether they are being recruited in gangs, sex-trafficked, exploited, neglected?

I started out by saying I don't believe the Biden administration cares; but I do believe Members of this body care. And it is within our power to change it. That is a choice, in and of itself.

Now, some of my colleagues like the chairman of the Judiciary Committee said, yeah, we need to get together and talk about comprehensive immigration reform, but we have had those conversations the entire time I have been in the U.S. Senate. We cannot leverage these innocent children for other unrelated measures.

The same problem with the fentanyl and drugs coming across the border. People say, well, we need to do something. Well, we can't do it until we do comprehensive immigration reform. The DACA population, the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrival, these young people who came here as children who now are in a box canyon not of their making because President Obama overreached and created a program without working with Congress.

Each of those problems, I think, deserves to be addressed on its own merits. But you can't tell me that you are serious about solving the problem if you say, well, we can't do this, we can't fix those problems until we deal with all of the immigration issues as a whole, because I don't see that happening anytime soon. Meanwhile, these children will be languishing, being exploited, and worse.

The young people who are uncertain about their future because they received this Deferred Action on Childhood Arrival, but now it has been held illegal, unconstitutional by a Federal judge in the Southern District of Texas—and the families that are grieving because their loved ones took a pill they thought was relatively innocuous, but it was contaminated with fentanyl, and their son or daughter lost their life—do you want to tell these people to keep waiting? Just wait until we pass a massive immigration reform bill containing other matters. You wait. They shouldn't have to wait. And we shouldn't let the neglect and the willful blindness of the Biden administration prevent us from doing our duty, Republican and Democratic Senators alike. It is within our power to do it. But doing nothing is a choice too. And I hope that is not a choice we will make.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO KENT SALAZAR

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, in the Jemez Mountains of New Mexico, there is a stunning 13-mile-wide crater that was created by a collapsed supervolcano. What is now known as the Valles Caldera National Preserve is home to a deep grassy valley, volcanic cinder cones, crystal-clear trout streams, and some of the best elk habitat in North America. The Valles Caldera National Preserve is one of the most beautiful places on the planet, but for many, many decades most New Mexicans could only peer into its edge from the side of a road. The entire Caldera was privately owned. That has since changed.

In 2000, we used the Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase the Valles Caldera, but it took nearly a decade and a half after that to see truly meaningful public access.

One New Mexican deserves an enormous amount of credit for unlocking the Valles Caldera and its scenic hiking trails, elk hunting, and its trout fishing. That New Mexican is Kent Salazar.

As a member of the New Mexico Game Commission, Kent sought to undo a system that allowed wealthy and out-of-state hunters to purchase greater access to elk hunting than everyday New Mexicans or Americans. In the face of big money opposition, Kent pushed to establish a fair and equal lottery system that honored the principle of "one person, one chance," and he succeeded.

I have personally harvested two elk in the Caldera thanks in part to the changes that Kent made. Then, after President Obama appointed Kent to lead the Valles Caldera Board of Trustees, he quickly became a champion for transitioning the Valles Caldera to a National Park Service managed preserve.

This change has expanded public access and made it possible for many more New Mexicans—and for visitors from around the world—to experience this incredible landscape. It also protected the public's fair access to both hunting and fishing, and none of this would have been possible without the determination, leadership, and vision of my friend, Kent Salazar.

A lifelong New Mexican, Kent has dedicated himself to the idea that the outdoors are for everyone, not just for those with wealth or family connections. And from an early age, Kent found that time spent outdoors brought him a sense of renewal. And ever since, he has worked to make sure that all New Mexicans and all Americans can build a connection with nature.

For 20 years as a public administrator, Kent worked to make our land and air and water safer and healthier at the city of Albuquerque's Environmental Health Department.

An avid hunter, angler, and outdoorsman, Kent also breathed new life into the New Mexico Wildlife Federation.

The legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold founded the organization that became the New Mexico Wildlife Federation more than a century ago. But when Kent took the reins, the organization had no staff and no real driving mission. Even so, Kent saw the incredible potential if he could reinvigorate the organization; and, that, he did.

Under Kent's leadership, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation grew its membership dramatically and hired professional staff. Today, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation is one of the most influential grassroots organizations in our State. The organization has become much more active and much more effective in protecting iconic New Mexico landscapes, including the Valle Vidal, the Sabinoso Wilderness, and the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.

The impact of Kent's leadership has also grown nationally. Three years ago, Kent was elected unanimously to serve as the chairman of the National Wildlife Federation's Board of Directors. With the National Wildlife Federation, Kent helped to lead the charge to secure permanent and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and pass historic investments in landscape restoration as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.

And he is still helping us today as we work to pass the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

Kent also helped to found the Green Leadership Trust and Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors, or HECHO. Through all of this, I have especially appreciated Kent's kindness and passion, his pragmatism and knowledge, his devoted focus on making the conservation movement more inclusive and mentoring the next generation of conservation leaders, the way he keeps an open mind, listens to others, and always seems to drive the whole room in a more productive direction.

Kent's name might not make it to the newspaper that often, but it should. He is one of the most effective conservation leaders of our time. Kent once said:

[I]f we get the right people involved, we can accomplish a lot, and help our communities and our future, our children.

He is absolutely right. We are all better off because Kent is involved, serving our communities, our future, and our children.

I am extraordinarily grateful to have worked with and learned from Kent for all these years, and I am honored to call him a friend.

Kent, we cannot thank you enough for everything that you have done to inspire New Mexicans and to care for our Land of Enchantment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

INDIA

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Narendra Modi, the esteemed Prime Minister of the Republic

of India. Next week, we will be honored to have him address a joint meeting of Congress underscoring the significance of the relationship between the United States and India.

The bond between India and the United States is not just an alliance, it is a strategic and global partnership. Our two nations' relationship is built on the strong foundation of shared values—democracy, freedom, and respect for the rule of law.

India and the United States have long recognized the power of collaboration and fostering peace, prosperity, and global stability. United States-India diplomatic relations have only grown since India gained its independence 75 years ago.

In the face of global challenges ranging from education to energy to agriculture and health, Prime Minister Modi has worked with the United States to address these issues, and continues to work toward solutions that benefit not just our countries but the entire world.

Prime Minister Modi's visit to Washington, DC, is an occasion to celebrate that progress and to reaffirm our commitment to further strengthen this vital partnership.

I have had the opportunity to learn more about this partnership from Dr. Kulkarni, who is the Indian Consulate General in Atlanta, and a friend of mine. And she is also a friend of my State director, Umesh Sanjanwala.

So Prime Minister Modi's visit is an opportunity to deepen our collaboration in areas such as trade, defense, technology, and healthcare, which will shape the future trajectory of our nations.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in extending a warm welcome to the Prime Minister as he visits our great Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I take this time—and I will be making a unanimous consent request in regards to the superintendent of U.S. Naval Academy, but I first want to acknowledge my responsibilities on behalf of this body.

You see, I serve on the Board of Visitors of the United States Naval Academy. I was selected to be one of the Senate representatives on the U.S. Naval Academy Board of Visitors. We are extremely proud of what that academy has produced, and today it is producing the next generation of military leaders. It is consistently ranked as one of the top colleges in the United States, and it should be for training the next generation of leaders for our military.

I will just give you one example. The U.S. Naval Academy is prepared to deal with the challenges of AI and cyber security. It has new facilities there and is training experts to help defend our national security in that regard.

I also want to acknowledge on behalf of the Board of Visitors Admiral Buck, the current superintendent, who is retiring. He has done an incredible service to our Nation as the superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy and now has completed 40 years of service to this country.

Rear Admiral Yvette Davids is exceptionally qualified to be the next superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy. Admiral Davids is a career professional military officer who has sworn an oath to support and defend the Constitution and our country. She has consistently put service before self and the Constitution before politics.

Admiral Davids graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1989 with a B.S. in oceanography and was commissioned as an ensign. She later received an M.A. in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College in 2002 and an M.S. in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 2012.

She has had a distinguished career at sea, highlighted by commanding multiple U.S. warships as well as a carrier strike group. Ashore, she has served in increasing roles of importance, including as a senior military adviser at the State Department and as the chief of staff at U.S. Southern Command.

Admiral Davids has led men and women in combat, and her extensive experience will be vital to leading our next generation of officers at the Naval Academy.

Admiral Davids' confirmation as the next superintendent will be the culmination of a 34-year career dedicated to defending our country, and it will be historic, as she will become the first woman to lead the Naval Academy.

The incoming class of 2027 reports to the Naval Academy for induction on June 29, just a few days from now, and the fall semester begins on August 24. Admiral Davids should be confirmed as superintendent without delay in order to complete the turnover with the ongoing superintendent and prepare for the fall semester.

The last time the Naval Academy superintendent did not have a summer change of command was over 59 years ago. It occurred in 1964 when the incumbent superintendent had a heart attack that resulted in early retirement.

The Senate needs to confirm the promotion of Rear Admiral Davids now. The U.S. Naval Academy superintendent is charged with the moral, mental, and physical development of our 4,500 U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen across four classes who represent roughly one-third of the naval officers we commission each fiscal year. The position provides direct oversight to the commandant of midshipmen, who serves as the dean of students and supervises all military and professional development training of the brigade of midshipmen, and direct oversight to the civilian academic dean, who manages the academic pro-

grams and student facilities at the U.S. Naval Academy.

The superintendent is the public face of a premier academic institution and consistently hosts government officials, international symposiums, and liaises directly with alumni and distinguished Members of Congress on all matters pertinent to the institution.

If Rear Admiral Davids is not confirmed, it would force potential courses of action that are not in the best interests of the institution. This could include having the O-6 commandant of midshipmen act as superintendent or temporarily assigning another flag officer to act as superintendent. Neither of these options provides the continuity and leadership and seniority required to oversee a world-class academic institution. The other option could be to require an involuntary extension of the current superintendent of the academy, who has already selflessly served his country for over 40 years.

I think we all recognize that the United States Naval Academy is a unique institution. It provides us the trained leadership for future generations in our military. It is an academic institution that needs the full-time attention of a CEO to manage all the aspects that go on at the Naval Academy. We need to have that person in place before the beginning of this academic year, which is just a few days off.

Delaying this promotion will adversely affect the morale and readiness of the Naval Academy and beyond. Delaying this promotion is unfair to the young men and women already at or entering the Naval Academy who have signed up to put themselves in harm's way to serve our Nation in uniform. Delaying this promotion is a gratuitous, self-inflicted wound to our national security.

So, Mr. President, I am going to make this unanimous consent request. I do that, as I said earlier, with my experience on the Board of Visitors representing this institution, charged with doing everything we can to make sure we are as supportive as possible to our men and women who wear the uniform of this Nation and to those attending the U.S. Naval Academy.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Calendar No. 192, Rear Admiral Yvette Anne Davids, to be vice admiral; that the Senate vote on the nomination without any intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, 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. Is there objection?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Reserving the right to object, this is the ninth time that my colleagues on the left have come to the floor to try to break my

hold on Department of Defense nominees. This is the ninth time I am coming forward to keep my word. Since the last time we did this, nothing has changed, and so my hold will remain in place.

I want to be clear about this because my Democratic colleagues have been spreading a little bit of disinformation. I am not blocking anyone from getting confirmed. I am not blocking a single vote. I am only blocking unanimous consent. If Democrats want to vote on these nominees one at a time, I am all for it and will probably vote for them.

I understand that Senator CARDIN is a strong supporter of this nominee. I am a strong supporter of the Naval Academy. I have several relatives who have gone to the Naval Academy. It is possible that when these come up, I will vote on all of them. But, so far—let me just respond to some of the false claims that have been made against me in the press and even on this floor in the last week or so.

Yesterday, the White House Press Secretary was asked why they haven't reached out to me at all from the White House. She said:

I do not know when the last time is that [the White House] has talked to the Senator.

I will tell you when the last time was—never. The White House has not reached out to me once in 4 months. No one has contacted me. There has not been one conversation about a path forward.

I have spoken to Secretary Austin, outside of Armed Services hearings, exactly once in the last 2 years. That was a 10-minute phone call 3 months ago. He made absolutely no effort to find a compromise in our situation.

I have never once heard from Chairman REED on this issue, of the Armed Services Committee—absolutely no discussion regarding my concerns. Instead, Senator REED has attacked me on this floor.

I have never once heard from Senator SCHUMER. Instead, Senator SCHUMER has attacked me six or seven times on this floor in his seat.

Many of the claims made about me have been completely false.

This is no way to negotiate with a colleague. I don't understand it—especially not in this body, the United States Senate. Frankly, this kind of behavior just steels my resolve. The more false claims my colleagues on the left make about me, the more it makes me inclined to just keep my hold in place.

I have already laid out the reasons why these claims do not add up. I don't need to repeat them all as we speak. We don't need to waste time. But I would note that yesterday a news story reported correctly that these military positions are being fulfilled by acting officials. These jobs are being done as we speak. They are not empty. Four months into this situation, it is obvious that people are doing the job. It is not affecting our readiness. Anyone who says otherwise is wrong.

So let me just say this one more time because I keep getting asked the same question over and over again. I will keep my hold until the Pentagon follows the law or Congress changes the law. That is the way we do it here in the Senate.

A show vote in committee is not good enough. We can do that all we want, but it is not going to make any difference. An amendment that gets stripped out on the floor by Senator SCHUMER is not good enough. What I have said from the beginning is either follow the law or change it. Follow the law we have made in this body or change the law.

The burden is not on me. It is not on me to pass this legislation. This is an illegal policy that they changed to. So let's in this body discuss it and go one way or the other. The burden is on the administration to stop breaking the law, and that is exactly what is going on here.

There are two conditions that would get me to stop this and drop this hold, and I think everybody knows those conditions.

So because of that, Mr. President, I object.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, obviously I am deeply disappointed by the objection being heard here. I really feel compelled to explain one factor of my colleague's comments.

We don't want the military involved in politics. We do everything we can to keep them insulated from the internal politics of the Congress, the Senate and the House, and that is exactly what my colleague is doing by this hold.

We are responsible to make sure that we support our men and women in harm's way. Having the military academies properly managed is part of our responsibility so that they have the tools they need to defend our Nation.

One last point that was mentioned by my colleague about having up-or-down votes on these nominations, that he would not hold that up. Well, he is. He is requiring the break of a filibuster. What he is suggesting is that he is not letting us have an up-or-down vote. That is what my unanimous consent request would have allowed. My unanimous consent request would have allowed us to have an up-or-down vote on the nomination so we don't have to go through a cloture motion, which is exactly what my colleague is suggesting we need to go through, in order to vote on hundreds of these promotions within the military; that if we followed the course he is suggesting, those plebes who are entering this month at the Naval Academy will be in their second year before we get around to voting on that nomination.

So for all those reasons, I regret that we are playing politics with our military and affecting our ability to defend our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 30.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Natasha C. Merle, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 30, Natasha C. Merle, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TAX CONVENTION WITH CHILE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 1, Treaty Document 112-8.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The treaty will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
Treaty Document No. 112-8, Tax Convention with Chile

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the treaty be considered as having advanced through the various parliamentary stages up to and including the presentation of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification.

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

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 Calendar No. 1, Treaty Document No. 112-8, Tax Convention with Chile, and a resolution of advice and consent to ratification with 2 reservations and 2 declarations.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Margaret Wood Hassan, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Thomas R. Carper, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Baldwin, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Tim Kaine, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Cory A. Booker.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, June 15, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Illinois be given 10 minutes to speak immediately and, following her, 5 minutes to the Senator from Massachusetts.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today as both chair of the Subcommittee on Aviation Safety but, more importantly, as a pilot who is only alive because of the swift actions of an experienced flight crew.

I have lived the experience of piloting a Blackhawk that was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade in flight and entered into flight conditions immediately that flight simulators taught me would be catastrophic. But having the experience of flying in the toughest conditions had shown me that that was not the case.

I have probably spent more hours in the most sophisticated flight simulators than any other Senator of this body, short of, of course, Senator KELLY, our astronaut. In my over a decade of training as a military pilot, every time—every single time—that we simulated a total loss of all aircraft

avionics that would follow with a total loss of hydraulic power, we died in that simulator. We did this every year, and we simulated it over and over. It was not survivable.

We never simulated an RPG explosion in the lap of one of the pilots wherein any of the crew could survive. Why did we never simulate that condition? Nobody ever imagined that it would ever happen and have the crew survive or that the aircraft would not break apart in flight.

Yet, on that day in Iraq—on that day when that rocket-propelled grenade landed in my lap and exploded—we did. The aircraft held together, and we survived it. We were 10 feet above the trees, and we looked, and we had no avionics, and we could tell that the hydraulics were next. If we had relied on that simulator training, we would have done what dark pilot humor had always said, which was: You are going to die anyway. Let's change spots and leave a mystery for the acting investigators to figure out what the heck happened.

But we didn't. We fought to fly that aircraft because our training in the cockpit, in real-world flight conditions, taught us that we could do it. Led by the expertise of my pilot in command, we landed that aircraft and saved our entire flight crew.

I would not be alive today but for the in-cockpit experience gained through many hard-earned flight hours over a decade of training. It was actual, real-world experience, not a flight simulation, that made us prepared and ready to respond to a life-threatening emergency, with level heads and swift action—with instinct.

Of course, my experience is not unique. When the hero of the Hudson, Captain "Sully" Sullenberger, implores Congress to understand that the combined 40,000-plus flight hours between him and his first officer were critical in saving 155 lives on that January 15, 2009, day, we should listen.

Do you think that, prior to that day, there were any flight simulations of a dual-engine failure from a bird strike, followed by ditching in the Hudson River, by any airline? by any flight school? No. In fact, when that very simulation was done after the miracle on the Hudson, even with the flight crews experiencing and expecting the scenario, they still crashed time after time in that simulated emergency. It was pilot in-cockpit flying experience that saved the miracle on the Hudson.

My experience as both a pilot, who was responsible for the lives of my crew and passengers in the most hazardous conditions, along with my commitment to my leadership role on the Aviation Safety Subcommittee, means that I cannot be complicit in efforts to compromise on safety for the flying public. There has never been a worse time to consider weakening pilot certification requirements to produce less experienced pilots.

The year 2023 has already been chilling for our civil aviation system.

We have witnessed a disturbing rise of near deadly close calls that has led the FAA to convene an unprecedented safety summit, where the Acting Administrator has warned that the entire aviation industry needs to not grow complacent because complacency kills.

The NTSB has treated a recent uptick in near misses as a national crisis and has investigated these incidents to determine whether systemic problems are a root cause. Some observers believe the surge in hiring that was necessary to address the perfect storm of pre-pandemic buyouts and the post-COVID travel boom has simply resulted in a less experienced workforce that is more prone to mistakes.

We must treat these unnerving near misses as red flags and be proactive in strengthening safety requirements to make sure that these close calls do not become precursor events to a catastrophic incident.

The last thing we should be doing is weakening part 121 certification standards. We have had seven close calls most recently, and the answer is not "let's reduce pilot training." It is the pilot who prevented those close calls from becoming accidents in the first place.

As a pilot, I learned the value of real-world experience. Trust me. Hours in that cockpit, in the sky, matter. Simulators are a valuable training tool. I applaud them, and I have made use of them, but they are no substitute for the real thing. Lifesaving instincts are earned through hours of hard work and dedication through the craft of piloting a real aircraft with real stakes.

Look, I know the experience of the perfect storm of major carriers buying out thousands of their most experienced pilots, followed by a post-pandemic surge in air travel demand, has created a temporary shortage of pilots and first officers, especially for regional airlines. The consequences for communities, especially with rural airports, have been real and painful. I see them myself in my own home State. I understand the temptation to cut corners or to chase the false promise of a quick fix to a systemic challenge. But weakening a pillar of our post-Colgan reforms won't magically solve the need for more pilots.

Believe me. I have asked for the specifics. If we reduce the minimum flight hours from 1,500 to 1,000, how many more pilots would be available in the following calendar year? What about 800 hours? What if we drop it to 500 or to 250? How many more pilots would you have then? Yet, today, I have received no precise estimate, let alone any credible projections.

At this point, I question whether the special interests pushing to weaken the 1,500-hour rule even have a methodology or model to measure the relationship between certain certification standards and the availability of pilots.

I am not the only one who has stress-tested industry assertions and come away with more questions than answers. Last year, the FAA rejected a

petition for an exemption to the flight hours requirement and explicitly stated:

The FAA has previously concluded the argument that an exemption would serve to address a pilot shortage is overly simplistic and does not present a persuasive argument.

Foreign carriers that are not subject to the 1,500-hour rule are also experiencing workforce challenges post-pandemic. Yet they are not reducing their requirements. This bolsters the FAA's conclusion.

Simply put, reducing hours, even just for restricted ATPs, represent a serious risk with no reward. It represents an unacceptable backsliding, a dangerous complacency, in an industry where complacency kills. As chair of the Aviation Safety Subcommittee, as a professional aviator, and as a private pilot, I am holding the line on safety.

I want to encourage my colleagues to focus on the long list of other, more urgent aviation issues facing our country. Now is not the time to go backward on a post-Colgan safety system, and there has not been a single aviation fatality due to pilot error since the 1,500-hour rule was put into effect.

Now is not the time to put corporate profits ahead of the lives of our constituents who may want to board a commercial flight in the future. A vote to reduce the 1,500-hour rule for pilot training will be blood on your hands when the inevitable accident occurs as a result of an inadequately trained flight crew.

I urge my colleagues to uphold the 1,500-hour rule.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NOMINATION OF JULIE RIKELMAN

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak in support of the confirmation of Julie Rikelman to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

In just a few minutes, the Senate will vote to invoke cloture on Julie Rikelman's nomination, and, soon after, we will vote on her confirmation.

Julie Rikelman has a distinctively American story. In 1979, her family emigrated to the United States from the Soviet Union—Ukraine, to be specific—settling in Massachusetts. Like so many Soviet immigrants in the 1970s, her family sought freedom, and especially, as Soviet Jews, they sought religious freedom.

As a child, Ms. Rikelman and her family left behind the only home they knew. They endured the challenges of beginning anew in an unfamiliar country, as refugees, mastering a new language and a new culture. They embraced their new home and became naturalized U.S. citizens. Ms. Rikelman's experience as a Soviet political refugee shaped her lifelong commitment to the American legal system as well as her commitment to true "justice for all" and to the fundamental principles of the rule of law.

With 25 years of experience, her legal career has been nothing short of stel-

lar. Julie attended Harvard College and Harvard Law School. She clerked for Justice Dana Fabe on the Alaska Supreme Court and for Judge Morton Greenberg on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

She has worked in private practice and in public interest law, litigating a range of issues, from reproductive rights cases across the country to civil and criminal cases at both the trial and appellate levels. She has experience in securities law, antitrust law, election law, and constitutional law. Ms. Rikelman's Federal and State court cases have involved defamation, intellectual property, and employment discrimination claims. She is a brilliant legal mind and brings deep experience to issues commonly before the First Circuit.

Julie Rikelman has dedicated her career to the protection of Americans' fundamental rights, including the rights to liberty and privacy, distinguishing herself as one of our Nation's leading reproductive rights attorneys. In 2021, she argued the Supreme Court case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a seminal case in the history of our highest Court's considering that issue.

I have complete confidence that Ms. Rikelman will bring a broadened perspective, steadfast integrity, and deep knowledge to the bench. And I am not alone in my enthusiasm. My office has received letters in support of Ms. Rikelman's nomination from dozens of individuals and organizations, including members of the Alaska State Bar, current and former prosecutors, law enforcement officials, the National Council of Jewish Women, and many of her former colleagues.

Colleagues describe Julie Rikelman as "brilliant, committed to the rule of law, and deeply devoted to honoring the Constitution and protecting our civil rights and civil liberties."

These are precisely the qualities we are looking for in a nominee to a Federal appeals court. We have them in Julie Rikelman.

It is essential that our Nation's courts reflect the diversity of our country, and Ms. Rikelman, when confirmed, would be the first immigrant woman and the first Jewish woman to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. That is what this Nation is all about.

Senator WARREN and I are proud and enthusiastically recommend Julie Rikelman's nomination to President Biden and are proud to speak in favor of her nomination before the full Senate today. She will make an exceptional addition to the First Circuit.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes on cloture and then on her confirmation.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 23, Julie Rikelman, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Julie Rikelman, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 165 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeben	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Blackburn Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). On this vote the yeas are 53, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julie Rikelman, of Massachusetts, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

TRIBUTE TO TRICIA ENGLE

Mr. SCHUMER. Just parenthetically, true to Trish's dedication to the job, she just sat down and whispered to me: We are not in a quorum call. That will probably be one of the very last of about 10,000—maybe 100,000—proper, right instructions she has given me over the years that she has been here—or given all of us. So I thought that was a moment to remember.

Anyway, today, I want to take a moment to honor one of the—the—the most beloved members of the Senate team, and that is Trish Engle, who will be leaving the Democratic cloakroom after 26 years of service.

That means you started about a year before me, 1998–1997. I came here in early 1999.

Trish is the proud mom of two boys, William and Garrison.

Wave to us, William. Who is older—William or Garrison? William. Very nice. Both are in their nice blue shirts.

They are here with us today, and I am sure they are looking—are you looking forward to spending more time with your mom? You are saying you are. I am not quite sure, at your age, that is exactly the case. But I am sure it is good quality time, knowing Trish.

Trish's mom, Melva Ongstad, is here in the Gallery.

Hello, Melva.

I am glad her family could be here, and I know how proud everyone is of Trish. We all are.

We all know that Trish is one of the most familiar faces in the Senate, but even then, it is easy to miss just how important, just how critical she has been to making the Senate agenda come to life. There are so many—and Trish is at the top of the list—of these unsung heroes who make the place work. No one notices them, no one praises them, but without them, this place would collapse.

Without Trish, the Democratic caucus wouldn't have accomplished a fraction—that is true—a fraction of all the amazing things we have gotten done over the years: drug reform, infrastructure, CARES Act, ACA—the list goes on and on. The list of bills she has had a hand in literally spans decades.

Every Senator on our side of the aisle, every single one, and many of those who have retired, can think of some accomplishment we have been proud of at one point or another. You can bet that Trish was the one who helped make that accomplishment happen on the floor because it is Trish who comes up with these brilliant parliamentary maneuvers to achieve our

mission. She is always writing the scripts that speed up the voting process. She is something truly unique, a legislative artist who knows the inner workings of this body like few others in the country. There are probably maybe fewer than 10 people who know as much about the Senate as Trish of the whole—how many?—8 billion people on Earth, approximately 8 billion people on Earth. That is pretty good.

Over the years, she worked wonders serving—I met her when Daschle was leader. He loved her and depended on her. She worked her magic under Harry Reid. He loved her and depended on her.

Today, I want to express how grateful I am for all the good work you have done during my time as leader.

Like so many parents around here, Trish had to juggle a very demanding job where she is almost on call all the time while making sure her wonderful family got all they needed. If that wasn't challenging enough, during all this time, she is like Superwoman. She earned an M.B.A. and M.A. from Johns Hopkins while working on the Senate floor. And to do that from any college is amazing; to do it from Johns Hopkins—wow. No slouch are you, Trish. Doing it all. Doing it all.

But these are only some of the wonderful reasons we will miss her. We will miss her because of her wonderful sense of humor. We will miss her because few people put up with Senators so regularly and never—I don't think I ever saw you get mad. Anybody? Oh, you got mad at Amy once. OK, I understand.

We will miss her because she is a wonderful person to work with no matter the day, no matter the issue, no matter the outcome. She is the best.

On behalf of the Senate, Trish, of all of us, the whole big Senate family, we thank you for everything you have done for this institution and derivatively for our country. We love you. We will miss you. And you will always have a home here in this Chamber. We wish you and your wonderful family the very best.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore.

Mrs. MURRAY. If I could, I just wanted to also take this opportunity to thank Trish and echo the majority leader's words. All of us are grateful for her tremendous service to each and every one of us.

As one of the few Senators who were here when she first started who are still here, I just want to tell you the Senate will not be the Senate without Trish. Her smile, her ability to work with us, her knowledge of the rules, being at our back, helping us understand the process, have really helped laws pass, changed lives, and made a difference for all of us.

Trish, we are going to miss you, and I just personally want to share my thanks with your family for sacrificing you for so many years to be with us, and I wish you all the best.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I want to share the perspective of individual Senators who, at various moments, are extremely stressed over getting their amendment considered or how to deal with a particular issue that is coming up. There have been moments, for example, not too far back into last year, when I really wanted an amendment up and was asking Trish, how do I do this? How do I position this to get this done? And I know that many of us, when we are trying to do something we consider important or are concerned about something happening that is detrimental, our emotions are high. Every time that I have been in that position, you have been a calm and steady presence facilitating our efforts—maybe raising an eyebrow now and then about whether this was the right moment or the right process but giving sound guidance and taking our levels of anxiety and stress down a few notches and helping us get the job done.

So all of us who, in moments—critical moments—have come to you and asked for your help and your insight on how to proceed, thank you for being a wise and sober and calming counsel to us. And I wish you all the best in your next chapter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

PRIDE MONTH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am thrilled to join people across Washington State and across the country in recognizing Pride Month.

Pride is an opportunity every year for people across our country and across the world to mark the progress we have made and the work left to do and celebrate the LGBTQ community. It is a joyful, beautiful thing, and it stands in stark contrast to the bigotry some voices on the far right have been fanning.

It is impossible to watch a Pride parade today without seeing just how far we have come as a nation; and, unfortunately, it is also impossible to follow the news without seeing a reminder of how far we still have to go and how hard a bigoted minority of people is fighting to pull us back.

Some far-right provocateurs have been twisting the most basic mundane gestures of inclusion into so-called controversies through blatant distortions and demonization. I mean, imagine calling for an investigation into a private company because they just sent their product to a trans person with a massive online audience.

Imagine being outraged because a company cares about having a diverse, equitable, inclusive workplace.

Imagine getting worked up because of rainbow logos or a Pride sale or an adorable little rainbow baby onesie.

I have a news flash for everyone who is trying to act like companies selling their products to every community they can is something new or some new nefarious conspiracy. Get this: Gay and trans people drink beverages; they eat food; they buy things. And for suddenly everyone to be outraged over some cute baby clothes? You know what? LGBTQ have families, too. They are parents and aunts and uncles and grandparents. Where have you been?

They are queer; they are here; and they have been for years. Get used to it. They are not going anywhere.

And let's be clear: These attacks on the LGBTQ community are not just ridiculous, they are dangerous, because we are not just talking about a handful of far-right voices complaining about companies. There is a truly insidious and ugly effort to demonize and ostracize and erase the LGBTQ community and our trans friends, neighbors, and loved ones in particular.

Far-right lawmakers across our Nation and across different levels of government are spewing some of the most hateful rhetoric, peddling some of the most bigoted conspiracies, and passing some of the most hateful LGBTQ laws I have seen in a long while.

Over the past few years, these far-right politicians have taken books with LGBTQ characters off the shelves. They have demonized drag performers with dangerous rhetoric. They have investigated parents for helping their kids get the care they need and blocked kids from that care. It is extreme, cynical, and hateful to a degree that is even hard to believe.

Far-right legislators are happy to ignore the First Amendment to ban books and keep kids away from their entirely made-up danger of drag shows; but they are nowhere to be found when it comes to a serious discussion of the Second Amendment and protecting kids from gun violence—an actual public health threat and the leading cause of death for children in the United States.

One Republican Presidential candidate is shamelessly and falsely suggesting that trans kids participating in youth sports might be to blame for the teen mental health crisis and insidiously ignoring the reality that the same kids they are using as a political punching bag face some of the highest rates of depression and suicide of anyone.

Another Republican Presidential candidate championed a bill that is silencing and erasing LGBTQ kids and parents and teachers from schools by banning discussion about gender identity and sexual orientation and banning books with the slightest acknowledgment that LGBTQ people even exist. One school district in Florida even banned a kids' book about a penguin—a penguin—with two dads. Seriously?

Then there is the wave of laws we are seeing that are meant to cut kids off from age-appropriate, gender-affirming healthcare that they rely on, like the

law that passed in Idaho, right across the border from my State, that criminalizes doctors for providing kids with gender-affirming care that they need—care that is overwhelmingly recommended by medical experts as safe and even lifesaving—or the vile effort to falsely accuse loving parents whose kids are getting this care they need as child abuse.

I said it before. It truly feels like far-right Republican lawmakers are in a race to the bottom in pursuit of the most extreme, hateful agenda they can think of. And their attacks have been especially cruel to the trans community and to trans kids.

There are real consequences to this hateful rhetoric. We know the trans community is more likely to face suicide and homelessness and violence, and yet far-right lawmakers are using their megaphone and their positions of power to bully kids.

That is what it comes down to. They are attacking people—attacking kids—for being different, for being themselves.

I said it last year on the Senate floor. I am here again because I still have to say it: We—all have a responsibility to stand up and make clear that this is not right. Trans people are our friends. They are our neighbors. They are our families. They deserve to be kids—just kids—to play sports and go to school and see a doctor and get healthcare. They should be able to get the same opportunities as any other kid to learn and grow and play and thrive, free from fear and discrimination. And parents deserve to be able to make their own parenting decisions with their medical providers to do what is best for their kids' health. They should not have to worry about what a right-wing politician thinks is best for their child, and they definitely should not live in fear that a State legislature is going to intervene in their parenting decisions and hurt their child.

We have got to push back against these attacks on trans kids every way we can—in the courts, with legislation, through Executive action, and by speaking out and speaking up—which is why I am here today, to tell everyone facing these hateful attacks: You are not alone. You have so many people in your community and in your corner.

I am proud to stand with these kids, their families, and the whole LGBTQ community. This Pride Month, we commit ourselves to making sure that these kids are not just safe in our country, not just welcome in our country, but allowed to be themselves here; allowed to be joyful and confident about who they are in every part of our country.

And in that spirit, I want to share some wisdom from Stella. She is a young trans activist in Washington State who spoke with me last year about the dangerous laws targeting trans communities.

I will quote her:

Opinions cannot stop us from existing. They cannot stop me from living my dream to the fullest and following all of my dreams . . . And opinions do not change who we are as transgender and nonbinary people.

I certainly am proud to be a voice for young people like Stella here in the United States Senate. Stella, I hope you are having a great Pride Month.

My message today to everyone who has been encouraging or complicit in the attacks on the LGBTQ community is simple: First, leave kids and families alone. You are not their doctor. You are not their parents. You have no idea what they are going through, what they have gone through, or what is best for them. It is not your say, and it is not your business.

Second: Be kind. Be kind. You do not have to bully people because they are different. You do not have to champion hatred and fear or anger. You can make a different choice. It is really not that hard to listen, to learn, to respect, and accept people for who they are, to have compassion. And I promise it will make your world brighter, and your heart will be lighter.

Finally, if you do continue down this dangerous path—bullying kids, erasing LGBTQ people, and demonizing them with dangerous rhetoric, I will rise against you every step of the way, and I will do so with pride.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-36, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Spain for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$48.2 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-36

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Spain.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$32.8 million.

Other \$15.4 million.

Total \$48.2 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case SP-B-WAT was below congressional notification threshold at \$21.87 million (\$12.20 million in MDE) and included one hundred eighteen (118) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles. The Government of Spain has requested that the case be amended to include an additional one hundred fifty-three (153) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles. This amendment will push the current case above the MDE notification threshold and thus requires notification of the entire case.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): Two hundred seventy-one (271) M982A1 Excalibur Tactical Projectiles.

Non-MDE: Also included is a portable electronic Fire Control System (FCS); Improved Platform Integration Kit; Propelling Charge Modular Artillery Charge System; Simple Key Loaders (SKL); crypto cable; training aids; technical data; U.S. Government technical assistance; transportation; Excalibur spare parts; artillery cleaning sections; new equipment training; repair and return support equipment; support related to collateral damage estimation tables; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (SP-B-WAT).

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

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

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 14, 2023.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Spain—Excalibur Projectiles

The Government of Spain has requested to buy an additional one hundred fifty-three (153) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original FMS case, valued at \$21.87 million, included one hundred eighteen (118) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles. This notification is for a combined total of two hundred seventy-one (271) M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles. Also included is a portable elec-

tronic Fire Control System (FCS); Improved Platform Integration Kit; Propelling Charge Modular Artillery Charge System; Simple Key Loaders (SKL); crypto cable; training aids; technical data; U.S. Government technical assistance; transportation; Excalibur spare parts; artillery cleaning sections; new equipment training; repair and return support equipment; support related to collateral damage estimation tables; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is \$48.2 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by improving the security of a NATO ally which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Spain's capability to meet current and future threats and will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and other allied forces. The enhanced capability will also strengthen its homeland defense. Spain will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Company Missile Systems, McAlester, OK. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this sale will not require the assignment of any U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Spain.

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-36

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M982A1 Excalibur 155 mm, High Explosive Projectile is an all up projectile with Global Positioning System (GPS)-aided precision guidance capability. The Excalibur provides the ability to accurately engage targets at distances up to 25 miles. Excalibur is commonly fired from U.S. Army and Marine Corps towed and self-propelled howitzer systems, including the M777 and M109.

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

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Spain can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

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

CONFIRMATION OF DILAWAR SYED

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, last week, the Senate confirmed Dilawar Syed to be the Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration with a bipartisan vote. Mr. Syed was the longest pending nomination in the Biden administration, waiting 827 days to be confirmed.

The Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration should

not have been a controversial nomination. Mr. Syed has served our Nation admirably as Special Representative for Commercial Diplomacy at the State Department, where he has helped American companies compete in international markets throughout the world. He has extensive background as an entrepreneur and business leader with an inspiring immigrant success story that is only possible in America. Now that he has been confirmed, he is the highest ranking Muslim American in the Biden administration.

Mr. Syed should have been confirmed unanimously years ago. But regrettably, Senate Republicans chose to play politics with changing excuses designed to obstruct the nomination. Obstruction and delay resulted in the position being vacant for over 5 years. With record numbers of entrepreneurs starting new small businesses, we need a fully staffed SBA.

Senate Republicans criticized pandemic loans that were taken out by Mr. Syed's company, Lumiata, and accused Mr. Syed of being slow to disclose the loans. Mr. Syed testified before the committee that the board of his company had taken out Paycheck Protection Program—PPP—loans from SBA, funds that they were legally eligible to receive. And to his credit, Mr. Syed and his company repaid those PPP loans when they secured an additional round of venture funding. All of this funding was disclosed to the White House during the vetting process, and Mr. Syed was transparent about his financials, even beyond the information asked by the Senate committee questionnaire. Critics tried to claim that he had misled Congress or outright lied. That is simply not true.

Despite his unfair treatment, justice ultimately prevailed, and his nomination passed with bipartisan support from five Republican Senators who were able to judge Mr. Syed on his character and business acumen rather than false attacks.

Many nominees would have given up and decided the attacks were not worth it. With his background, Mr. Syed could have taken a lucrative position in the private sector. But our Nation is fortunate that Mr. Syed did not let this long process deter him from serving the public interest. I join Mr. Syed's family, friends, and colleagues in congratulating him on his perseverance throughout this process and look forward to working with him, Administrator Guzman, and the leadership team at the Small Business Administration.

WILLA CATHER STATUE UNVEILING

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following speech be printed in the RECORD.

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

SEN. FISCHER WILLA CATHER UNVEILING
REMARKS

When we are here in Statuary Hall, I like to remind people that we are not alone.

If you look above the door leading into the Rotunda, you'll see a figure. It is Clio, the muse of history.

For generations, she served as a constant reminder that our words and actions—the good and the bad—would be judged by time and leave a lasting mark on the nation.

Today Clio welcomes one of Nebraska's finest literary artists, Willa Cather.

"Let your fiction grow out of the land beneath your feet."

This quote, attributed to Cather, is an apt summation of the author's life and work.

Cather's vivid, reflective writing has become synonymous with the pioneer spirit of Nebraska.

Her fiction—epitomized by the Great Plains novels *O Pioneers!*, *The Song of the Lark*, and *My Antonia*—truly feels like it grew from the soil of Nebraska.

Cather herself grew from that land. Her family settled in Red Cloud while she was still a child, and her imaginative mind put its roots down there in Webster County.

For decades until her death in 1947, Cather was unable to shake her creative spirit away from its home in the open plains of the heartland.

The unveiling of Cather's statue is especially poignant for me, because Cather's fiction is not the only art to grow out of the land beneath her feet.

In 2006, my sister-in-law Nadine McHenry's art was selected as part of the annual Willa Cather Conference organized by the Cather Foundation.

"I am a Nebraska painter and my feet stand on the same prairie grasses that Cather stood on," Nadine wrote of her painting exhibition.

Nadine's impressionistic paintings are a blend. They blend an imaginative representation of Cather's prose with Nadine's own personal experience on our family's ranch in the Nebraska Sandhills.

Four of the paintings—"Longing," "Isolation," "Pioneering the Way," and "Way Ahead"—draw new vigor out of Cather's century-old works, each created as an expression of a different quote by the novelist.

Nadine's art illustrates the profound resonance of Cather's writing for those of us who call Nebraska home.

That resonance—the talent and imagination immortalized in Cather's indelible novels—is what endows her with the significance to be placed in the U.S. Capitol as a representation of Nebraska's best.

I'll end with words from Cather's "Song of the Lark," words that strike a sense of understanding into the heart of any Nebraskan who has read her work.

"What was any art but a mold to imprison for a moment the shining, elusive element which is life itself?"

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA NATHANSON

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Ella Winter famously remarked to author Thomas Wolfe, "Don't you know you can't go home again?" The remark, in abbreviated form, became the title of one of his most famous books, published after he died. The two writers never met Martha D. Nathanson, who grew up in Park Heights, went to Indiana University in Bloomington to earn

her bachelor's degree and J.D., and then returned home and dedicated her life to making Baltimore a better, safer, healthier, and happier place.

Martha is retiring from LifeBridge Health, where she has been responsible for government relations, focusing on legislative and regulatory policy at all three levels of government, covering all aspects of healthcare delivery and community and economic development in the areas surrounding all of LifeBridge Health's facilities, including Sinai Hospital of Baltimore. Martha's expertise, political skills, finesse, and natural ability as a community organizer have made her a formidable force for bringing better healthcare and other vital services to underserved communities, including Lower Park Heights. I don't know whether LifeBridge's Northwest Hospital would be the outstanding facility it is today without Martha's tireless advocacy.

Before Martha joined LifeBridge some 25 years ago, she was director of risk management and legislative and regulatory affairs for Kirson Medical Equipment Company, where she developed legal, regulatory, and joint commission—JCAH—compliance programs and drafted and negotiated contracts with providers. She also worked as an attorney advisor at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and as an associate attorney at Ober Kaler in Baltimore. I have relied on and am grateful for Martha's wise counsel on healthcare and community and economic development issues in Baltimore over the years.

Martha's vocation and avocation are one and the same. In addition to her professional career, she serves on the board of CHAI—Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc.—served as chair of the Board of Park Heights Renaissance and is a founding member of the Northwest Baltimore Partnership. She also serves on the board of advisers of the University of Maryland School of Social Work and the Safe Streets Community Advisory Board. She has bought, renovated, and sold houses in her neighborhood and is active in CREW Baltimore, which promotes the business interests and professional advancement of women in all disciplines of the commercial real estate industry by providing educational and networking opportunities and contributing resources to support the local community. Given all of this, it is no surprise that Martha was named as one of Maryland's 100 Top Women by the "Daily Record" in 2017.

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give. Martha Nathanson has given so much to her beloved hometown, and Baltimore is so much better for her tireless efforts. Since she is not the "retiring" kind, I know she will stay active in community affairs. But now, she will have more time for biking and trekking and environmental causes and, most important, for her family. I know that she is especially "over the moon" about

being a grandmother. I want to thank her for her service and friendship and wish her all the best as she begins the next chapter in a wonderful life of service.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. SUSAN PETERSON THOMAS

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to thank Dr. Susan "Sue" Peterson Thomas for her many years of service to the State of Kansas and Kansas State University—K-State—as well as honor her for all that she accomplished during her career.

The daughter of a dairy farmer and former mayor of Abilene, KS, Sue began her journey at K-State as a student, where she graduated with a bachelor of science degree in political science and history. She would go on to earn a master of public administration degree from the University of Kansas, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from K-State.

Sue's service to the State of Kansas began in 1978, where she worked for Mike Hayden during his time as the speaker of the Kansas House of Representatives and Governor of Kansas. She also served on the transition teams for Governor Hayden and Governor Sam Brownback.

Sue would go on to work for her alma mater, beginning her distinguished career at K-State in 1989. During her 33 years of service to the university, Sue worked her way up to chief government relations officer, where she was directly responsible for all university liaison activities with the State and Federal legislature. She also served as a political science instructor since 1992, where she taught Kansas politics and government to over 1,000 students.

During her time at K-State, Sue was responsible for multiple different projects that have had a tremendous impact on the university. She was instrumental in securing State funding to renovate Farrell Library and add 153,000 square feet of new space to the library on K-State's Manhattan campus; she coordinated the successful legislative effort to merge the Kansas College of Technology in Salina into K-State, forming the K-State Salina campus; she led the efforts to secure State and Federal funding for the construction and equipment of Pat Roberts Hall, the home of K-State's Biosecurity Research Institute. The fruits of her labor culminated at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility's ribbon-cutting ceremony this last May, which she worked tirelessly on, helping pass multiple pieces of legislation that were crucial to the State's efforts to land the facility adjacent to K-State's campus in Manhattan.

Throughout her career, Sue has been recognized at the local, State, and national levels. She has been awarded the prestigious Marvin D. "Swede" Johnson Achievement Award, the Flinchbaugh Family Wildcat Pride

Award, and the Career Excellence Award from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' Council on Governmental Affairs.

Sue officially retired from K-State on April 7, 2023, after 33 years, 8 months, and 6 days of service to the university. I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Dr. Susan Peterson Thomas, as well as thank her for all of her work on behalf of the State of Kansas and Kansas State University.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:44 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 467. An act to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1640. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the proposed rule titled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Conventional Cooking Products", and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2(b)(4) of Public Law 171-40, the Minority Leader appoints the following individuals to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific History and Culture: Mr. Rodney Davis of Taylorville, Illinois and Mr. Vincent K. Fong of Bakersfield, California.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1640. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing the proposed rule titled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Conventional Cooking Products", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1615. An act to prohibit the use of Federal funds to ban gas stoves.

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. RISCH (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2003. A bill to authorize the Secretary of State to provide additional assistance to

Ukraine using assets confiscated from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and other sovereign assets of the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 2004. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 relating to de minimis treatment under that Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2005. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to require that information required to be disclosed to the Securities and Exchange Commission by issuers be material to voting or investment decisions regarding those issuers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2006. A bill to foster Tunisia's democratic institutions, to limit funds until Tunisia restores checks and balances, and to authorize the creation of a fund to support democratic reforms; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2007. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require the submission by issuers of data relating to diversity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2008. A bill to amend section 1977 of the Revised Statutes to protect equal rights under law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2009. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize a national network of statewide senior legal hotlines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 2010. A bill to subject professional baseball clubs to the antitrust laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2011. A bill to prohibit the importation of seafood and seafood products from the Russian Federation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2012. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2013. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide funding to sustain and increase the supply and quality of child care, access to child care, and the child care workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 2014. A bill to ensure that certain members of the Armed Forces who served in female cultural support teams receive proper

credit for such service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 2015. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to provide funding for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KING, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. WARREN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MORAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 2016. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LEE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 2017. A bill to provide multiyear procurement authority for LGM-35A Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missiles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. KING, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LEE, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2018. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an assessment to identify locations in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for broadband internet access service and areas in National Parks in which there is the greatest need for cellular service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 2019. A bill to prevent States and local jurisdictions from interfering with the production and distribution of agricultural products in interstate commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2020. A bill to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the Deschutes River Conservancy Working Group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2021. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to apply that Act to small business financing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2022. A bill to establish a youth savings match grant program for students in grades 9 through 12; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 2023. A bill to amend the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act and the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to further plant cultivar and animal breed research, development, and commercialization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2024. A bill to provide for the establishment of an education program to expand abortion care training and access; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2025. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to prohibit the provision of any foreign assistance for state sponsors of terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2026. A bill to provide support for programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to the coordination of maternity health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2027. A bill to amend the General Education Provisions Act to allow the release of education records to facilitate the award of a recognized postsecondary credential; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2028. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to authorize expedited approval of applications to export natural gas to certain allies of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2029. A bill to appropriate amounts to carry out the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2030. A bill to establish a United States Commission on Hate Crimes to study and make recommendations on the prevention of the commission of hate crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. SUL-LIVAN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2031. A bill to strengthen the national security of the United States by decreasing the reliance of the Department of Defense on critical minerals from the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, and other geostrategic competitors and adversaries of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2032. A bill to require the reduction of the reliance and expenditures of the Federal Government on legacy information technology systems, and for other purposes; to

the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2033. A bill to provide that certain discriminatory conduct by covered platforms shall be unlawful, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2034. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop procurement policy and guidance to mitigate consulting company conflict of interests related to national security and foreign policy; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2035. A bill to amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to make additional coverage under the Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program available for crops and grasses used for grazing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2036. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from changing energy conservation standards for distribution transformers for a certain period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 2037. A bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to prohibit the slaughter of equines for human consumption; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 2038. A bill to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to provide certain benefits to noncitizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KING, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2039. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan (or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan) to provide for cost-sharing for oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the cost-sharing provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2040. A bill to reinstate the position of Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LEE):

S. 2041. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 2042. A bill to amend the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act to adjust the boundary of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2043. A bill to provide for certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 254. A resolution unequivocally condemning antisemitism and lauding the working definition of antisemitism of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 255. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June 19, 2023, as "World Sickle Cell Awareness Day" in order to increase public awareness across the United States and global community about sickle cell disease and the continued need for empirical research, early detection screenings, novel effective treatments leading to a cure, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell anemia and conditions relating to sickle cell disease; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 256. A resolution recognizing Father's Day and the role of father engagement in improving the overall health and life outcomes for both the mother and baby; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 257. A resolution designating July 19, 2023, as "Glioblastoma Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 52

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 52, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish country of origin labeling requirements for beef, and for other purposes.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 134

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were

added as cosponsors of S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 592

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 592, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, and for other purposes.

S. 786

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 786, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 985

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 985, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

S. 993

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 993, a bill to prohibit certain uses of xylazine, and for other purposes.

S. 1095

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1095, a bill to authorize members of reserve components of the Armed Forces to take parental leave for the adoption or placement for long-term foster care of a child.

S. 1117

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1117, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow a tax deduction at the time an investment in qualified property is made.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants.

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1266, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United State Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1329

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1329, a bill to direct the Librarian of Congress to carry out activities to support Armenian Genocide education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1491

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1491, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to ensure that Federal laws that enable Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to access firearms apply equally to Tribal law enforcement agencies.

S. 1571

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1571, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1573

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1573, a bill to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act.

S. 1802

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1802, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a fund for the conduct of collaborative defense projects between the United States and Israel in emerging technologies, and for other purposes.

S. 1822

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1822, a bill to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to expand the use of non-intrusive inspection systems at land ports of entry.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 1837

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1837, a bill to amend the Food, Ag-

riculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include spotted lanternfly control research and development as a high-priority research and extension initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 1855

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1855, a bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

S. 1942

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1942, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the Hazardous Substance Superfund financing rate.

S. 1970

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to modify requirements relating to financial aid disclosures.

S. 1999

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1999, a bill to protect an individual's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

S.J. RES. 31

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 31, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Federal 'Good Neighbor Plan' for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards".

S. RES. 253

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 253, a resolution designating June 16, 2023, as National Service and Conservation Corps Day.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 254—UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM AND LAUDING THE WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which

was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 254

Whereas the United States Senate recognizes that antisemitism is a pernicious and destructive form of prejudice that has persisted throughout history, resulting in widespread discrimination, violence, and persecution against Jewish individuals and communities;

Whereas the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (referred to in this preamble as the “IHRA”) has developed a widely accepted and comprehensive working definition of antisemitism that serves as a valuable tool for identifying and combating acts of antisemitism in all its manifestations;

Whereas the IHRA working definition of antisemitism states that “antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”;

Whereas the IHRA working definition of antisemitism includes examples that illustrate the various ways in which antisemitism manifests, including making derogatory statements about Jews, denying the Holocaust, promoting conspiracy theories about Jewish control, and holding the Jewish Community collectively responsible for the actions of the State of Israel;

Whereas the IHRA working definition of antisemitism serves as a valuable tool for governments, institutions, and organizations in identifying, monitoring, and addressing antisemitism, thereby helping to ensure the safety, security, and dignity of Jewish communities around the world;

Whereas, for nearly 2 decades, the IHRA working definition and its predecessor, the European Union Military Committee working definition, which was developed with the cooperation and support of Jewish communities, have provided essential guidance in efforts to combat antisemitism to governments and organizations in Europe, the Americas, and across the globe;

Whereas the IHRA definition has been adopted by more than 40 nations and multilateral organizations, including the European Union and the Organization of American States, which has earned the near-unanimous endorsement of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

Whereas no other definition of antisemitism has been as broadly adopted and utilized by practitioners, governments, and civil society as the IHRA working definition of antisemitism; and

Whereas the United States Senate is committed to upholding the principles of equality, human rights, and religious freedom, and recognizes the importance of combating all forms of discrimination, including antisemitism, in order to foster a more just and inclusive society: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) strongly condemns all forms of antisemitism, including acts of violence, discrimination, and hate speech directed at individuals or communities based on their Jewish identity;

(2) recognizes the significant impact of antisemitism on individuals, communities, and society as a whole, and reaffirms its commitment to combating this age-old prejudice in all its forms;

(3) commends the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (referred to in this resolution as the “IHRA”) for its efforts in developing the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, which serves as a valuable

tool for identifying and addressing acts of antisemitism;

(4) encourages Federal, State, and local government entities, as well as academic institutions, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, to adopt and exclusively utilize the IHRA working definition of antisemitism as an essential resource in combating antisemitism and promoting tolerance and understanding;

(5) calls on all countries to endorse and make exclusive use of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, and to take effective measures to combat antisemitism, protect Jewish individuals and communities, and promote religious freedom and human rights for all; and

(6) urges the Federal Government to continue its efforts to combat antisemitism domestically and internationally, including through diplomatic channels, law enforcement cooperation, educational programs, and public awareness campaigns.

SENATE RESOLUTION 255—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 19, 2023, AS “WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY” IN ORDER TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE CONTINUED NEED FOR EMPIRICAL RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION SCREENINGS, NOVEL EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS LEADING TO A CURE, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL ANEMIA AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 255

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as “SCD”) is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders, a genetic condition present at birth, and a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas the 2023 theme of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, “Shine the Light on Sickle Cell”, is an immediate call to action to improve the health and quality of life for individuals living with SCD and their families;

Whereas, in 1972, Dr. Charles Whitten established the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America to improve research, education, and health care for SCD patients and which is now headquartered in Hanover, Maryland;

Whereas, in 1972, Congress passed the National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act (Public Law 92-294; 86 Stat. 136), which, for the first time, provided authority to establish education, information, screening, testing, counseling, research, and treatment programs for SCD;

Whereas sickle cell trait (referred to in this preamble as “SCT”) is a gene mutation that causes a single misspelling in the DNA instructions for hemoglobin, a protein that aids in carrying oxygen in the blood, and results in chronic complications, including anemia, stroke, infections, organ failure, tissue damage, intense periods of pain referred to as vaso-occlusive crises, and even premature death in individuals living with SCD;

Whereas SCT occurs when an individual inherits 1 copy of the sickle cell gene from 1 parent, and, when both parents have SCT, there is a 25 percent chance that any of their children will have SCD;

Whereas there are an estimated 3,000,000 individuals with SCT in the United States, with many unaware of their status;

Whereas an estimated 100,000 individuals have SCD in the United States, with 1 out of every 365 African-American births and 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic-American births resulting in SCD, and nearly 1 out of 13 African-American babies are born with SCT;

Whereas SCD affects millions of individuals throughout the world, especially individuals of genetic descent from sub-Saharan regions of Africa, South America, the Caribbean, Central America, Saudi Arabia, India, Turkey, Greece, and Italy;

Whereas the variance relating to disease prevalence of SCD ranges greatly by region, with rates as high as 40 percent in certain regions of sub-Saharan Africa, eastern Saudi Arabia, and central India;

Whereas, in many countries that are poor in resources, more than 90 percent of children with SCD do not live to see adulthood;

Whereas approximately 1,000 children in Africa are born with SCD each day, more than ½ of whom will die before their fifth birthday;

Whereas the high prevalence of SCD in the central and western regions of India results in approximately 20 percent of babies diagnosed with SCD in those regions dying before the age of 2;

Whereas, in 2006, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution, adopted by the United Nations in 2009, recognizing SCD as a public health priority with a call to action for each country to implement measures to tackle the disease;

Whereas screening newborns for SCD is a crucial first step for families to obtain a timely diagnosis, to obtain comprehensive care, and to decrease the mortality rate for children with respect to SCD;

Whereas approved treatments for SCD are limited, with the Food and Drug Administration approving only 4 SCD therapies since 2017, but, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, there are more than 40 SCD therapies in development;

Whereas there is an immediate need for lifesaving therapeutics that can improve the duration and quality of life for individuals with SCD;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address SCD, which highlights the need to develop new innovative therapies and to address barriers to the equitable access of approved treatments;

Whereas, in 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the American Society of Hematology and the SickleInAfrica Consortium, and in collaboration with the World Health Organization, hosted a webinar for a joint effort to strengthen efforts to combat SCD during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond;

Whereas the late Kwaku Ohene-Frempong, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, an American Society of Hematology member who founded and served as a member of the Global Sickle Cell Disease Network, was a leader in advancing the body of knowledge in SCD research, public health, and medicine and is recognized as immeasurably benefitting thousands of children worldwide;

Whereas there are emerging genetic therapy technologies, including gene editing, that can modify a patient’s own hematopoietic stem cells to enable them to

generate healthy red blood cells to prevent sickle cell crises;

Whereas hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSC-T”) is currently the only cure for SCD, and while advancements in treatment for complications associated with SCD have been made, more research is needed to find widely available and accessible treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas, although June 19, 2023, has been designated as “World Sickle Cell Awareness Day” to increase public awareness across the United States and global community about SCD, there remains a continued need for empirical research, early detection screenings, novel effective treatments leading to a cure, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell anemia and conditions relating to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day;

(2) commits to ensuring equitable access to new sickle cell disease (referred to in this resolution as “SCD”) treatments by shining the light among all economic, racial, and ethnic groups to improve health outcomes for individuals living with SCD;

(3) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to create global policy solutions aimed at providing support for the global community with respect to SCD and, in partnership with local governments, the domestic resources needed to provide access to newborn screening programs, therapeutic interventions, and support services with respect to SCD;

(4) supports eliminating barriers to equitable access to innovative SCD therapies, including cell, gene, and gene-editing therapies in the Medicare and Medicaid systems for the most vulnerable patients;

(5) encourages the people of the United States and the world to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities on World Sickle Cell Awareness Day to raise public awareness of SCD traits, preventative-care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from SCD, complications from SCD, and conditions relating to SCD;

(6) encourages the President to form a Sickle Cell Disease Interagency Group, which should include the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to work toward policies that will support equitable and appropriate access to innovative SCD therapies; and

(7) with respect to the policies described in paragraph (6), urges the interagency group described in that paragraph to consider options that not only address access to potential future curative treatments for SCD, but also address the bias that the population most affected by SCD continues to face within the United States and global healthcare systems.

SENATE RESOLUTION 256—RECOGNIZING FATHER’S DAY AND THE ROLE OF FATHER ENGAGEMENT IN IMPROVING THE OVERALL HEALTH AND LIFE OUTCOMES FOR BOTH THE MOTHER AND BABY

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 256

Whereas Father’s Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June and will be celebrated in the United States on Sunday, June 18, 2023;

Whereas increased father engagement can play an important role in—

- (1) improving maternal health care;
- (2) addressing maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States;
- (3) bettering the development of the child; and
- (4) the long-term growth of the child;

Whereas research has found that supporting families holistically and actively by including and engaging fathers in all aspects of maternal health care, from preconception, through pregnancy, and during the first-year postpartum, can positively impact short term and long term health outcomes, improving—

(1) pregnancy and postpartum health, as when fathers are involved and engaged, mothers are—

(A) more likely to receive early and regular prenatal care;

(B) at reduced risk of perinatal mood and anxiety disorders (referred to in this preamble as “PMADs”);

(C) less likely to smoke, drink, or misuse drugs during the pregnancy and perinatal period;

(D) more likely to eat well and take recommended vitamins;

(E) more likely to follow the recommendations of a physician;

(F) less likely to experience complications during pregnancy and labor; and

(G) more likely to have a healthy, safe birth, and more likely to sustain breastfeeding; and

(2) the health and well-being of the baby, including—

(A) improving healthy development;

(B) improving outcomes in school;

(C) reducing rates of teen pregnancies;

(D) reducing risk of substance use; and

(E) improving future executive function;

Whereas methods to empower fathers as advocates for both mother and baby include—

(1) addressing cultural beliefs about fatherhood and the role of men in maternal health and families, especially beliefs that discourage father participation;

(2) peer-to-peer, father-to-father encouragement and support;

(3) involving fathers in prenatal and postpartum care;

(4) providing fathers with information about what to expect before, during, and after birth, and how a father can better understand and support their partner, as well as to help the mother and father bond together as a parenting team; and

(5) educating and engaging fathers in conversations and guidance about mental health, breastfeeding practices, health care appointments, safe sleep, physical touch, and father-child bonding and early childhood development;

Whereas 1 in 5 women experience a PMAD, with suicide being the leading cause of preventable maternal deaths;

Whereas the added support of father engagement reduces the risks of PMADs and contributes to—

- (1) a lower chance of preterm birth; and
- (2) a healthier birth weight;

Whereas the support of the father during pregnancy can help promote cessation of smoking, drinking, and drug use in the mother;

Whereas father involvement during pregnancy has been linked with a 36 percent reduction in smoking in a mother;

Whereas increasing outreach for fathers to join group prenatal care models and to at-

tend prenatal and postnatal appointments will help prepare both parents and create opportunities for the parents to view pregnancy and parenting as a team effort;

Whereas evidence shows that when fathers are involved during pregnancy appointments and milestones, mothers are 1.5 times more likely to receive prenatal care in the first trimester, which improves health outcomes for both the mother and baby;

Whereas the participation of the father during prenatal care appointments provides the mother with additional support to recognize potential pregnancy-related complications that could lead to maternal morbidity and mortality, such as—

- (1) preeclampsia;
- (2) preterm labor;
- (3) PMADs;
- (4) pregnancy loss or miscarriage;
- (5) stillbirth;
- (6) high blood pressure;
- (7) cervical infections;
- (8) gestational diabetes;
- (9) placental abruption;
- (10) ectopic pregnancy; and
- (11) uterine rupture;

Whereas physical contact between the father and the baby just after birth and in the months following birth has been shown to support and improve the health and development of the baby, improve the mental health of the father, and foster father-child bonding in the short term and long term;

Whereas studies show that engaging fathers in conversations about safe sleep guidelines can help increase safe sleep and reduce infant deaths;

Whereas providing fathers with guidance about infant crying and the risks of shaken baby syndrome can reduce infant deaths;

Whereas the active support of the father during breastfeeding greatly increases the chances of sustained breastfeeding, which improves the physical and mental health of the baby and the mother;

Whereas removing barriers to father engagement can encourage greater involvement during pregnancy, delivery, and parenthood, such as—

(1) offering moderated father support groups and classes;

(2) changing messaging about societal perceptions on the role of the father in pregnancy and parenting; and

(3) health care providers offering prenatal appointments outside of regular work hours, through telehealth and through take-home father-focused resources; and

Whereas support from a warm and emotionally responsive father improves the life and development of their child as the child grows into adolescence, as the child—

- (1) is less emotionally reactive;
- (2) experiences less depression;
- (3) is less prone to mood and anxiety disorders; and
- (4) relates better with other children;

Whereas the sustained involvement of a father with their child to the age of 7 helps negate the risk of psychological maladjustment;

Whereas a trusting relationship between a caring father and son will help the son grow into a strong father themselves;

Whereas a litany of research relates positive outcomes with increased father involvement with their child, including—

- (1) higher academic achievement;
- (2) better school readiness and performance;
- (3) higher self-esteem; and
- (4) greater social awareness;

Whereas the involvement of a loving father in the life of a 16-year-old child predicts less psychological distress for that child when they reach adulthood;

Whereas 1,300 step families are formed every day and 1 out of every 25 families with

children have adopted a child, demonstrating a variety of fatherhood experiences; and

Whereas the genuine love of a father is irreplaceable, and the positive externalities that coincide with the love of a father prove both the power of genuine affection and the responsibility fathers have in caring for their children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the important role of fathers in increasing positive maternal health outcomes and reducing maternal mortality and morbidity;

(2) acknowledges that father engagement efforts provide continuous physical and emotional support, which can contribute to healthier pregnancies, safer deliveries, and successful postpartum recoveries;

(3) acknowledges that sustained engagement by a father throughout the life of their child is a privileged responsibility that fulfills the father as much as the child; and

(4) wishes all fathers and father figures in the United States a happy Father's Day.

SENATE RESOLUTION 257—DESIGNATING JULY 19, 2023, AS “GLIOBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 257

Whereas approximately 14,490 new cases of glioblastoma will be diagnosed in the United States in 2023;

Whereas glioblastoma is—

(1) the most common malignant (cancerous) brain tumor, accounting for approximately ½ of all primary malignant brain tumors; and

(2) the most aggressive, complex, difficult to treat, and deadly type of brain tumor;

Whereas it is estimated that more than 10,000 individuals in the United States will succumb to glioblastoma each year;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for glioblastoma patients is only 6.9 percent, and the median length of survival for glioblastoma patients is only 8 months;

Whereas glioblastoma is described as a disease that affects the “essence of self”, as the treatment and removal of glioblastoma presents significant challenges due to the uniquely complex and fragile nature of the brain, the primary organ in the human body that controls not only cognitive ability, but also the actions of every organ and limb;

Whereas patients and caregivers play a critical role in furthering research for glioblastoma;

Whereas, relative to other types of cancers, brain cancer patients pay the second highest out-of-pocket costs for medical services in both the initial and end-of-life phases of care;

Whereas, although research advances may fuel the development of new treatments for glioblastoma, challenging obstacles to accelerating progress toward new treatments for glioblastoma remain, and there are no screening or early detection methods;

Whereas, in 2021, the World Health Organization reclassified brain tumors and made significant changes to the molecular characteristics of a glioblastoma diagnosis, necessitating critical biomarker testing for patients suspected of having a possible glioblastoma;

Whereas, although glioblastoma was first described in medical and scientific literature

in the 1920s, and despite its devastating prognosis, only 5 drugs and 1 medical device have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration to specifically treat glioblastoma since the 1920s, and the mortality rates associated with glioblastoma have changed little during the past 30 years;

Whereas, since the first Glioblastoma Awareness Day, the National Cancer Institute established the Glioblastoma Therapeutics Network (referred to in this preamble as “GTN”) in 2020 as part of a national infrastructure to enhance and support the discovery and development of glioblastoma therapies available for multi-institutional GTN teams to drive therapeutic agents through pre-clinical studies and early-phase clinical trials, which are necessary to rapidly evaluate potential treatments to advance toward cures and improved quality of life; and

Whereas there is a need for greater public awareness of glioblastoma, including awareness of both—

(1) the urgent unmet medical needs of glioblastoma patients; and

(2) the opportunities for research of, and treatment advances for, glioblastoma: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 19, 2023, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages increased public awareness of glioblastoma;

(3) honors the individuals who have died from the devastating disease of glioblastoma or are currently living with the disease;

(4) supports efforts to develop better treatments for glioblastoma that will improve the long-term prognosis for, and the quality of life of, individuals diagnosed with the disease;

(5) recognizes the importance of molecular biomarker testing to the diagnosis and treatment of glioblastoma;

(6) expresses support for the individuals who are battling brain tumors, as well as the families, friends, and caregivers of those individuals;

(7) urges a collaborative approach to brain tumor research among governmental, private, and nonprofit organizations, which is a promising means of advancing the understanding and treatment of glioblastoma; and

(8) encourages continued investments in glioblastoma research and treatments, including through the Glioblastoma Therapeutics Network and other existing brain tumor research resources.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is author-

ized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHEMICAL SAFETY, WASTE MANAGEMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following associates who are working with me this summer in my office be granted floor privileges until June 16, 2023: Ms. Lauren Gachassin and Ms. Jolea Simpson.

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

RECOGNIZING FATHER'S DAY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 256, 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. 256) recognizing Father's Day and the role of father engagement in improving the overall health and life outcomes for both the mother and baby.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, 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. 256) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

GLIOBLASTOMA AWARENESS DAY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 257, 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. 257) designating July 19, 2023, as “Glioblastoma Awareness Day”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, 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. 257) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2023, THROUGH TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned, to convene for a pro forma session with no business being conducted on Friday, June 16, at 10 a.m.; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Rikelman nomination, postcloture, and that all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; and further, that the cloture motions filed during today’s session ripen on Wednesday, June 21.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. MURRAY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I

ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator SCHMITT.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

FATHER’S DAY

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, Father’s Day is coming up. Father’s Day is this Sunday.

As a dad—and, actually, my two daughters are coming into the Galleries right now—it is a time for reflection and for gratitude, quite frankly.

I delivered my maiden speech earlier this week, on Tuesday, and a big part of that was of the influence that my father had on my life. Growing up in a working-class neighborhood and seeing him work 7 days a week on the 12 midnight shift and going to events and being a great role model for me is something that I am eternally grateful for.

I have had a lot of different positions or jobs or titles, but the most important one that I will ever have is being a father to my son Stephen and to my two daughters, Sophia and Olivia.

I also mentioned in that maiden speech the inspiration that my son gave me to run for office. Stephen was born with a rare genetic condition and suffers from epilepsy. He is nonverbal. He gave me and has given me, every day, a perspective on what is really important and what my focus is.

I know, for a lot of dads out there, being a father keeps them grounded. It is the most important thing that they will ever do. We all have important business to do even in this place, but being a dad is paramount.

And I have got my two daughters. I talk about Stephen a lot because Stephen, again, was my inspiration. He has profound medical challenges that my wife and I—and Jaime is here as well—deal with every day. If Stephen were here, he would be giving us big hugs. He is a great kid. My two daughters, in their own rights, are incredible people. Sophia is on her journey and is a great kid, a great swimmer. I am just blessed to be her dad. Then Olivia was asking thoughtful questions on the way here. So we know the statistics are just simply undeniable, and that is certainly my story.

But I know that, across the board, in a larger sense, the litany of research related to the positive outcomes that fathers have when they are involved with their children are those of better school readiness and performance, higher self-esteem, greater social awareness. Increased father engagement can play an important role in improving maternal healthcare, in addressing maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States, and in bettering the development of the child and the long-term growth of the child.

It was an honor to sponsor this resolution with the Senator from Georgia, my friend, as we shared what we thought was really important to come before this Chamber in advance of Father’s Day.

This resolution recognizes what we already know—that the presence of a strong father contributes to a child’s life in insurmountable ways. It is hard to calculate what those are. We have some statistics, but we all know that intuitively, and it strengthens our society as a whole. It is important that we recognize that and celebrate that on this Father’s Day.

So, to all of the dads out there, have a great Father’s Day. I don’t know what is on your wish list, but I hope you enjoy it and that we all have a greater sense of gratitude for the most important job we will ever have in our lives.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow, Friday, June 16, 2023.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3:02 p.m., adjourned until Friday, June 16, 2023, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate June 15, 2023:

THE JUDICIARY

NUSRAT JAHAN CHOUDHURY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.