House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro temore (Mr. MCHENRY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God our creator, our redeemer, and our sustainer, as we return again this week to these Chambers, we are keenly aware that we need also return to You. It is hard not to think that You have cast us off, rejecting us and our feeble attempts to lead ourselves. You no doubt are angry with us, but we pray You will restore us.

You have shaken the earth around us and torn it open. The wounds of our warring madness are painfully evident in Israel and Gaza, Ukraine, and too many other fractured places across the globe. Only You can heal the breaches of decency and democracy.

You have shown us hardship. You have allowed us to endure desperate and dire moments. You have made us doubt are angry with us, but we pray You will restore us.

You alone can save us from the un-certainty that surrounds us. You alone can guide us through the disorder of the darkness that seeks to overcome our spirits.

We pray then that You would redeem us, lead us, and enrich us in Your mercy. In Your sovereign name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. THANEDAR) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THANEDAR 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.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1843

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCHENRY) at 6 o’clock and 43 minutes p.m.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker pro tempore, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker pro tempore, I move that the House do now adjourn. The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o’clock and 43 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at noon.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third quarter of 2023, pursuant to Public Law 93-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO JAPAN, EXPENDED BETWEEN SEPT. 6 AND 14, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Member or employee</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Per diem¹</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Other purposes</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arrival</td>
<td>Departure</td>
<td>Foreign currency</td>
<td>U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency²</td>
<td>Foreign currency</td>
<td>U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency³</td>
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<td>Hon. Kevin McCarthy</td>
<td>9/6</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Natalie Joyce</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<td>Allen Souza</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
<td>1,317.43</td>
<td>1,317.43</td>
<td>4,851.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Ms. DELBENE):
H.R. 6020. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to eliminate consideration of the income of organ recipients in providing reimbursement of expenses to donating individuals, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HEYER:
H.R. 6021. A bill to prohibit the transportation, sale, and purchase of donkeys or donkey hides for the purpose of producing ejiao, to prohibit the transportation, sale, and purchase of products containing ejiao, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BURLISON (for himself and Mr. LATTA):
H.R. 6022. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to exempt from CFATS regulations certain propane tanks, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. BACON):
H.R. 6023. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the retroactive payment of benefits for veterans with covered mental health conditions based on military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania (for herself and Mr. ROBERTS):
H.R. 6024. A bill to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to extend the increased transfer authority for a certain study on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances contamination in drinking water, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. McGOVERN):
H.R. 6025. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to eliminate the repatriation loan program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. POSTER:
H.R. 6026. A bill to amend section 262 of the Museum and Library Services Act to authorize the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services to award grants to institutions of higher education for courses that use only publicly available digital resources for required reading assignments, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself and Mr. DAVIES of Georgia):

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. McCLINTOCK, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. GAERTZ):
H.R. 6028. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act regarding marhuana, and for other purposes.

By Mr. PANETTI (for himself, Ms. TUCKER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BONE, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. CHU, Mr. KRASNOYOUTH, Mr. SCHRIER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. TITUS, and Mr. VEASEY):
H.R. 6029. A bill to provide Medicaid assistance to individuals and families affected by a disaster or emergency, and for other purposes.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. LOIS FRANZEL of Florida, Mr. KUSTER, Mr. NEUSE, Mr. SOTO, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. VEASEY):
H.R. 6030. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide an option for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability to buy into Medicare.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. NORRIS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. COSTA, Ms. WILD, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MCBATH, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PETITIE, Ms. SALINA, Mr. CLEAVIER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. TRONE, Mr. ESCOBAR, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CHERIFLIUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. BUSH, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. KAPUT, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LOFOREO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. ROE of North Carolina, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BRATTTY, Ms. PETTIES, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. SOTO, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEVY, Ms. SCHIFF, Ms. CHU, Mr. KRASNOYOUTH, Mr. SCHRIER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. JACOB, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LOIS FRANZEL of Florida, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MEH bottleneck, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BARRAGAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. CARDENAS):
H.R. 6031. A bill to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.
H.R. 6032. A bill to amend Public Law 88-657 to require greater transparency in the consideration of projects for the Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CICOMANI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. WEBSTER, Ms. VARGAS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. LOE of Nevada, and Ms. SIERRA):

H.R. 6032. A bill to require the Secretaries of Health and Human Services to establish a task force to improve access to health care information technology for non-English speakers.

By Ms. SYKES:

H.R. 6034. A bill to criminalize stalking using an unauthorized geotracking device, modify the 10-year marriage rule relating to spouse’s and surviving spouse’s insurance benefits in cases of domestic violence, ensure that healthcare providers can assist survivors of domestic violence, provide additional housing protections for survivors of domestic violence, and for other purposes.

By Ms. SYKES:

H.R. 6035. A bill to criminalize stalking using an unauthorized geotracking device.

By Mr. TANNENBAUM:

H.R. 6036. A bill to require GAO to conduct annual assessments to determine the extent to which TSA’s passenger security screening practices comply with TSA non-discrimination policies to identify any needed actions to improve compliance, and for other purposes.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself and Mr. CAREY):

H.R. 6037. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish the Emergency Micro-enterprise Recovery Grant Pilot Program, and for other purposes.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 6038. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Reducing Youth Use of E-Cigarettes Initiative.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELAURA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. LEK of California, Mr. MPUME, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, and Ms. VELAZQUEZ):

H.R. 6039. A bill to provide that chapter 1 of title 9 of the United States Code, relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements, shall not apply to enrollment agreements made by students and certain institutions of higher education, and to prohibit limitations on the ability of students to pursue claims against certain institutions of higher education.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HOGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BUSCHON, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GUESS, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MCCORMACK, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. WEISS of Texas, Mr. LUKTERMeyer, Mr. MANN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. ABERHOLTY):

H. Con. Res. 74. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women’s Health and Strengthening the Family and urging that the United States rejoin this historic declaration.

By Ms. BALINT:

H. Res. 805. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of October 24, 2023, to October 31, 2023, as “BatWeek”.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Ms. LEE):

H. Res. 806. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of October 2023, as “World Menopause Awareness Month” and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding global awareness and access to care during the menopausal transition and post-menopause.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia (for herself, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. COLLINS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MILLER of Texas, Mr. ANDERSON, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. WITTMAN):

H. Res. 807. A resolution censuring Representative Rashida Tlaib for antisemitic activity, sympathizing with terrorist organizations, and leading an insurrection at the United States Capitol Complex.

By Mr. PENCE (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. MILLER of Texas, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. WITTMAN):

H. Res. 809. A resolution recognizing the 40th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the United States Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 23, 1983.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H. Res. 809. A resolution recognizing Ret Toll Reef off the coast of San Leon, Texas, in Galveston Bay, and all those associated with bringing the project to fruition.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 6020. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Access to assistance for organ donations.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 6021. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Animal protection.

By Mr. BURLISON:

H.R. 6022. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill relates to homeland security, specifically exemptions made under the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorist Standards program.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 6023. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution which provides Congress with the power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises in order to provide for the general Welfare of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill subject is veteran benefits related to military sexual trauma.

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 6024. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Provision of veterans benefits in cases of domestic violence.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 6025. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to eliminate the repatriation loan program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 6026. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 6027. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, § 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Controlled Substances Act Regarding Marijuana, and for Other Purposes.

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 6030. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Expanding Health Care Options to First Responders Act aims to provide an insurance option through the Medicare program for first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability.

By Mrs. SANCHEZ:

H.R. 6031. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section VIII, Clause 18, Congress has the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Medicaid policy during presidential major disaster declarations and public health emergencies.

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 6032. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, “to provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education.

By Mr. SCHRIER:

H.R. 6032. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, Congress has the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of this legislation is:

Forestry.

By Mrs. STEHL:

H.R. 6033. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
H.R. 5097: Mr. DESaulnier and Ms. Schakowsky.
H.R. 5131: Mr. Williams of New York.
H.R. 5139: Mr. Raskin.
H.R. 5141: Ms. Lofgren.
H.R. 5266: Ms. Caravage, Mr. Cicomani, Mr. Tony Gonzalez of Texas, Mr. Johnson of Ohio, Mr. CarbaJal, Mr. Garbarino, and Ms. Malliotakis.
H.R. 5281: Ms. Brownley.
H.R. 5320: Mrs. Trahan.
H.R. 5329: Mrs. Trahan.
H.R. 5362: Mrs. Trahan.
H.R. 5365: Mrs. Trahan.
H.R. 5312: Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Carter of Louisiana.
H.R. 5319: Mr. Banks.
H.R. 5332: Ms. Jayapal and Mr. Peters.
H.R. 5399: Ms. Meng and Mr. Reschenthaler.
H.R. 5435: Mr. Nickel.
H.R. 5455: Mr. BesT.
H.R. 5526: Mr. Joyce of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5535: Ms. Hagerman.
H.R. 5540: Mr. Caravage.
H.R. 5573: Ms. Kuster and Ms. Chu.
H.R. 5585: Mr. D’Esposito.
H.R. 5619: Mr. Huffman, Ms. Bonamici, and Mrs. Watson Coleman.
H.R. 5646: Ms. Wasserman Schultz.
H.R. 5683: Mrs. Fletcher.
H.R. 5707: Mr. Paschell and Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 5718: Mr. Donals.
H.R. 5735: Mr. Casar.
H.R. 5756: Mr. Swalwell.
H.R. 5758: Ms. Norton and Mr. Pocan.
H.R. 5796: Mr. Mann and Mr. Thompson of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5867: Mr. Scott Franklin of Florida.
H.R. 5885: Ms. Bonamici.
H.R. 5907: Mr. Gottheimer and Mr. Goldman of New York.
H.R. 5912: Mr. Stiube.
H.R. 5921: Mr. LaLota.
H.R. 5928: Mr. Garamendi and Mr. Sorensen.
H.R. 5931: Ms. Plaskett.
H.R. 5933: Mr. James, Mr. Burlison, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Norman.
H.R. 5938: Ms. Brownley.
H.R. 5959: Mr. Babin.
H.R. 5979: Mr. Rutherford.
H.R. 5984: Mr. Davis of North Carolina.
H.R. 5987: Mr. Trone.
H.R. 5988: Ms. Gomez, Ms. Plaskett, Mr. Kildee, Ms. Malliotakis, Ms. Van Dyne, and Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 5989: Ms. Sewell, Mr. Crow, and Mr. Davis of North Carolina.
H.R. 5990: Mr. Davis of North Carolina.
H.R. 5995: Mr. Castro of Texas and Mr. Casar.
H.R. 6006: Mr. Meuser, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. Stetthe, Mr. Weber of Texas, and Ms. De La Cruz.
H.R. 6014: Mr. Ivey and Mr. Johnson of Georgia.
H.R. 6017: Mr. Calvert.
H.J. Res. 88: Mr. Flood.
H. Res. 108: Mrs. Fletcher.
H. Res. 149: Mr. Quigley, Mr. Casten, and Ms. Williams of Georgia.
H. Res. 389: Mr. Connolly, Mr. Carter of Louisiana, and Ms. Brownley.
H. Res. 527: Mr. Armstrong.
H. Res. 627: Mr. Latta, Mr. Owens, and Mr. D’Esposito.
H. Res. 668: Ms. Perez and Mr. D’Esposito.
H. Res. 703: Mr. Blumenauer.
H. Res. 735: Mr. Goldman of New York.
H. Res. 762: Ms. Sánchez, Mr. García of Illinois, Ms. Barragán, Mr. Costa, and Mr. Tanedak.
H. Res. 774: Mr. Groatman and Mr. Walberg.
H. Res. 793: Mr. Williams of New York, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Davis of North Carolina, Mr. Obernolte, and Mr. Jackson of North Carolina.
H. Res. 794: Mr. Mollinaro.
H. Res. 797: Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mrs. Miller-Meeks, and Mr. LaLota.
H. Res. 789: Mrs. Hinson.
H. Res. 803: Mr. D’Esposito, Mr. Calvert, and Mr. Bacon.
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who soars on the wings of the wind, we cry to You, and You hear us. You rescue us from life’s deep waters, restoring us when we feel powerless.

Continue to show Yourself faithful as our lawmakers seek to accomplish your purposes. Lord, be a shield for them as they place their trust in You. When they lose their courage, continue to be the God of their salvation. When they cry to You for help, answer their request. When they feel the pains of despair, fill them with Your hope, peace, and love. May they always remember that You will never forsake them.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 24, 2023.

To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael G. Whitaker, of Vermont, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last week, President Biden addressed the Nation from the Oval Office to affirm that America will stand with her friends and allies in the face of authoritarians like China, Russia, and Iran, who seek to annihilate democracy.

The future of democracy around the world faces the greatest threat since the end of the Cold War. At this pivotal moment in history, America is once again called upon to rise to the occasion and to lead the way.

President Biden has now sent Congress a supplemental funding request for aid for our ally and partner Israel, aid for our friends in Ukraine, and funding to outcompete the Chinese Government and secure our southern border from threats like fentanyl. We must pass this supplemental as soon as we can with bipartisan support for a simple and important reason: It will make the world safer for the United States, for our allies, and for our democratic values.

In Europe, Vladimir Putin continues his onslaught against the Ukrainian people, and it is foolish to think he will stop there. In the Middle East, Hamas’s brutal terrorism murdered the most Jewish people in a single day since the Holocaust and threatens our strongest ally in the Middle East. Democrats and Republicans alike know that if Putin, Hamas, or other adversaries succeed, it would endanger Americans around the world.

Now that Congress has received the President’s request, I will make it a top priority for the Senate to act quickly, decisively, and most importantly, with strong bipartisan conviction.

Bipartisanship must lead the way as we take up the President’s supplemental request.

To my Republican colleagues, let’s work together to ensure that this process remains bipartisan, because only things that win support from both sides will make it to the President’s desk.

Democrats and Republicans agree we must stand with Israel. So let’s pass this supplemental, with humanitarian aid to help civilians in Gaza and elsewhere, as soon as we can.

Democrats and Republicans also agree we must stand with Ukraine. After all, over 70 Members voted for Ukraine funding last month in our CR. So let’s pass this supplemental as soon as we can.
And both sides want to outcompete the Chinese Government, secure our border from threats like fentanyl, and provide humanitarian aid to minimize civilian casualties in both Israel and Gaza.

All of these priorities are bipartisan. All of these provisions are included in the President’s request. So let’s get to work in the coming weeks to pass this supplemental package quickly and with strong bipartisan support.

With the know-how that Representatives in paralyzation, the Senate will not act to. We will step into the breach and make sure the business of legislating continues. And if we act with enough bipartisan conviction, I believe it would go a long way to pushing the House to getting its act together and following suit.

The world will watch very closely what actions we take in Congress over the next couple weeks. We must send an unambiguous message to the country, to our allies, and to our adversaries that America will always spring to the defense of our allies in their hour of need. That is why we must pass this supplemental package quickly and with strong bipartisan support.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

No matter how the GOP impasse in the House continues today, we will hold our second bipartisan AI Insight Forum, focusing on our North Star for AI: innovation. Our forum begins at 3 p.m. today in the Kennedy Caucus Room, and I encourage my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to attend.

We had a strong bipartisan turnout for our inaugural AI Insight Forum and I hope we will see the same today. It is important to show how bipartisan and how seriously we are taking AI here in the Senate.

Today’s AI Insight Forum includes some of the Nation’s leading voices in labor, academia, business, tech, civil rights, and others, coming together to hold an unvarnished, candid, and urgent debate on AI. The topic today will be how the private sector can foster innovation. We will talk about the need for transformative innovation—of the types of AI systems that will create new vistas, unlock new cures, improve education, protect national security, preserve the global food supply, and more. We will also talk about the need for sustainable innovation—innovations that can solve the deep challenges of AI, like increasing transparency and security, and reducing bias and risk. And this means supporting effective guardrails, because everyone agreed at our last forum, from one end of the spectrum to the other, that if the Federal Government doesn’t impose some guardrails, there will be none, and the whole innovation of AI could come tumbling down.

We need to prioritize both transformative and sustainable innovation. We must find a balance between innovation and guardrails, without going too far in one direction and hurting the other.

And I want to thank my colleagues in our bipartisan AI little gang—Senators ROUD, HEINRICH, and YOUNG—for helping to organize and run today’s AI Insight Forum.

Again, for the information of Senators, our forum begins at 3 p.m. today in the Kennedy Caucus Room. I hope to see you all there.

TECH HUBS

Mr. President, now, on tech hubs, yesterday was a really exciting day, thanks to two words: “tech hubs.” I spent the day traveling across Upstate New York, sharing the great news that the Buffalo-Rochester-Syracuse and Finger Lakes region just won the prestigious tech hub designation that I created in our CHIPS and Science Act. This announcement means one thing: More good-paying, long-lasting jobs are coming to Upstate New York, an area that has seen so many companies leave over the last three or four decades.

Yesterday’s tech hubs celebration was something I have been working hard toward for a very long time. When I was writing the tech hubs program with Senate appropriators, our bipartisan Endless Frontiers Act, and then into the CHIPS and Science Act, I had Upstate New York in mind, and, now, thanks to this new designation, communities and cities across Upstate New York are facing an awakening. The region is now primed to become a global hub for workforce training, innovation, and semiconductor manufacturing.

But it is not just Upstate New York that is affected. It is a metaphor for the whole country. There are 2 tech hubs in New York and 30 other around the country, from coast to coast, in red States and blue States. And when I talked about tech hubs for cities like Rochester and Buffalo and Syracuse and Binghamton, my colleague and friend on the Republican side, TodD YOUNG, was talking about tech hubs in his State of Indiana, in places like Indianapolis, South Bend, and Fort Wayne.

The whole idea is this. The tech industry has gravitated to a few large cities—my own city of New York, which has greatly benefitted, San Francisco, Boston, Austin, and Los Angeles—but there is a load of talent in the rest of the country. It is just that no one paid attention to these places. That is the idea of tech hubs.

There were four hundred applications for tech hubs across the country in the Department of Commerce, and I salute Secretary Raimondo, who was very careful in picking the places where it could actually work, and that is why there are 30.

So this is a great thing, and it will spread. It will take advantage of the talent that already exists. Companies and universities and individuals and schools—in the heartland of the country, not just on the coasts—and give them a real chance to take part and create tens of thousands—millions—of good-paying jobs in every part of the country.

So I was really proud of the tech hubs proposal, and it is going to continue. We are going to put more funding into it. We are going to do everything we can to help tech hubs grow and help America grow and stay No. 1 in the world, because when we invest in science and high-end manufacturing and research, everybody—everybody—benefits.

So this is good news in red States and in blue States. Secretary Raimondo didn’t look around and just say, “Oh, we can only do blue States,” like Donald Trump might have done. She has put them in all the places that they will be new help.

So let’s look at the contrast here, folks. While the House Republicans struggle to even select a Speaker, these tech hub announcements show that President Biden and Democrats are delivering, putting tens of thousands of people to work in good-paying jobs, opening new plants and factories, and securing American leadership in the technologies of tomorrow.

Not in a very long time has the contrast between the parties been as glaring as today, when Democrat leads the way, Americans see more jobs, more manufacturing, lower costs. When Republicans are in charge—right-wing Republicans, not all of them, but the right-wing seem to be running the show of the MAGA Republic—it leads to paralysis, chaos, and extremism.

No matter how the GOP impasse in the House is resolved, we will not change our focus as Democrats. We will create more jobs, work to lower costs, and do it on a bipartisan basis wherever we can.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, over the weekend, the southern border crisis set a sobering new record. In the past year, CBP conducted more border apprehensions than in any year on record. Officials reported more than 2.4 million apprehensions since last October, and this number doesn’t even count the illegal entries that actually evaded authorities.

Moreover, this news isn’t actually new. Last year was the third straight year we set an all-time record for border apprehensions. In other words, every year that President Biden has been in charge of border security, his administration hasn’t simply failed; it has failed to a historic and catastrophic degree.

America has had functionally open borders for years. Along with millions of illegal aliens, we have allowed Chinese fentanyl and other lethal drugs to literally pour into our country and kill thousands of Americans every year.

So the Democrats’ border crisis isn’t new. What is new is their supposed desire to do something about it. Now that blue State mayors and Governors are starting to feel the consequences of this catastrophic policy failure, the Biden administration says it now wants to take action. Of course, the administration mostly just wants to throw money at the problem and at its friends in local government. Apparently, the preferred response to a border crisis is a blue State bailout.

Media outlets are now reporting that the President’s border crisis is making history of its own. In the past year, southern border apprehensions of individuals on the terror watchlist broke an all-time record, the record that was just set the year before.

Even President Biden’s Department of Homeland Security has admitted in its 2023 “Homeland Threat Assessment” that “record encounters of migrants at a growing number of countries have complicated border and immigration security.”

The American people have watched the Biden administration spend their way into plenty of problems, but they haven’t managed to spend their way out of a single one yet.

Our country deserves real law enforcement and real borders. Border security is national security. And on that front, the Senate has a lot of work to do.

ISRAEL

Mr. President, on a related matter, in the coming days and weeks, the Senate will work urgently to address several major, related threats to the American people, to our allies, and our interests at home and abroad.

After Russia’s escalation against Ukraine last year, the savage Iran-backed terrorists in Israel, once again, reminded the civilized world of the persistent evil that demands our attention and our action.

The United States must stand with our ally Israel for as long as it takes to restore Israeli territorial integrity and to make sure the stateless and stateless people who sponsor and fuel terrorism do not attack innocent Israelis, their homes, or their communities.

Unfortunately, our own Western media haven’t made that task any easier. Some of the most disturbing firsthand accounts reported the savages responsible for the October 7 attacks had beheaded Israeli infants and committed other unspeakable atrocities. Some in the press leapt to express skepticism and even disregard the reports of eyewitnesses. But these sickening accounts were proven to be true.

In an especially reckless example, America’s “paper of record” took the word of Gaza’s terrorist overlords and actually embraced the reports of a terrorist organization that itself has literally laced up its shoes, traveled around the world before truth literally laced up its shoes.

Perhaps the corporate media organizations that have spent years warning about disinformation should exercise a bit more caution with the claims of a terrorist organization that uses civilians as human shields.

So let us get a few things straight. There is a humanitarian crisis in Gaza. People are suffering. The blame for their suffering belongs solely to the terrorists who divert humanitarian and economic assistance and build terror tunnels and rocket launchers instead.

And the solution is not to use the same corrupted mechanisms to allow Hamas to further exploit this crisis of its own making.

The Israeli Government’s stated intention is to destroy Hamas’s capacity to wage war and end the stranglehold of terror that fuels and funds rockets and improvised explosive devices.

And the West has every reason to expect that Israel will hold itself—as it always does—to the highest standards of humane conduct. But make no mistake, war is hell. This will be a difficult, bloody, and costly fight. And we must strike back hard at anyone who threatens U.S. personnel.

Deterrence has failed, and the United States must restore it before Iran-backed terrorists kill Americans. We must strike back hard at anyone who targets U.S. personnel.

More broadly, it is time for President Biden to close the book on his failed Iran policy. It is past time to work with Republicans to craft a bipartisan Iran strategy that will actually outlive this administration, unite America’s allies, and counter the full range of threats Iran poses to the region and to the world. This has to include confirming that Iran is the world’s most active state sponsor of terror. We ignore this growing threat at our own peril.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

Mr. BUTLER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL G. WHITAKER

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, a quick note about the business pending before the Senate: leadership at the FAA, the Federal Aviation Administration.

It has been more than 18 months since the FAA last had a Senate-confirmed leader, and in that time, we have seen an alarming number of close calls on runways and operational challenges, including the outage of the critical Notice to Air Missions system. Compounding these issues is a shortage of air traffic controllers that has led to flight delays and cancelations.

The FAA urgently needs a permanent leader to address these concurrent challenges and guarantee the safety of travelers. Michael Whitaker is that leader, and I am glad that the Senate is going to confirm him over the next day or so.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Madam President, next, I would like to turn to a different topic.
Seeing is believing, we often say. But that is not really true anymore because, thanks to artificial intelligence, we are increasingly encountering fake images, doctored videos, and manipulated audio. Whether we are watching TV, answering the phone, or scrolling through our social media feeds, it has become harder and harder to trust our own eyes and our own ears. The boundaries of reality are becoming blurrier every day.

We need always consumed information under the assumption that what we are seeing and hearing is coming from the source that it says it is from and that a human has created it. It is such a basic notion that it is left unsaid and taken for granted. But right now, that assumption is under threat.

Deception is not new. Fraud is not new. Misinformation is not new. These are age-old problems, of course. What is new, though, is how quickly and easily someone can deceive or defraud and do it on a vast scale. With the powerful generative AI tools at their fingertips, all content creators need are just a few minutes to spin up a scam or a lie: doctored images falsely claiming that there was an explosion at the Pentagon, doctored videos making it look like your member of Congress was kidnapped, and manipulated audio clips of elected officials saying things they did not say.

These are just some of the examples of misuse we have already seen. It is not a parade of horrors about the future of AI; these are things that already happened.

We are only scratching the surface of what is possible with AI, and because the possibilities are so vast—much of it yet to be discovered—it is easy to feel overwhelmed by it all, to think it is so complicated that even we do not know where to start. But we do know where to start.

This issue of distinguishing whether content is made by a human or made by a machine actually has a very direct answer: labels. They will help companies and not the consumers—indeed, the companies themselves, I suspect—learn about AI, both its opportunities and threats. Yes, there is no simple answer or single solution for a very, very complex challenge and set of opportunities. But there is one thing we know to be true right now: People deserve to know if the content they are encountering was made by a human or not. This isn’t a radical, new idea; it is common sense.

There is a long road ahead for regulating AI in the policymaking space, but that should not prevent us from doing this good and sensible thing as soon as we can.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366; that during the consideration of Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, Murray-Collins substitute amendment No. 1092 be considered an Appropriations Committee amendment for the purposes of rule XVI, with no other rule XVI points of order allowed under that agreement; that H.R. 4366, H.R. 4368, as reported by the House of Representatives on June 27, 2023, and H.R. 4820, as reported in the House of Representatives on July 24, 2023, serve as the basis for defense of germane under rule XVI for any floor amendments and that it be in order for floor amendments to amend the substitute in more than one place; further, that the only amendments in order to the Murray-Collins substitute amendment No. 1092 be the following amendments: Moran, No. 1250; Daines, No. 1185; Sullivan, No. 1216; Sullivan, No. 1221; Peters-Cornyn, No. 1203; Rosen, No. 1117; Schatz, No. 1120; Bookertuberville, No. 1175; Tillis-Welch, No. 1204; Reed, No. 1302; Britt, No. 1270; Kelly-Pillis, No. 1135; Hirono-Moran, No. 1135; Warnock-Cornyn, No. 1531; Smith-Ricketts, No. 1322; Rosen-Crapo, No. 1220; Cardin, No. 1277; Padilla, No. 1140; Shaheen, No. 1131; Klobuchar-Moran, No. 1203; Kelly, No. 1133; No. 1196; Braun, No. 1255; Merkley-Crapo, No. 1352; Ernst, No. 1177; Stabenow, No. 1115; Vance, No. 1210; Rubio, No. 1237; Kennedy, No. 1354; Braun, No. 1182; Hawley, No. 1200; Cruz, No. 1296; Blackburn, No. 1348; Budd, No. 1243; Cramer, No. 1241; Paul, No. 1217; Paul, No. 1347; Cruz, No. 1249; Lankford, No. 1232; and Lee, No. 1121; further, that 60 affirmative votes be required for the adoption of the following amendments: Moran, No. 1250; Daines, No. 1185; Sullivan, No. 1216; Sullivan, No. 1221; Peters-Cornyn, No. 1203; Rosen, No. 1117; Schatz, No. 1120; Bookertuberville, No. 1175; Tillis-Welch, No. 1204; Reed, No. 1302; Britt, No. 1270; Kelly-Pillis, No. 1135; Hirono-Moran, No. 1135; Warnock-Cornyn, No. 1531; Smith-Ricketts, No. 1322; Rosen-Crapo, No. 1220; Cardin, No. 1277; Padilla, No. 1140; Shaheen, No. 1131; Klobuchar-Moran, No. 1203; Kelly, No. 1133; No. 1196; Braun, No. 1255; Merkley-Crapo, No. 1352; Ernst, No. 1177; Stabenow, No. 1115; Vance, No. 1210; Rubio, No. 1237; Kennedy, No. 1354; Braun, No. 1182; Hawley, No. 1200; Cruz, No. 1296; Blackburn, No. 1348; Budd, No. 1243; Cramer, No. 1241; Paul, No. 1217; Paul, No. 1347; Cruz, No. 1249; Lankford, No. 1232; and Lee, No. 1121; further, that upon disposition of the amendments listed above, the Senate adopt the substitute amendment No. 1092, as amended, with a 60 affirmative vote threshold required for adoption; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with a 60 vote affirmative threshold required for passage; finally, that upon disposition of the bill, the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 662, the Scott-Rubio substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with a 60 affirmative vote threshold required for passage, without intervening action or debate.

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

APPROPRIATIONS

Madam President, we are now moving forward after many weeks delay on the omnibus—not, the omnibus but the three appropriations bills—Agriculture, MILCON and T-HUD—as one package, as one omnibus. We have pledged the Democrats to try and go through regular order. It has been a long and arduous process. As you can see, there are 46 amendments here and, in fact, even though there was no pledge there poison pills, there were many poison pills that were offered by the other side. However, instead of saying, “Well, we didn’t have an agreement; let the bill go down the drain,” we want to get this legislation. It is in the interest of everyone who waged the appropriations bills. We worked long and hard. It took a while to work through the vagaries and negotiations on many poison pill amendments that, in my judgment, shouldn’t have been offered to begin with. But here we are; we are moving forward.

I want to thank Appropriations Chair Murray. She has done an amazing,
amazing job here. I want to thank Leader Collins and thank all of our colleagues for working this out. Under the old days, regular order would have been a lot different than it is today. We are still moving forward, and I am glad for it.

I yield to the distinguished and hard-working chair of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MURRAY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, after many discussions with Members on both sides of the aisle about ensuring a robust amendment process and a final vote on this strong bipartisan package of appropriations bills, I am pleased to say we have reached an agreement to finally get voting on the amendments and passage of this minibus.

I want to thank everyone who has worked with me and the senior Senator from Texas to get this moving again to show the American people this place can actually work.

This is so important, especially right now because over the last few weeks, the American people have seen a lot of chaos and dysfunction in Congress. It has seemed as if when the American people need to see U.S. leadership is still strong because it is not just the American people who are watching Congress right now. Our allies are watching. Our adversaries are watching. We need to show our friends that we can work together and solve problems and respond effectively to the pressing challenges of this moment. And this is an important opportunity to do just that.

By passing this package, we can continue moving on our appropriations process and we can show that, by working together in a bipartisan way, you can actually get things done in a divided Congress. And that is important because there is a lot we absolutely need to get done. There is this first package of appropriations bills. There is the rest of our appropriations bills and the pressing need to address all sorts of urgent priorities, including supplemental funding to support our allies in Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan; to deliver additional disaster relief; to address the worsening childcare crisis; and more. Getting all of this done is going to require us to put aside our differences and get things done.

By passing this minibus, we can show that Congress is still capable of doing that, because this spending package is a prime example of what it looks like when Democrats and Republicans come together and focus on solving problems and helping people. It follows the bipartisan debt limit deal. It includes input from members across the country and across the political spectrum. And the bills in this package passed the Appropriations Committee unanimously.

In other words, this is a serious bipartisan legislation that can be signed into law; and it provides crucial resources to care for our veterans, to fund military construction, to keep our food supply safe, to support our farmers, keep our travelers safe, invest in infrastructure, and a lot more.

We should pass this bill, show we can still focus on solutions, find common ground, and get it done. We were all sent here to do it. And we can get our appropriations process back on track and continue our return to regular order, which, I know, so many Senators across the aisle and on this side have asked for.

To every one of my colleagues who has said we need to move away from massive end-of-year omnibus. I agree. This is your chance to make one. If we don’t get this passed, we are giving up a crucial opportunity to make sure the Senate has its voice heard on our Nation’s spending priorities and make sure we don’t find ourselves at the end of the year, once again, staring down another omnibus.

Madam President, just a few weeks ago, we witnessed the brink of a completely unnecessary government shutdown before cooler heads prevailed. The lesson from the near-shutdown should be clear: Letting the loudest voices on the far right push for dangerous partisan policies is a road to disaster. Bipartisanship is the only way to get the job done in a divided government.

Now, we need to remember the lessons as we continue working to pass our appropriations bills to support our allies in Ukraine, Israel, and the Indo-Pacific region; shore up our disaster relief funds; and address the childcare crisis; and more. So let’s send a message that Congress can actually work and that we can actually work together. Let’s get things on track so we can avoid an omnibus and address the urgent challenges we face.

The American people are watching. The world is watching. And let’s be clear, what we are wishing for is not dysfunction. Let’s show them unity. Let’s show them the strength of our democracy. Let’s get this done and then let’s work together and get absolutely vital aid to our allies.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as we all know by now, last Friday, President Biden submitted an emergency funding request to Congress. As we all expected, it calls for funding to support Israel as it defends itself against the terrorist organization known as Hamas, a proxy for Iran. It also asks for funding for Ukraine, which continues its heroic defense against a Russian invasion. It requests funding to strengthen security in the Indo-Pacific to help our friends and allies combat increasingly aggressive threats from China.

And, notably, President Biden has also called for emergency funding to help address the crisis at the southern border. At face value, this shouldn’t be surprising. After all, the Biden border crisis has been raging for nearly 3 years; and, somehow, it continues to get worse every day.

Last month, Customs and Border Protection logged nearly 270,000—8,000 migrants crossing the southern border, making it the busiest month on record. In total, nearly 2.5 million migrants have entered the United States since last fiscal year—or during the last fiscal year. That is an ominous trend.

We don’t have the resources or the personnel to deal with this influx in what we all should hope would be an efficient, fair, and humane way. And that needs to change.

First of all, we need to wrest immigration out of the hands of the cartels who care nothing about the people who smuggle individuals into the United States for money—a lot of money. It is a very profitable business. And, also, there are affiliated cartels that are smuggling the drugs into the United States that killed 108,000 Americans last year alone. That is also the source of a lot of money for these criminal organizations, again, who care nothing about the life or welfare of individuals, sending them down another path.

We need to remember the lesson from the near-shutdown during the last fiscal year. That is an anemic last month, Customs and Border Protection logged nearly 270,000—migrant crossings at the southern border, making it the busiest month on record. In total, nearly 2.5 million migrants have entered the United States since last fiscal year—or during the last fiscal year. That is an ominous trend.

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Then-Chief Carla Provost testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee and talked about what it would take to fix the situation. She said:

We cannot address this crisis by shifting more resources. It’s like holding a bucket under a faucet and then trying to catch the water that is just never enough to fill the bucket (you have if you don’t turn the water off).

The President’s request for emergency funding is a bucket, a relatively small one. But it does nothing to stop the flow. The only way to do that is by deterrence, and the only way to achieve deterrence is by delivering consequences for crossing the border illegally. We need to send a message to the people who have no legitimate reason to remain in the United States that if they come, they will not be able to stay.

President Biden does not seem to understand that. And in his emergency funding request, he asks Congress to provide non-custodial housing for migrants and expedited removal proceedings.

This is the process that allows law enforcement to quickly remove migrants who have no legitimate reason to remain in the United States. I am talking about expedited removal now, the idea that we would release migrants who are on the verge of being deported is patently absurd and just shows the chaos and confusion and the lack of any logical coherence in the Biden border policy.

Anyone who believes that these individuals would come back for their removal hearing is living in an alternate reality. This would constitute yet another massive pull factor attracting people to make that journey to the border. President Biden also called on Congress to expand the so-called lawful pathways his administration created. But to be clear, there is nothing lawful about these pathways.

Then, once again, has usurped Congress’s authority in paroling entire classes of migrants into the United States. “Parole” is a technical term. It basically means to release them, even if they are not claiming asylum, which the Biden administration continues to do on a massive scale—simply release people into the United States.

This is, unsurprisingly, a violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and to expand these so-called pathways is a nonstarter in Congress. We will not legitimize these unauthorized programs and provide an even bigger incentive for migrants to make the dangerous journey to the border.

We need to discourage people who have no legitimate claim to come to the United States this way, not bolster an incentive package. In my view, there are two broad goals that need to be met in order to address this crisis in a meaningful way: First, we need to end catch-and-release. So far, the administration has sent a message to people around the world that if you enter the United States illegally, there is a good chance you will be able to stay, which, in turn, only encourages more people to come—just show up at the border, say the magic words, and then disappear into the great American heartland. We need to revise this message and tell these people that only those with a legitimate claim can remain in the United States. Ending catch-and-release is the most effective way to do that.

No. 2, the administration must remove people who have been determined to have no legal right to enter or remain in the United States. The Biden administration has proven it does not take this responsibility seriously.

In 2021, arrests and deportation by ICE, known as Immigration and Customs Enforcement, reached an all-time low. So not only are more people coming into the country than we have ever seen before, but fewer people are going out who have no legitimate basis to stay here.

In 2021, the Agency carried out fewer than 60,000 deportations that year, the lowest number on record by a long shot. The following year, the number of deportations increased slightly but not nearly enough to make an impact and certainly not enough to discourage people from continuing to come illegally to enter the United States.

Apprehensions are at record highs; deportations are at historic lows; and it is clear that this is all part of some body’s plan. Despite having every tool at its disposal, the administration is trying to move a mountain with a teaspoon. It is doing just enough to make some people think they are doing something meaningful without having any real impact.

While I am glad President Biden seems to have awakened to the fact that the status quo at the border is unsustainable, his emergency funding request is absolutely disinterested in solving this crisis. He has proven, once again, that he doesn’t care about deterring illegal immigration; he doesn’t care about delivering consequences to individuals who break our laws; and he doesn’t care about solving this crisis. He merely wants to “manage” the flow, not stop it.

This is not a serious proposal. Some of the proposed spending is actually harmful, and the positive aspects are just an attempt to make an impact and certainly not enough to discourage people from continuing to come to the border illegally.

Later this week, I am eager to talk with some of the true experts on the border crisis about the current challenges they are facing. Senator Cruz and I are leading another visit to the Rio Grande Valley, and I am glad that Senator RICKETTS, Senator LEE, and Senator RINNERS will join us. We are going to spend some time talking to the Border Patrol agents who actually work on the ground as well as the Customs officers who deal with the consequences of the administration’s failed policies day in and day out.

We will tour the border to see how virtually anyone—from vulnerable migrant children to dangerous drug cartel members, to people on the Terrorist Watchlist—are able to enter the United States. And we will hear from State officials, local law enforcement, and landowners about the broader impact of the border crisis in communities across our State.

It is going to be so busy and informative, and as always, I am grateful to the men and women who take the time to meet with us who are doing the hard job. It would be nice if they knew that this administration had their back, but they are demoralized, they don’t feel that the fact that they do their job, day in and day out, because they realize that the Biden border policies are designed to fail.

Their insight, however, is invaluable to my work here in the Senate, and there couldn’t be a more important time to hear from the frontline experts who know about this crisis and how to solve it better than anyone else.

I especially commend my colleagues from Wyoming, Utah, and Nebraska for taking the time to make this important trip and their willingness to hear from Senator Cruz and my constituents on the frontlines of this issue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Michael Whittaker to be the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. Last week, the Commerce Committee unanimously advanced Mr. Whittaker to the Senate floor, and this resounding bipartisan approval is in addition to the broad support that Mr. Whittaker has received from the private sector. He has the support of the aviation workforce, pilots, flight attendants, machinists, air traffic controllers, and safety specialists at the FAA.

The aviation safety advocates like the 737 MAX crash families have called Mr. Whittaker a “strong leader” for the FAA with the “ability [to] restore public trust and confidence in its oversight and safety standards.”

The conclusion is clear. Mr. Whittaker is the right person to lead the FAA. And America’s chief aviation regulator has a critical mission: protect the safety of the flying public.
Each day, 44,000 FAA employees oversee the safety of 25,000 daily commercial flights, 2.5 million travelers, and over 5,500 airports. These Agencies set the safety standards for aerospace manufacturing, and safety starts at the top with the Administrator. The FAA is under stress, given the changes to FAA and the innovation that we are seeing in new technology. We have challenges in the post-pandemic re-bound of air travel and making sure that we get on the workforce.

And the FAA’s workforce, I know that Mr. Whitaker, in his confirmation hearing, committed to making this a No. 1 priority: build a strong safety culture, attract new talent, and keep pace with technology transformation.

Mr. Whitaker must build an organization that meets the challenges of incorporating new users and technologies like drones and advanced air mobility, electronic propulsion, commercial space, and the continued growth of the busy aviation aerospace around the globe.

Among the most pressing problems is addressing air traffic controller hiring and training, and Mr. Whitaker has stated that, I believe, will also be a top priority. Finally, the FAA must be among the global leaders in aviation safety. Mr. Whitaker must work internationally at the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, and through bilateral partnerships.

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EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk reads 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. 364, Michael G. Whitaker, of Vermont, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Chuck Grassley, John B. Barrasso, Richard Blumenthal, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher Murphy, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen, Brian Schatz, Jeanne Shaheen, Patty Murray, Catherine Cortez Masto.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Michael G. Whitaker, of Vermont, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years, shall be brought to a close? The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted “yea” and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted “yea.”

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 94, nays 0, as follows: [Rol call Vote No. 262 Ex.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yeas—94</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baldwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barraso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blumenthal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boozman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). On this vote, the yeas are 94, the nays are 0.

The motion is agreed to.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all post cloture time be considered expired at 5 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all post cloture time be considered expired at 5 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call be been waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate, Members should expect two rollcall votes starting at 5 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all post cloture time be considered expired at 5 p.m. today.

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The motion is agreed to.
every hour of every day, there has been a photograph of this beautiful little boy in a “Happy Birthday” hat standing, smiling, looking at the camera. It is hard to imagine he answered his door, and simply because he was a Palestinian descendant, he was murdered by a madman who killed him and then attempted to kill his mother. I was glad President Biden mentioned Wadea last week in an address to the Nation. I have that family in my thoughts and prayers as they grieve for the loss of their loved one. I continue to hope that the family continues to recover. There have also been fears of a bomb threat at a synagogue outside of Chicago. A weekend protest in Skokie ended in shots fired.

President Biden was eloquent when he reminded us such hate must stop and we are all Americans. I have my differences with George W. Bush, but I think one of the most profound things he said or did after 9/11 was to announce publicly that he did not believe those who believed in the Muslim faith were wrong at the heart. He believed that it was a religion of peace that some were trying to corrupt. Those statements were so critical at the time when hatred could line up at just any moment. Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Arab hate have no place in America or anywhere in the world.

During my time in Congress, I have been an advocate of a two-state solution, one that provides safe and secure nations for both the Israeli and Palestinian people. There have been attempts at peace and two states offered some hope—Israeli peace with Egypt and Jordan, and the Oslo Accords.

Some leaders, such as former Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and Egyptian President Sadat paid with their lives pursuing for too long, spoilers on both sides undermined a peaceful two-state solution. They pursued narrow, selfish political goals, too often determined to stay in power above all else. Settlements have expanded as have continued eruptions of violence.

Regional powers have claimed to care about but only paid lip service to the Palestinian people. The Palestinian authority has been mired in corruption and a lack of new leadership for more than two decades, too often at the very expense of the Palestinian people.

I know it will be hard, but I hope out of the ashes of pain of this crisis, there will be a renewed focus on a two-state solution. Out of the devastating Yom Kippur war came the unimaginable at the time—a historic peace treaty between Egypt and Israel that still endures. With the right leaders on both sides, it can be done.

We here in the United States have a responsibility for a renewed push toward a solution that allows Israel and Palestinian children to, once and for all, live together safely and peacefully.

I yield the floor.

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

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

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, 10 days ago, the family of Omer Neutra lit 23 candles on his birthday cake. But unlike previous birthdays, the candles were kept burning because Omer wasn’t there to blow them out.

Omer was one of more than 200 people in Israel who were taken hostage by Hamas. The grandson of Holocaust survivors, he is an avid athlete and loves the New York Knicks.

He deferred his acceptance to Binghamton University to spend a gap year in Israel before he joined the IDF. On the day of the attack, he was working as a tank commander defending the Gaza border. He was last seen being forcibly removed at the hands of Hamas terrorists.

Since Omer’s abduction, my office has been working with his family. We are doing everything we can to secure his safe release and the release of all Americans who are still unaccounted for in Israel. I am grateful that the two American hostages released on Friday are doing well, but there are still several American citizens, many of whom may be injured or unwell, who remain in captivity. We must not stop fighting until all of them are safe.

On Thursday, I met with the family of 3-year-old Abigail Mor Edan. Her family told me the harrowing story of her and her two siblings. Abigail’s brother Michael and her sister Amalia locked themselves in a closet while their mother was slaughtered in their home. Abigail was with her father who was shot while holding on to her. His body was later found, but Abigail is still missing.

I also met with the family of Keith and Aviva Siegel, grandparents who were kidnapped from kibbutz Kfar Aza. Keith is an American who was taken and was seen being abducted with his wife.

The family of Itay Chen has been in contact with my office too. Itay is a 19-year-old who was born in New York City and is now serving in the IDF. He was supposed to return home to his family in just a few days to celebrate his brother’s bar mitzvah.

Another hostage, named Sagui Dekel-Chen, is a U.S. citizen who was last seen fighting off the terrorists. His pregnant wife and two young daughters survived while hiding in their family’s safe room.

I have also heard from the family of Judy Weinstein, who was born in New York State. She and her husband Gad Mor Edan were out when the air raid sirens blared. The couple hid face down in a field as hundreds of rockets rained overhead. Judy called an ambulance because she and her husband had been shot, but the ambulance was unable to reach them, and the couple is now missing.

None of these people—these innocent people—deserve to be abandoned. They are Americans. We must fight for them as if they were our own sons, our own daughters, our own grandmothers and grandfathers. These people are our family, our lifeblood, our heart and soul.

My commitment to these families is that we will not give up on them. We will go to the ends of the Earth to bring their loved ones home. And my message to the terrorists is: We will not give in. Your darkness and your evil will not destroy us.

I urge the American people to be alive and rally around these families. We will light our loved ones’ candles and never blow them out.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 15 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last week, the Biden administration proposed a spending package that included funding meant for humanitarian relief—$3.5 billion for migration and refugee assistance in Ukraine, Israel, and Gaza; $5.7 billion for the U.S. Agency for International Development. The Biden administration says that our money will pay for “life-saving humanitarian programming in Israel and areas impacted by the situation in the West Bank and Gaza.”

We have two problems to address. First, the U.S. Government is scared to call the terrorist attack a terrorist attack. Second, this is just one more embarrassing example of the Biden administration’s two-faced approach to the people of Israel.

I have spoken at length about the money pipeline between Iran and Hamas, but there is a similar pipeline that appears to be running between Hamas and the U.S. taxpayer. Every dollar we send that is earmarked for Gaza or the West Bank is another dollar that Hamas can put into their pocket.

Last week, I spoke about the U.N. Relief and Works Agency and how this false humanitarian mission has been corrupted by Hamas and terrorist sympathizers. This has been confirmed by multiple NGOs, the media, Joe Biden’s own advisers, and whoever published and then deleted this post from the UNRWA Twitter account.

Hamas stole those supplies and UNRWA covered it up. Remember, this is a U.N. body that pulled 40 percent of its funding from the American government. In 2021 alone, UNRWA took $338 million from the United States, $118 million from the European Commission, and
hundreds of millions of dollars from individual European nations. Since 2021, Biden has sent UNRWA a billion dollars. A billion dollars. USAID funds more than $21 billion worth of UN programming, and they sent millions of dollars to UNRWA. And now the President is ready to send them billions more. If the American people knew what their tax dollars were actually being used for, they would be outraged. And I believe it is time for them to know.

We know that Hamas steals UNRWA money and supplies and stores their weapons in UNRWA facilities. We also know that they fill those facilities with human shields. But something that hasn’t gotten nearly enough attention is how our tax dollars are radicalizing the next generation of Hamas extremists.

UN Watch published a report in March exposing how UNRWA-affiliated schools teach their students indoctrination centers. Bear in mind, this is a UN Watch that published this report and exposed the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees for what they were doing. One employee shared an Instagram post calling a teenage Hamas Jihad fighter who was killed in a shootout a “little cub who fights like a thousand lions.” That was an employee of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency who shared that Instagram post calling a teenage Jihadist fighter a “little cub who fights like a thousand lions.”

A teacher posted a picture of Hitler with the caption: Hitler, are you sleeping? Wake up, honey, there are still some people you need to turn.

UN Watch also found official curricula from last year celebrating Dalal Mughrabi. In 1978, she led a band of PLO terrorists in a massacre that left 38 Israeli civilians dead. Thirteen of her victims were children. Another piece of propaganda written for ninth graders described the firebombing of a U.S. bus as a “barbecue party.” One UNRWA teacher assigned seventh grade boys anti-Semitic poetry that urged the students to expel Israelis “with blood and flesh” from Palestine. All of this was subsidized by the American taxpayer.

Hamas is responsible for the October 7 massacre in Israel. But anyone who believes that Hamas is a solo actor is willfully ignorant. They have support. And right now, Biden’s foreign policy is providing much of that support, not only through the money pipeline but through his absolute refusal to keep Iran in check. This isn’t just a U.S. problem. It is a worldwide problem that we will not solve until the money stops flowing and Hamas is eradicated.

Fortunately, at least when it comes to UNRWA, accountability is built in. Global governments provide that funding, which means we can take it away. The United States needs to step up and lead.

I have introduced legislation to halt that funding until Iran is expelled from the U.N. and investigated for violations. We have to get this job done. Our legislation would accomplish two goals. It will destroy that pipeline of taxpayer dollars from the United States to Hamas and disrupt the Biden administration’s policy of appeasement toward Iran.

Everything President Biden has done has made this world more dangerous. But nothing has had more immediate and catastrophic consequences for our allies than his refusal to treat the Iranian regime like the dangerous adversary that it actually is. He sent Robert Malley, Ariane Tabatabai, and other UN officials allowed Ms. Tabatabai’s security clearance to stand even after it became clear she was operating under the advice of Iranian officials. He agreed to hand over a $5 billion ransom payment and then insisted that the world’s most prolific state sponsor of terror would dedicate every penny to humanitarian aid.

And in the hours following the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, he insisted that there was no connection between Iran and Hamas and their terrorist acts. Never mind that a week later, Hamas leadership met with the Iranian foreign minister in Qatar.

Biden’s foreign policy is fatally flawed; that has become evident. And if we don’t force him to reverse course, he will further endanger the American people and our allies and our safety and security.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON WHITAKER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKKEY). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Whitaker nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKKEY). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Whitaker nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKKEY). There appears to be a sufficient second.

There appears to be a sufficient second?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0. [Rollcall Vote No. 263 Ex.]

YEAS—98

Baldwin
Baumgartner
Barranco
Blackburn
Blohm
Broun
Brum
Butler
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Casey
Bennet
Blackburn
Broun
Braun
Butler
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Hutchison
Hyde-Smith
Johnson
Kaine
Keller
Kennedy
King

Gillibrand
Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono

Kaine

NOT VOTING—2

Padilla
Scott (SC)

The yeas and nays were recorded under the rule.

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 0. [Rollcall Vote No. 263 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin
Bennet
Butler
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Gardin
Garland
Garland
Gillibrand
Harrington
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Hirono
Kaine

Garland
Garland
Gillibrand
Harrington
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Kaine

Bennet
Butler
Capito
Cardin
Carper
Gardin
Garland
Garland
Gillibrand
Harrington
Heinrich
Hickenlooper
Hirono
Hirono
Kaine

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47. [Rollcall Vote No. 264 Ex.]
of the committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with the amount of emergency funding. Today, I am making that adjustment.

In addition, section 121(c) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 contained a reserve fund to allow the Budget chairman to revise budget aggregates and committee allocations and to adjust the pay-as-you-go ledger for legislation that would not increase the deficit over the period of fiscal years 2024 to 2033. The authorizing portion of H.R. 5860, division B, meets the conditions of that reserve fund. Over the 10-year period, division B reduces deficits by $22 billion. As such, I am revising the budget aggregates, committee allocations, and pay-as-you-go ledger to accommodate H.R. 5860.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables which provide details about the adjustment be printed in the RECORD.

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

### REVISIONS TO BUDGET AGGREGATES—BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS

(Pursuant to Section 121(c) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and Section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget Authority</th>
<th>Outlays</th>
<th>Adjustments</th>
<th>Revised Allocations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>4,940.424</td>
<td>5,080.282</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### REVISIONS TO THE ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

(Pursuant to Section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriations Committee</th>
<th>Current Allocation</th>
<th>Adjustments</th>
<th>Revised Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
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<td>19,587.359</td>
<td>46,205.293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Services</td>
<td>757.849</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government Operations</td>
<td>1,837.222</td>
<td>0.902</td>
<td>1,838.174</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The adjustments are emergency-designated funding in the jurisdiction of the Homeland Security appropriations subcommittees.

### REVISIONS TO ALLOCATIONS TO SENATE COMMITTEES

(Pursuant to Section 121(c) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriations Committee</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2024</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2025</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2026</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2027</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2028</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2029</th>
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<th>Fiscal Year 2031</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2032</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2033</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>773.849</td>
<td>621.021</td>
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Note: The adjustments represent the direct spending effects of Title III of Division B of H.R. 5860. Subtitle B is in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Health, Labor, Education, and Pensions. Subtitles D and E are in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Finance.
S5136

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
October 24, 2023

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-OP
Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Spain.
(ii) Transmittal number: 23-OP
(iii) Date: June 26, 2018
(iv) Implementing Agency: Navy.

(v) Description: On June 26, 2018, Congress was notified by the Department of the Navy of a proposed enhancement or upgrade of sensitivity of technology or capability resulting from a proposed sale of equipment for use outside the United States. The proposed sale of equipment, which was previously notified to Congress, would enhance or upgrade the sensitivity or capability of technology or capability in the United States.

On February 27, 2023, Congress was notified by the Congressional certification transmittal number 22–CW of the MDE inclusion of up to sixty-two (62) SM–2 Block IIIB missiles with up to sixty-two (62) SM–2 Block IIIA missiles. Also included were MK 54 LWT expendables; MK 54 LWT containers; torpedo spare parts; training; logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The addition of these items resulted in a net increase in MDE value of $106 million, resulting in a revised MDE value of $1.18 billion. The estimated non-MDE value increased from $810.6 million to $956.6 million. The total estimated case value increased by $106 million to $1.18 billion.

This transmittal notifies: 1) the MDE inclusion of an additional one hundred-ten (110) MK 54 Mod 0 Lightweight Torpedoes (LWT) in the form of conversion kits for the Spanish Navy; and the replacement of the previously notified additional up-to sixty-two (62) SM–2 Block IIIB missiles with up-to sixty-two (62) SM–2 Block IIIA missiles. Also included are MK 54 LWT expendables; MK 54 Mod 0, LWT containers; torpedo spare parts; training; logistics support services; and other classified and classified publications.

(vi) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security programs of the United States. It is vital to the national security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally, which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist Spain in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

(vii) Decision: This proposed sale is acceptable to Congress as the proposed sale will support the political and economic stability of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally, which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist Spain in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

(viii) Conclusion: The proposed sale is acceptable to Congress as the proposed sale will support the political and economic stability of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally, which is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist Spain in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.
The Multimodal NOFO

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pub. L. No. 117–58, 135 Stat. 429 (Nov. 2021), authorized DOT to establish an NOFO for three grant programs—the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects grants program, the Rural Surface Transportation Assistance Grant program, and the National Infrastructure Project Assistance grants program. Id. §§11110 (Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects), 11132 (Rural Surface Transportation Assistance Grant Program); id. §42101 (National Infrastructure Project Assistance); see also Multimodal NOFO, at 5. A general purpose of these grant programs, consistent with the overall purpose of the IIJA, is to promote “Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs,” ILJRA, pre-amended IIJA, at 27 (Nov. 2021). The Multimodal NOFO authorized appropriations for these three programs through FY 2026. Multimodal NOFO, at 5.

In the Multimodal NOFO, in order to “streamline the process for applicants” for the FY 2023–2024 grant period, DOT “combined [its] solicitation[s]” for all three of the above-referenced grant programs. Id. at 5. The Multimodal NOFO “encouraged [applicants] to apply for multiple programs” and indicated that DOT would automatically consider such programs if applicants adopt them “out of a specific program.” Id. at 6. As the Multimodal NOFO explained, the three grant programs have “slightly different” eligibility criteria, but applicants generally may include states or groups of states, metropolitan planning organizations, units of local government, political subdivisions of states, metropolitan planning organizations, and tribal governments or groups of tribal governments, DOT, at 10. The Multimodal NOFO outlined the precise eligibility and selection criteria for each of the three programs, as well as the types of projects eligible to receive DOT funding under each one, DOT, at 10, 15. Overall, DOT stated that it “possession[s] of a surface transportation infrastructure project . . . with significant national or regional impact” and “to improve and expand the surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas.” Id. at 1. DOT further stated that it sought to award projects that “align with the [National Roadway Safety Strategy]”, “reduce greenhouse gas emissions and . . . address climate change impacts”, “address environmental justice”, “address equity and barriers to opportunity”, and “support good-paying jobs,” among other things. Id. at 6–7.

As compared with a similar notice of funding opportunity that DOT issued in FY 2022 for these programs, the Multimodal NOFO used changed “criteria” to evaluate applicants and make award decisions in certain respects. Id. at 5. For example, the Multimodal NOFO revised how [Outcome Area] criteria will be rated and indicated that Rural Roadway Program applicants requesting less than $25 million need only address a sub-set of criteria. Id. The Multimodal NOFO also indicated that “for the first time” DOT would be using “a Cost Estimate Review Team” to “evaluate in greater detail the cost of any project that costs $1 million or more in funding.” Id. Finally, the Multimodal NOFO stated that the “list of counties qualifying as Areas of Persistent Poverty” had been updated in accordance with new census data, and that the definition of “Historically Disadvantaged Communities” had been updated in accordance with the [White House’s] Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool”, developed “as part of the Justice40 initiative.” Id. The Multimodal NOFO also informed applicants planning to “reaply using materials prepared for prior competitions” should ensure they are “up to date” with DOT’s revised criteria, Id. at 7.

The Multimodal NOFO provided an application deadline of August 21, 2023, and indicated that DOT would award “approximately $4.65–5.57 billion” to 100 to 200 “funding level” of applicants “from FY 2023 and FY 2024 funding.” Id. at 2

The Congressional Review Act

CRA, enacted in 1996 to strengthen congressional oversight of agency rulemaking, requires federal agencies to submit a report on each new rule to both houses of Congress and to the Comptroller General for review before a rule can take effect. 5 U.S.C. § 801 (a)(1)(A). The report must contain a copy of the rule, “a concise general statement relating to the rule’s purpose and effect of the rule, and a reference to the rule.” Id. CRA allows Congress to review and disapprove federal agency rules for a period of 60 days using special procedures. See 5 U.S.C. § 801(b)(1). If a Congressionally dis-approved rule is enacted, then the new rule has no force or effect. 5 U.S.C. § 801(b)(1).

CRA adopts the definition of rule under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. § 551 (4), which states that a rule is “the whole or a part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describing the organization, procedure, or practice requirement of an agency.” 5 U.S.C. § 551(4). CRA excludes three categories of rules from coverage: (1) rules of particular applicability; (2) rules relating to agency management or personnel; and (3) rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. Id.

DOT did not submit a CRA report to Congress or the Comptroller General on the Multimodal NOFO. In its response to CRA, DOT asserted that CRA is inapplicable to the Multimodal NOFO because the Multimodal NOFO has future effect, as it is an official document issued by DOT and posted on the agency’s website. Multimodal NOFO; see also B–331446, June 5, 2023 (finding that a document issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and posted on USDA website qualified as agency statement); B–331560, Apr. 16, 2020. Second, DOT did not submit a CRA report to Congress on the Multimodal NOFO because the Multimodal NOFO is an “exempt procedural rule” and “not a final agency action.” Response Letter at 5–6.

DISCUSSION

An agency action is subject to CRA if it meets the APA’s definition of a rule and no CRA exception applies. Because the Multimodal NOFO meets the APA’s definition of a rule, and because no CRA exception applies, the Multimodal NOFO is subject to CRA’s submission requirement. The Multimodal NOFO meets the APA definition of a rule, as it is an official document issued by DOT and posted on the agency’s website. Multimodal NOFO; see also B–331446, June 5, 2023 (finding that a document issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and posted on USDA website qualified as agency statement); B–331560, Apr. 16, 2020. Second, the Multimodal NOFO has future effect, as it provisions apply to, and announce criteria for, grant program applications submitted after its issuance and before future funding rounds. See also B–331446 (finding that a USDA notice of funding opportunity document had future effect); B–337332, July 28, 2022 (finding that a USDA notice of a new grant program had future effect, as it defined the procedures by which eligible entities may apply for three grant programs, and described agency procedures when it established a new grant program with “eligibility criteria required to select proposals”, and “funding level[s]”); see also B–337278 (finding that USDA’s announcement of a new grant program was a rule because it established application procedures, payment limits, and sanctions for future noncompliance with program requirements).

Additionally, none of CRA’s exceptions apply:

First, the Multimodal NOFO is not a rule of particular applicability. Rules of particular applicability are those addressed to specific, identified entities that address actions that may or may not be taken by those entities, in light of the facts and circumstances specific to those entities. B–333495, July 6, 2023; B–334411, June 5, 2023; B–331446. The Multimodal NOFO applies broadly to states or groups of states, metropolitan planning organizations, units of local government, political subdivisions of states or local governments, and tribal governments or groups of tribal governments, among other entities. Multimodal NOFO, at 10. Thus, it has general, not particular, applicability. See B–334146 (USDA notice of funding opportunity had general applicability because it was addressed to “local and state governments, small and large businesses, . . . . communities”); see also B–331422; B–336843, Oct. 22, 2019.

Second, the Multimodal NOFO is not a rule relating to agency management or personnel. “A rule falls within the CRA exception for rules relating to agency management or personnel if it relates to purely internal agency matters, with no effect on non-agency parties.” B–334141; B–334146; B–334221. Here, the Multimodal NOFO relates primarily to non-agency parties. As explained above, it specifies the means by which non-agency parties may apply for funding pursuant to three DOT grant programs, as well as specifying environmental criteria applicable to those programs for FY 2023–2024. Multimodal NOFO, at 1–15. Thus, it does not relate to agency management or personnel. B–334146 (finding that USDA notice of funding opportunities that “established” a grant program for a wide array of non-federal entities did not relate to agency management).

Third, and finally, the Multimodal NOFO has a substantial impact on the rights and obligations of non-agency parties. GAO has previously found that notice of funding opportunity document substantially affected the rights and obligations of non-agency parties by implementing a new grant program for non-federal entities and establishing the rights and obligations of non-agency parties. B–331446. Most recently, we found that a USDA notice of funding opportunity document substantially affected the rights and obligations of non-agency parties by implementing a new grant program for non-federal entities and establishing the rights and obligations of non-agency parties. B–331446. As we explained, a notice that “determine[s] whether and in what amount (non-agency) entities may receive a grant” may apply “to substantial[ly] affect the rights of those non-agency parties.” Id. Similarly, we have found that agency rules amending or establishing a new program substantially affected those parties’ rights.
and obligations. In B–33732, for instance, we concluded that USDA’s 2021 Thrifty Food Plan substantially affected non-agency parties because it increased the maximum benefit levels for SNAP eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Here, for the same reasons as in the cases cited above, the Multimodal NOFO has substantial effects on the rights and obligations of non-agency parties. While the Multimodal NOFO does not itself establish a new grant program, as discussed above, the Multimodal NOFO notice in B–331416, it defines the FY 2023-2024 eligibility requirements, selection criteria, and funding ranges for three different NOFOs. Multimodal NOFO, at 4-5. Each of these programs offers potential DOT funding to a wide range of non-agency parties, as discussed above, which makes each of the Multimodal NOFOs comparable to USDA’s actions in B–331416 and B–33732. In the present case, as in B–331416 and B–33732, the agency’s actions “determine[d] whether and in what amount [a non-agency] entity may receive funding”, which “substantially affects the rights or obligations of those non-agency parties.” B–331416.

In its response to us, DOT asserts that the Multimodal NOFO is an “exempt procedural rule.” 7 C.F.R. §§ 300.12 (2019). Four prior cases found otherwise: B–330190, Dec. 19, 2018, B–329026, Sept. 10, 2018, B–329165, May 17, 2018, and B–292045, May 19, 2003. Response Letter, at 5. Each of these decisions was distinguishable because they involved changes to agencies’ “internal” conduct with only indirect and insubstantial effects on the rights and obligations of non-agency parties. See B–330190 (finding CRA inapplicable to agency memorandum that “outlines” the agency’s internal procedure for addressing violations of § 152 with respect to hazardous waste); B–329026 (finding CRA inapplicable to internal procedure for addressing violations of § 152 with respect to hazardous waste); B–329165 (finding CRA inapplicable to Internal Revenue Service action that “shifts the timing of a step in the agency’s process” for reviewing tax returns); B–292045 (finding CRA inapplicable to a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) memorandum announcing a change in VA’s procedures for disposal of real property because it “relates to VA management” and does not “affect any party’s right or obligation”). None of these actions was directed at non-agency parties or concerned, like the Multimodal NOFO, whether a non-agency could receive funding. In B–331416 and B–33732, with specifying the terms and conditions for non-agency parties to apply to receive federal funds. B–330190; B–329026; B–329165; B–292045.

Relatively, DOT relies on Batterton v. Marshall, 648 F.2d 694 (D.C. Cir. 1980) to distinguish “proactive” from “procedural” rules and urge that rules “may alter the manner in which the parties present themselves or their viewpoints to the agency” without affecting “legislation or agency actions.” Response Letter, at 4 (citations omitted). However, Batterton concerned the distinction between legislative and other rules for purposes of applying APA notice-and-comment requirements. See Batterton, 648 F.2d at 707. As the legislative history of CRA makes clear, a rule may be both legislative and exempt from APA notice-and-comment requirements while still being subject to CRA’s submission requirements. A principal sponsor of the CRA legislation stated that

Although an agency interpretive rules, general statements of policy, guideline documents, and agency policy and procedure manuals may not be subject to the notice and comment requirements of title 5, United States Code, these types of documents are covered under the congres-
LaVerne Jo “Cookie” McManus was born in San Francisco; on July 30, 1945, and grew up under her grandmother’s care to become widely known as a strong advocate for women’s health. Cookie was a four-generation San Franciscan; however, she was proud to be a “true blue” Nevadan. She fell in love with the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe where she met and married into the family of U.S. Senator Alan Bible since. Her neighbors affectionately called her “Mayor of the Cove.”

Cookie graduated from Orvis School of Nursing at the University of Nevada, Reno, with a bachelor of science in nursing in 1971. Cookie became a certified Nurses Association of The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Nurse Practitioner in OB/GYN in 1980. She rose to State and national prominence, serving on the Nevada Board of Nursing, as well as the National Council of State Boards of Nursing in leadership positions. In 1995, she received the Exceptional Leadership Award from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, where she chaired the nurse practice, education, and regulatory and nominating committees.

Cookie was the lead nurse practitioner with Planned Parenthood Mar Monte region for nearly 20 years. She served as an adjunct faculty member for Orvis School of Nursing and held contracts with both the State of Nevada and Douglas County Health Department. She was in private women’s healthcare practice from 2004–2017. She was also a founding member of Douglas County Council for Abused Women and the Nevada Women’s Fund.

In addition, Cookie dedicated much of her life to Girl Scouts—12 years as a Girl Scout adult. She was a past president of the Sierra Nevada region of Girl Scouts of America. She continued to buy cartons of Girl Scout cookies to share with charities and dinner guests.

Seeing patients from ages 14 to 80- plus years old was her professional passion, in addition to teaching and training at the University of Nevada, Reno, and Truckee Meadows Community College and lecturing before various groups. With a second home in Boulder City, Cookie was a dedicated women’s care provider for Volunteers in Medicine in southern Nevada.

Cookie was a member of St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church for more than 30 years, serving in leadership positions, as well as greeting guests and parishioners in the historic lakeside grounds of Camp Galilee at Glenbrook, Lake Tahoe.

A world traveler, Cookie enjoyed great adventures from China to Italy to the Galapagos Islands. But she loved Nevada best. She was happiest hiking on trails in the Sierra Nevada Mountains with her dog Zephyr, spending time on the beach, and gathering her family and friends for barbecues in her backyard.

At every opportunity, Cookie demonstrated her strong commitment to the women of Nevada. I know that her work, advocacy, and dedication to women’s health will not be forgotten. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering her significant impact in Nevada. I celebrate Cookie’s legacy, and I extend my deepest condolences to her family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO SHERM ANDERSON

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Sherm Anderson of Powell County for his long-standing dedication to Montana’s timber industry, carrying out his family’s entrepreneurial spirit in his hometown of Deer Lodge and for selflessly serving the greater Powell County community. His perseverance in his personal and professional life helps the State of Montana maintain its vital wood products industry. Sherm’s dedication to healthy Montana forests first began when he was a teenager driving a logging truck. Years later, he and his wife Bonnie went on to form the Sun Mountain Lumber forest products company, which employs hundreds of people and serves as the Treasure State’s largest lumber mill and North America’s largest finger joint plant. Sun Mountain Lumber plays a vital role in the Deer Lodge Valley economy and continues to have an impact across the State. Earlier this year, Sherm purchased R-Y Timber, a Livingston, MT, sawmill, that was shuttered following a devastating fire—and saved even more logging jobs. Montanans are lucky to have this forest products powerhouse right in our backyard.

When it comes to Sherm’s accomplished work history, he served in the Montana State Legislature, branched out into real estate and construction, opened a fitness center, contributes to a local auto museum, maintains his own 1,200-acre ranch, and most recently invested in the town’s old hospital complex in order to renovate it into workforce housing. As Sherm continues to weather the volatility of the timber industry, he understands that collaboration is critical to keeping important wood product jobs viable and also ensuring our forest lands remain healthy. It is clear Sherm understands the importance in working with folks from all backgrounds to make southwestern Montana a better place to live and work.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Sherm Anderson for his passion to preserve our shared Montana way of life. The Anderson family has created a multigenerational legacy that promotes fruitful forest stewardship. “Montana Proud!”

RECOGNIZING SECRET SERENITY SALON AND SPA

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Secret Serenity Salon and Spa of Harlan, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week during National Women’s Small Business Month.

Founded by Tami Kloewer in 2007, Secret Serenity Salon and Spa is a full-service salon specializing in western Iowa communities. Secret Serenity Salon and Spa offers hair, nail, and skin care services, as well as a spa and retail store in their shop. Secret Serenity Salon and Spa started with Tami as the only employee but has grown to now employ 21 full- and part- time employees. In addition to their in-store services, their retail store offers a variety of beauty care products for all types of skin and hair needs. In 2023, Secret Serenity Salon and Spa celebrated its 16th business anniversary.

In addition to providing beauty services, Secret Serenity Salon and Spa is also actively involved in the Harlan community. In February 2022, Secret Serenity Salon and Spa participated in a Women’s Health Night event hosted by Myrtue Medical Center in Harlan. The event provided local women with routine health screenings while Secret Serenity Salon and Spa provided chair massages to participants. The team has also supported philanthropies to help the local schools, retirement centers, and hospital. Secret Serenity Salon and Spa is a member of the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce and Industry and has hosted the chamber’s annual Holiday Open House. Owner Tami Kloewer is also involved in the Iowa community. In 2020, Tami Kloewer was nominated to serve on the Iowa Board of Cosmetology Arts and Industry by Gov. Kim Reynolds and served on the board until 2023.

Secret Serenity Salon and Spa’s commitment to providing beauty care in
Harlan, IA, is clear. I want to con- gratulate Tami Kloewer and the entire team at Secret Serenity Salon and Spa for their continued dedication to pro- viding beauty care to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.

REMEMBERING FLORINE MARK

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the passing of my dear friend Florine Mark, an icon and trailblazer in Michigan and the inter- national business community.

A role model, entrepreneur, and busi- nesswoman, Florine established the first Michigan Weight Watchers fran- chise in 1966, holding her first meeting in a school auditorium. Over the next 50 years, Florine grew her portfolio, ac- quiring franchises in 13 States, Canada, and Mexico, to become the largest franchise holder of Weight Watchers International, employing over 4,200 people.

Behind Florine’s drive for success was a deeply held desire to uplift and inspire others to see and act upon the best in themselves. From her early childhood, growing up in a family with very limited means, Florine’s bubbie instilled in her the importance of giving back to others. She often spent Sundays with her grandmother, raising funds for Jewish charities and was an active member of her congregation at Adat Shalom.

Florine’s signature saying, “love, love, love,” not only reflected her love of family, but also her commitment to improving the lives of others. Florine shared her time and expertise to countless community organizations through- out Michigan, including Children’s Hospital of Michigan, Detroit Institute for Children, Business Leaders of Michigan, Detroit Regional Chamber, Henry Ford Health System, University of Michigan, Young Women’s Christian Association, Women of Tomorrow, and several oth- ers. She was an active board member of the Michigan Ftness Foundation; the Governor’s Council on Physical Fit- ness, Health, and Sports; the Gover- nor’s Economic Council Advisory Board; and was on the board of trustees of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan since 1992.

As a strong advocate for women’s professional development and leadership, Florine served on the board of directors for the Michigan Committee on the Status of Women, the Michigan Women’s History Museum, and on the board of directors for English Gardens.

A well-known motivational speaker, she hosted “Today’s Takeaway with Florine Mark,” during which she interviewed celebrity guests and everyday individuals about physical and mental health, relationships, and other self- care topics. Through her “Ask Florine” and “Remarkable Women” segments on local broadcasts, she sought to up- lift women leaders while raising self- esteem by providing an avenue for ad- vice, support, and dialogue.

Florine’s leadership earned her sev- eral awards throughout her career, in- cluding the 2003 “Entrepreneurial Vi- sionary Award” from the Women’s Business Center in Washington, DC. She was also recognized among the 100 Most Influential Women in Detroit by Crain’s Detroit Business Magazine, the recipient of the Davidson Life- time Achievement Award, and was the first woman to receive the Neal Shire Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership. She received honorary de- grees from Eastern Michigan University, Central Michigan University, Oakland University, Walsh College, Wayne State University, and Lawrence Technological University. Five of these were honorary doctorates. And just earlier this month, Florine received the Women Who Make a Difference award from the International Women’s Forum for her accomplishments and contributions to her community and the world.

Through a lifetime of efforts big and small, Florine cemented a legacy as an icon in Michigan, across the country, and around the world. She willingly and selflessly made time for her com- munity, her friends, and especially for her family whom she cherished more than anything. I personally know how much she adored her seven children and her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I am proud to honor the life and leg- acy of my friend, Florine Mark. I ask that we offer our sympathies to her family and thank them for sharing Florine with us all. She will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WHALEY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I would like to honor the life and service of a distinguished Montanan and Viet- nam veteran, Lieutenant Colonel Rob- ert Whaley.

Bob is a native son of the Treasure State and graduated from Missoula County High in 1954. He had a success- ful college football career at Carroll College, where he also served as presi- dent of the student body council. After graduating, Bob was drafted and answered the call to serve and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps for Aviation Office Candidate School. He shortly com- missioned as a second lieutenant and spent the next 18 months at Pensacola flight school training in Florida, flying both fixed-wing aircrafts and helicopters.

In April 1962, Bob was a member of the first Marine aircraft unit to serve in South Vietnam. Soon after arriving in Vietnam, he also participated in the Vietnam war’s first night medevac mission. Throughout his first two tours of Vietnam, Bob flew medevac heli- copters, where he rescued wounded American troops. While flying a Huey gunship to support transport heli- copters in 1965, Bob’s aircraft was shot down. He and the rest of his crew mi- raculously survived the crash, but they sustained serious injuries and were eventually evacuated stateside to recover. After recovering, he began training replace- ment pilots at Camp Pendleton and eventually returned to Vietnam in 1968, 3 weeks after marrying his wife, LaWana. There, he got back in the Huey and flew hundreds of recon and rescue missions. When Bob finally re- turned to the U.S. from Vietnam for the last time in 1969, he had logged more than 800 missions and earned 40 Air Medals, Two Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart. He continued his service in the Marine Corps for another decade and eventually retired in 1979 as a lieuten- ant colonel and the executive officer of Marine Air Group 39 at Camp Pend- etlon.

After retiring, Bob returned to his native Missoula and began working as a financial advisor. Eventually, he re- tired for good so he and LaWana could enjoy the mountains outside of Mis- soula. Sadly, LaWana passed last De- cember, after 54 years of marriage.

Today, it is my honor to commemo- rate Bob’s incredible service to our country. On behalf of myself and a grateful nation, I commend Lieutenant Colonel Whaley, and extend our deepest appreciation to him and his family. His exemplary service in the Marines is what makes our country the greatest in the world and Montana the Last Best Place. He is a true patriot who has made Montana proud, and we owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secre- taries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Of- ficer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and two withdrawals which were re- ferred to the appropriate committees.

(Please see page for printed text.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13780 OF OCTOBER 27, 2017, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—PM 26

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid be- fore the Senate the following message...
from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond that date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, as amended by Executive Order 13671 of July 8, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2023.

The situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413, as amended by Executive Order 13671, with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, October 24, 2023.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2562. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incident to Russian River Estuary Management Activities” (RIN0648–BK97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2563. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incident to Southeast Fisheries Science Center Fisheries Research” (RIN0648–BG14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2564. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incident to U.S. Navy Construction at Naval Station New London and Ice Roads and Ice Trails Construction and Maintenance Activities on Alaska’s North Slope” (RIN0648–BJ24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2565. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incident to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Expansion Project in Norfolk, Virginia” (RIN0648–BK21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2566. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incident to the U.S. Navy Construction at Naval Station New London and Ice Roads and Ice Trails Construction and Maintenance Activities on Alaska’s North Slope” (RIN0648–BJ24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2567. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incident to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Expansion Project in Norfolk, Virginia” (RIN0648–BK21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2568. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incident to Southeast Fisheries Science Center Fisheries Research” (RIN0648–BG14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2569. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incident to the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Expansion Project in Norfolk, Virginia” (RIN0648–BK21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2570. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incident to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incident to the U.S. Navy Construction at Naval Station New London and Ice Roads and Ice Trails Construction and Maintenance Activities on Alaska’s North Slope” (RIN0648–BJ24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2571. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incident to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incident to the U.S. Navy Construction at Naval Station New London and Ice Roads and Ice Trails Construction and Maintenance Activities on Alaska’s North Slope” (RIN0648–BJ24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2572. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incident to Northeast Fisheries Science Center Fisheries and Ecosystem Research” (RIN0648–BK39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2573. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to U.S. Navy Construction at Naval Station New London and Ice Roads and Ice Trails Construction and Maintenance Activities on Alaska’s North Slope” (RIN0648–BK39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2574. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incident to the U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in the Point Magu Sea Range Study Area” (RIN0648–BK07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2575. A communication from the Biologist of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of Western Shipwreck Sanctuary; Delay of Effectiveness” (RIN0648–BG61) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2576. A communication from the Director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center Fisheries Research’’ (RIN0648–BJ37) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2577. A communication from the Marine Resources Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to the U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Study Area” (RIN0648–BJ30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2578. A communication from the Fisheries Resources Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Designation of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone in the Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Amendment 25” (RIN0648–BK17) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 4, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
EC-2579. A communication from the Fishery Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Amendment 121 to the BSAI FMP for Groundfish and Amendment 112 to the GOA FMP for Groundfish; Final Amendment 17 Program Regulations" (RIN0648-BL54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2580. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Spiny Dogfish Fishery; 2022 Specifications and Trip Limit Adjustment" (RIN0648-BL15) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2581. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Fishery Management Plans of Puerto Rico, St. Croix, and St. Thomas and St. John; Spiny Lobster Fishery; " (RIN0648-BK71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2582. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Framework Amendment 12" (RIN0648-BM37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2583. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Eastern Pacific Ocean for 2022 and Beyond" (RIN0648-BK84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2584. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Fishing Restrictions for Tropical Tuna and Silky Shark in the Eastern Pacific Ocean for 2022 and Beyond" (RIN0648-BK83) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2585. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Whiting Utilization in the CASP Area" (RIN0648-BK99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2586. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Whiting Utilization in the CASP Area" (RIN0648-BK99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2587. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources in the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; Framework Amendment 12" (RIN0648-BM37) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2588. A communication from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Eastern Pacific Ocean for 2022 and Beyond" (RIN0648-BK84) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2589. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of Regulatory Services, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fisheries; Participant-Cash Program" (RIN0648-BK15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2590. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of Regulatory Services, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fisheries; Participant-Cash Program" (RIN0648-BK15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2591. A communication from the Supervisor Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Amendment 40 to Framework 63 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan; Final Amendment 17 Program Regulations" (RIN0648-BK71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2592. A communication from the Supervisor Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Amendment 40 to Framework 63 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan; Final Amendment 17 Program Regulations" (RIN0648-BK71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2593. A communication from the Supervisor Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Amendment 40 to Framework 63 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan; Final Amendment 17 Program Regulations" (RIN0648-BK71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2594. A communication from the Supervisor Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Amendment 40 to Framework 63 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan; Final Amendment 17 Program Regulations" (RIN0648-BK71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2595. A communication from the Supervisor Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Amendment 40 to Framework 63 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan; Final Amendment 17 Program Regulations" (RIN0648-BK71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2596. A communication from the Supervisor Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Amendment 40 to Framework 63 to the Tilefish Fishery Management Plan; Final Amendment 17 Program Regulations" (RIN0648-BK71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 10, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2597. A communication from the Supervisor Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD264) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2598. A communication from the Supervisor Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD264) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2599. A communication from the Supervisor Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD264) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2600. A communication from the Supervisor Fisheries Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XD264) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
EC–2691. A communication from the Fishery Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Framework Adjustment 17 to the Tuna-Albacore Fishery; Doubling of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From NC to MA” (RIN0648–XD368) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2692. A communication from the Fishery Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2023 Red Snapper Private Angling Component Closure in Federal Waters Off Texas” (RIN0648–XD3216) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2693. A communication from the Fishery Regulations Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From NC to MA” (RIN0648–XD390) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2694. A communication from the Management Analyst from the Office of Air Traffic, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment to the Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q-445; Eastern United States” (RIN2120–AA66) (Docket No. FAA–2023–1295) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2695. A communication from the Program Analyst from the Office of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “We Shall Not Be Moved: Spectrum Revisions to Implement a New National 911 Service” (FCC 23–105) (Docket No. 03–123) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2696. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Part 73 of the Commission’s Rules to Update and Reduce the Cost of Class A Television Broadcast Station Rules, and Rules Applicable to All Broadcast Stations” (FCC 23–72) (MB Docket No. 22–227) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 2, 2023; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. CORTez MASTO (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):
S. 3104. A bill to establish Joint Operations Centers along the southern border of the United States for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RICHARDSON (for himself, Mr. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORTez MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. LINDSAY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERRICK, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. RIEGEL, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHARRER, Mr. SMITH, Ms. STERNBERG, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. SINEMA):
S. 3105. A bill to amend the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for the purpose of free and unfettered access to the electromagnetic spectrum for all Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERRICK, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RIEGEL, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHARRER, Mr. SMITH, Ms. STERNBERG, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. SINEMA):
S. 3106. A bill to reauthorize certain programs under the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Act of 2018, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERRICK, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. SINEMA):
S. 3107. A bill to provide that chapter 1 of title 49, United States Code, relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements, shall not apply to enrollment agreements made between students and certain institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):
S. 3108. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for Children; to amend the Social Security Act to provide an option for Medicare coverage for the first responders age 50 to 64 who are separated from service due to retirement or disability, to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):
S. 3109. A bill to provide that chapter 1 of title 49, United States Code, relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements, shall not apply to enrollment agreements made between students and certain institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARREN, Ms. STARKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KAINES, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WYDEN):
S. 3110. A bill to provide for an emergency increase in Federal funding to State Medicaid programs for expenditures on home and community-based services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BARRASSO, and Ms. LUMMIS):
S. 3111. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize the sale of certain Federal land to States and units of local government to address housing shortages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MEEKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Mr. REED, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARREN, Ms. STARKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KAINES, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WYDEN):
S. 3112. A bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from reclassifying broadband Internet access service as a telecommunications service and from imposing broadband Internet access service and from imposing certain regulations on providers of such service; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WARREN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. DUCKWORTH):
S. 3120. A bill to provide Medicaid assistance to individuals and families affected by...
a disaster or emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):
S. Res. 423. A resolution recognizing the University of Iowa women’s basketball team’s historic “Crossover at Kinnick” game and the importance of women’s sports; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN:
S. Res. 424. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Government engage the Government of India against Muslims and Christians on the basis of government policies that discriminate human rights defenders in India and a reverence for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. HINICH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. Cramer, Mr. MOOR, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MOYAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENTEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. LUGAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WURF, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Ms. WARREN):
S. Res. 426. A resolution designating November 4, 2023, as “National Bison Day”; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. LANDFORD, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):
S. Con. Res. 22. A concurrent resolution expressing support for the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women’s Health and Strengthening the Family and urging that the United States rejoin this historic declaration; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 45
At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 45, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify reporting requirements, promote tax compliance, and reduce tip reporting compliance burdens in the beauty service industry.

S. 134
At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 134, a bill to require an annual budget report on the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer’s Project Act.

S. 141
At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. BETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 276
At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 276, a bill to require the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to investigate the vetting and processing of illegal aliens apprehended along the southwest border and to ensure that all laws are being upheld.

S. 431
At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 431, a bill to withhold United States contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and for other purposes.

S. 563
At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 563, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 610
At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 695
At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 695, a bill to close loopholes in the immigration laws that serve as incentives to aliens to attempt to enter the United States unlawfully, and for other purposes.

S. 735
At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 735, a bill to strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

S. 805
At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase civil penalties for, and improve enforcement with respect to, customs fraud, and for other purposes.

S. 894
At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 894, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect and disseminate information on concussion and traumatic brain injury among public safety officers.

S. 907
At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 907, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to exempt from inspection the slaughter of animals and the preparation of carcasses conducted at a custom slaughter facility, and for other purposes.

S. 954
At the request of Mr. WARNock, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 954, a bill to provide for appropriate cost-sharing for insulin products covered under private health plans, and to establish a program to support health care providers and pharmacies in providing discounted insulin products to uninsured individuals.

S. 1000
At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1000, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and the 75th anniversary of the United States-Israel relationship.

S. 1300
At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins to recognize the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and the 75th anniversary of the United States-Israel relationship.

S. 1300
At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the delivery of technical assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1467
At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 1631
At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1631, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department
of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 1900
At the request of Ms. Murkowski, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1900, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes.

S. 2199
At the request of Mr. Rubio, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. Budd) and the Senator from Tennessee (Ms. Blackburn) 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. 1842
At the request of Mr. Marshall, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Paul) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1842, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the regulation of zootechnical animal food substances.

S. 1906
At the request of Mr. Braun, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Warnock) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a time-limited provisional approval pathway, subject to specific obligations, for certain drugs and biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 2039
At the request of Ms. Smith, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. Sinema) was added as a cosponsor of 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 through voting of proxies for certain securities, and for other purposes.

S. 2358
At the request of Mr. Bennet, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Toomey) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2358, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to permit supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be used to purchase additional types of food items.

S. 2372
At the request of Ms. Grassley, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Whitehouse) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2444
At the request of Mrs. Fischer, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. Peters), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Ricketts) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. Lujan) were added as cosponsors of S. 2444, a bill to establish an interactive online dashboard to improve public access to information about grant funding related to mental health and substance use disorder programs.

S. 2555
At the request of Mr. Blumenthal, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Van Hollen) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) were added as cosponsors of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2561
At the request of Mr. Crapo, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. Sinema), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Hawley), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Sanders) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Klobuchar) were added as cosponsors of S. 2561, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 2671
At the request of Mr. Daines, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. Ernst) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2671, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration from issuing a rule or promulgating a regulation requiring certain vehicles to be equipped with speed limiting devices, and for other purposes.

S. 2700
At the request of Mr. Sullivan, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Hagerty) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2700, a bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to require investment advisers for passively managed funds to arrange for pass-through voting of proxies for certain securities, and for other purposes.

S. 2713
At the request of Mr. Casey, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Blumenthal) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2713, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to make commodities available for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2737
At the request of Mr. Tester, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Durbin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2737, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2824
At the request of Mr. Cruz, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Ricketts) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2824, a bill to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2857
At the request of Mr. Cornyn, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. Britt) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. Scott) were added as cosponsors of S. 2857, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2869
At the request of Mr. Braun, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Gillibrand) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2869, a bill to clarify the maximum hiring target for new air traffic controllers, and for other purposes.

S. 2798
At the request of Mr. Budd, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. Lankford) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2798, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exclude certain activities from hours worked, and for other purposes.

S. 2992
At the request of Mr. Cassidy, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. Grassley) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2992, a bill to require the establishment of a joint task force to identify and eliminate barriers to agriculture exports of the United States.

S. 3061
At the request of Mrs. Blackburn, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Crapo) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3061, a bill to limit funding to the United Nations until the Islamic Republic of Iran has been expelled and investigated for violations of the Genocide Convention, and for other purposes.

S. 3065
At the request of Mr. Hirono, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Welch) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3065, a bill to provide counsel for unaccompanied children, and for other purposes.

S. 3068
At the request of Mr. Braun, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. Smith) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. Toomey) were added as cosponsors of S. 3068, a bill to require each enterprise to include on the Uniform Residential Loan Application a disclaimer to increase awareness of the direct and guaranteed home loan programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3073
At the request of Mr. Budd, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3073, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education that institutionalize Anti-Semitism on campus from participating in the student loan and grant programs under title IV of such Act.
At the request of Mr. CRAPo, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAn) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3094, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing a rule with respect to emissions from vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 3097

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MERkLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3097, a bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide support for organic dairy producers and processors, and for other purposes.

S. 3101

At the request of Mr. MERkLEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEn) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 3101, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit income information maintained by credit reporting agencies from being sold to debt collectors.

S. 3102

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEx) was added as a co-sponsor of S. Res. 20, a resolution condemning the coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military’s detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained, promoting accountability and justice for those killed by the Burmese military, and calling for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.

S. Res. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERkLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. Res. 385

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERman) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATz) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 385, a resolution calling for the immediate release of Evan Gershkovich, a United States citizen and journalist, who was wrongfully detained by the Government of the Russian Federation in March 2023.

S. Res. 408

At the request of Ms. ROSEn, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEy), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOVEN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTy) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 408, a resolution condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1113

At the request of Ms. HIRONo, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. COTREZ MASTo) was added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 1113 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1134

At the request of Ms. SMith, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERman), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITTy) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROwN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1134 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1250

At the request of Mr. MORAn, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HENRICH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEn) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1250 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1251

At the request of Mr. WARNock, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 1251 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1351

At the request of Mr. WARNock, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Ohio (Ms. CORTEZ MASTo), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Ms. OXENFORD) and the Senator from Florida (Ms. COX) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1351 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4366, a bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

STATIONS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. FETTERman, Ms. HIRONo, Mr. MARkY, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3107. A bill to provide that chapter 1 of title 9 of the United States Code, relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements, shall not apply to an enrollment agreement made between a student and an institution of higher education.

(a) In General.—Chapter 1 of title 9 of the United States Code (relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements) shall not apply to an enrollment agreement made between a student and an institution of higher education.

(b) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Enrollm ent agreement.—The term “enrollment agreement” means any contract between a student and an institution of higher education under which the student makes a financial commitment to the institution in exchange for enrollment in a program of study at the institution.

(2) Institution of higher education.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

SEC. 2. Inapplicability of Chapter 1 of Title 9, United States Code, to Enrollment Agreements Made Between Students and Certain Institutions of Higher Education.

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

S. 3107

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Court Legal Access and Student Support Act of 2023” or the “CLASS Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. INAPPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER 1 OF TITLE 9, UNITED STATES CODE, TO ENROLLMENT AGREEMENTS MADE BETWEEN STUDENTS AND CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) In General.—Chapter 1 of title 9 of the United States Code (relating to the enforcement of arbitration agreements) shall not apply to an enrollment agreement made between a student and an institution of higher education.

(b) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Enrollment agreement.—The term “enrollment agreement” means any contract between a student and an institution of higher education under which the student makes a financial commitment to the institution in exchange for enrollment in a program of study at the institution.

(2) Institution of higher education.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON LIMITATIONS ON ABILITY OF STUDENTS TO PURSUE CLAIMS AGAINST CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “(30) The institution will not require any student to agree to, and will not enforce, any limitation or restriction (including a limitation or restriction on any available choice of applicable law, a jury trial, or venue) on the ability of a student to pursue a claim, individually or with others, against an institution in court.”

SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 423—RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM’S HISTORIC “CROSSOVER AT KINNICK” GAME AND THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN’S SPORTS

Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. Res. 423

Whereas, at the Crossover at Kinnick event, the University of Iowa Hawkeyes competed against the DePaul University Blue Devils in a charity basketball game to benefit the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital; Whereas the Crossover at Kinnick event set a National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this resolution as the “NCAA”) women’s basketball attendance record with 5,646 fans filling University of Iowa’s Kinnick Stadium in Iowa City, Iowa;
Whereas the previous attendance record was set at the 2002 national championship game between the University of Connecticut and the University of Oklahoma, attended by 28,619 fans;

Whereas the Crosstown at Kinnick event was the first ever NCAA women’s basketball game to be played outdoors in a football stadium;

Whereas women athletes at the collegiate level are important role models for young athletes, particularly women and girls, by serving as examples of what can be achieved by pursuing one’s dreams through participation in athletics;

Whereas participation in sports helps foster other values such as self-discipline, leadership, and teamwork in young girls;

Whereas the achievements of the Iowa women’s basketball program are an inspiration for Iowans and women athletes everywhere; and

Whereas Iowans and University of Iowa alumni across the country are proud of the history made at the Crosstown at Kinnick event: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Iowa women’s basketball players, coaches, and support staff in setting the NCAA women’s basketball attendance record at the Crosstown at Kinnick event; (2) recognizes and celebrates the impact of this record-setting event on young women athletes across the country; and (3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate send 1 copy of this resolution to the following individuals:

(A) Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds. (B) University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson. (C) University of Iowa Interim Athletic Director Beth Goetz. (D) University of Iowa Women’s Basketball Coach Lisa Bluder.

SENATE RESOLUTION 424—EXPRESSION OF THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ENGAGE THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO SEEK A SWIFT END TO THE PERSECUTION OF AND VIOLENCE AGAINST, RELIGIOUS MINORITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN INDIA AND A REVERSAL OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES THAT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE FAITHS

Ms. BALDWIN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 424

Whereas religious freedom is a core human right and a right recognized by international law and treaties; Whereas religious freedom is—

(1) a necessary component of United States foreign policy and our Nation’s commitment to defending democracy and freedom globally; and

(2) a vital element of national security, which is critical to ensuring a more peaceful, prosperous, and stable world;

Whereas India is the world’s most populous democracy, which has long, unique, and important relations with the United States in promoting common values and upholding regional stability;

Whereas the strong relationship between the United States and India is fundamentally premised on both countries’—

(1) cherished common values of liberty, freedom, justice, and equality before law; and

(2) opposition to every type of discrimination;

Whereas, during a visit to India in July 2021, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated, “[W]e view Indian democracy as a force for good and an open Indo-Pacific [and] a free and open world’’; Whereas the existence of a truly free and open Indo-Pacific is conditional on the protection of the freedoms and rights of all citizens;

Whereas, on June 2, 2022, while releasing the Department of State’s 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom, Secretary Blinken commented, “[I]n India, the world’s largest democracy and home to a great diversity of faiths, we’ve seen rising attacks on people and places of worship’’; Whereas, less than 1 year after becoming India’s Prime Minister in 2014, Narendra Modi promised, “My government will ensure that there is no place of faith and that everyone has the undeniable right to retain or adopt the religion of his or her choice without coercion or undue influence’’; Whereas India’s federal government has been a strong and pluralistic democracy, being the birthplace of several of the world’s great religions, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and Jainism;

Whereas India’s 1,300,000,000 people include Hindus, who are the majority at 80 percent, 200,000,000 Muslims, which constitute the world’s third largest Muslim population, 40,000,000 Christians, and millions of Sikhs, Jains, Bahá’í, Jews, Zoroastrians, and people of innumerable animist and indigenous faiths;

Whereas the preamble to the Constitution of India states, in part, “We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic, and to secure to all its citizens: Justice, social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship’’; Whereas article 14 of the Constitution of India states, “The State shall not deny to any person equally before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India’’;

Whereas article 25 of the Constitution of India states, in part, “[a]ll persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion’’;

Whereas violence against India’s religious minorities, especially Muslims and Christians, has escalated in the last decade;

Whereas such violence against religious minorities has included—

(1) public lynchings by vigilante groups;

(2) the disruption of prayer services at, and the vandalizing and demolition of, mosques and churches;

(3) the demolition of homes and businesses of Muslims without due process by state authorities in violation of their constitutional rights; and

(4) arrests of Muslim men for marrying Hindu women in the name of the false theory of ‘Love Jihad’;

Whereas India’s federal government and various state governments have failed to prosecute the culprits and bring justice to the victims of the CAA; Whereas the Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and the 2021 Department of State Report on International Religious Freedom recommended that the Department of State designate India as a country of particular concern for engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and severe religious freedom violations, as defined by the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA)’’;

Whereas India has failed to act against panic leaders from various religious communities for repeatedly calling for a genocide of India’s Muslims, such as Pooja Shukam Pandey, a leader of Hindu Mahasabha, who stated, in December 2021, in the holy Hindu city of Haridwar in Uttar Pradesh, “If 100 of us are ready to kill 2,000,000 [Muslims], then we will win and make India a Hindu nation’’; Whereas the Indian state of Karnataka has, without cause, banned Muslim female students from wearing the hijab in schools and colleges, which violates their fundamental rights guaranteed under article 14 of the Constitution of India;

Whereas in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir, the only Indian state with a majority Muslim population—

(1) was deprived of its special autonomy without ensuring consultation or any participation of the people living in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(2) was split into 2 federally governed union territories;

Whereas, in December 2019, the Indian Parliament passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (referred to in this resolution as the “CAA’’), which allows expedited citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsees, and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh or Pakistan, but excludes Muslims, which imposes a religious basis to the status of citizenship for the first time;

Whereas Indian police have wrongfully arrested hundreds of people throughout India, most of them Muslims, merely for protesting against the enactment of the CAA. These concerns that this law would be used in conjunction with a nationwide head count to deny citizenship to Muslims, a concern that has been repeatedly expressed by the USCIRF;

Whereas the Indian police arrested prominent Muslim activists on charges of carrying out violence against Muslims in Delhi coinciding with a visit of the then-President Trump to the Indian capital, but failed to act against violent mobs that actually carried out the anti-Muslim violence as documented by the Indian government’s presentation of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Amnestiy International India;

Whereas, during the widespread protests against the CAA and the National Register for Citizens (referred to in this resolution as the “NRC’’), the police, instead of stopping the violence against the protesters, sometimes joined crowds shouting Hindu nationalist slogans and fired indiscriminately on peaceful protestors, which killed many of them;

Whereas USCIRF has recommended that the “United States Government should consider sanctions against Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah and other principal leadership’’ for the passage of the CAA;

Whereas a headcount for the NRC held in Assam state in 2019 determined that 1,900,000 of the state’s 31,000,000 residents do not have sufficient documents proving that they or their parents lived in Assam from before 1971, and they are now likely to be stripped of citizenship with a vote for shift of citizenship harrassed by the USCIRF; Whereas approximately 500,000 of these 1,900,000 undocumented people are Muslims, has been sighted by families of this 500,000 from their homes, where they have lived for generations, and sent to detention centers;
Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the security challenges faced by the Government of India and the continuing threat of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism;

(2) encourages the Government of India to amend the discriminatory laws and executive orders based on the love, jihad conspiracy theory, including the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, by treating Muslims the same as other religious groups, and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act;

(3) urges the Government of India—

(A) to end the discriminatory, indemocratic NRC and return citizenship to the estimated 1,900,000 people who declared non-citizens in a wholly dubious manner;

(B) to immediately release individuals unnecessarily detained in detention centers, protect the right to health of such individuals, and ensure access to healthcare and safe, sanitary conditions for anyone who remains detained;

(C) to immediately release any unjustly detained human rights defenders, journalists, and other critics, many of whom have been held in custody for longer than 1 year without trial; and

(D) to establish accountability for the brutal police violence against the anti-CAA protestors by prosecuting the policemen and others in the chain of command who are found to be complicit in such violence;

(E) to repeal the anti-conversion and anti-blasphemy laws that are widely misused against religious minorities, especially Christians;

(F) to repeal the hijab ban in Karnataka and allow thousands of Muslim girls and women to attend classes, as students or teachers, while wearing the hijab;

(G) to allow unrestricted access to Jammu and Kashmir and other independent human rights observers and international press; and

(H) to allow unrestricted access to Jammu and Kashmir and other independent human rights observers and international press; and

(4) calls on the Government of India to repeal the colonial-era sedition law (section 124 of the Indian Penal Code) that is used to stifle dissent and has been used against individuals who express their opposition to the CAA.

Whereas, according to Human Rights Watch, government operations in states ruled by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party have resorted to summary punishments by demolishing Muslim homes and businesses without legal authorization;

Whereas, according to Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations, India’s 40,000,000 Christians are increasingly targeted by police and vigilante mobs throughout India, leading to a steep rise in incidents of violence against Christians, with 1,198 incidents recorded in 2022, which represents a staggering increase from the 761 such incidents reported in 2021;

Whereas International Christian Concern, a United States-based nongovernmental organization, has reported that anti-blasphemy and anti-conversion laws, which effectively criminalize minority religious beliefs and freedom of conscience, are becoming increasingly common throughout India and have led to numerous cases of violence against religious minorities;

Whereas a culture of impunity for radical Hindu nationalists has led to an unprecedented level of violence against Christian, Muslim, and other vulnerable religious minorities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “Public Radio Music Day”; and

(2) expresses its deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States.

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(2) expresses its deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 426—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 4, 2023, AS “NATIONAL BISON DAY”

Whereas, on May 9, 2016, the North American bison was adopted as the national mammal of the United States;

Whereas, according to Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations, India’s 40,000,000 Christians are increasingly targeted by police and vigilante mobs throughout India, leading to a steep rise in incidents of violence against Christians, with 1,198 incidents recorded in 2022, which represents a staggering increase from the 761 such incidents reported in 2021;

Whereas International Christian Concern, a United States-based nongovernmental organization, has reported that anti-blasphemy and anti-conversion laws, which effectively criminalize minority religious beliefs and freedom of conscience, are becoming increasingly common throughout India and have led to numerous cases of violence against religious minorities;

Whereas a culture of impunity for radical Hindu nationalists has led to an unprecedented level of violence against Christian, Muslim, and other vulnerable religious minorities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the security challenges faced by the Government of India and the continuing threat of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism;

(2) encourages the Government of India to amend the discriminatory laws and executive orders based on the love, jihad conspiracy theory, including the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, by treating Muslims the same as other religious groups, and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act;

(3) urges the Government of India—

(A) to end the discriminatory, indemocratic NRC and return citizenship to the estimated 1,900,000 people who declared non-citizens in a wholly dubious manner;

(B) to immediately release individuals unnecessarily detained in detention centers, protect the right to health of such individuals, and ensure access to healthcare and safe, sanitary conditions for anyone who remains detained;

(C) to immediately release any unjustly detained human rights defenders, journalists, and other critics, many of whom have been held in custody for longer than 1 year without trial; and

(D) to establish accountability for the brutal police violence against the anti-CAA protestors by prosecuting the policemen and others in the chain of command who are found to be complicit in such violence;

(E) to repeal the anti-conversion and anti-blasphemy laws that are widely misused against religious minorities, especially Christians;

(F) to repeal the hijab ban in Karnataka and allow thousands of Muslim girls and women to attend classes, as students or teachers, while wearing the hijab;

(G) to allow unrestricted access to Jammu and Kashmir and other independent human rights observers and international press; and

(H) to allow unrestricted access to Jammu and Kashmir and other independent human rights observers and international press; and

(4) calls on the Government of India to repeal the colonial-era sedition law (section 124 of the Indian Penal Code) that is used to stifle dissent and has been used against individuals who express their opposition to the CAA.

Whereas, according to Human Rights Watch, government operations in states ruled by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party have resorted to summary punishments by demolishing Muslim homes and businesses without legal authorization;

Whereas, according to Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations, India’s 40,000,000 Christians are increasingly targeted by police and vigilante mobs throughout India, leading to a steep rise in incidents of violence against Christians, with 1,198 incidents recorded in 2022, which represents a staggering increase from the 761 such incidents reported in 2021;

Whereas International Christian Concern, a United States-based nongovernmental organization, has reported that anti-blasphemy and anti-conversion laws, which effectively criminalize minority religious beliefs and freedom of conscience, are becoming increasingly common throughout India and have led to numerous cases of violence against religious minorities;

Whereas a culture of impunity for radical Hindu nationalists has led to an unprecedented level of violence against Christian, Muslim, and other vulnerable religious minorities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the security challenges faced by the Government of India and the continuing threat of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism;

(2) encourages the Government of India to amend the discriminatory laws and executive orders based on the love, jihad conspiracy theory, including the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, by treating Muslims the same as other religious groups, and the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act;

(3) urges the Government of India—

(A) to end the discriminatory, indemocratic NRC and return citizenship to the estimated 1,900,000 people who declared non-citizens in a wholly dubious manner;

(B) to immediately release individuals unnecessarily detained in detention centers, protect the right to health of such individuals, and ensure access to healthcare and safe, sanitary conditions for anyone who remains detained;

(C) to immediately release any unjustly detained human rights defenders, journalists, and other critics, many of whom have been held in custody for longer than 1 year without trial; and

(D) to establish accountability for the brutal police violence against the anti-CAA protestors by prosecuting the policemen and others in the chain of command who are found to be complicit in such violence;

(E) to repeal the anti-conversion and anti-blasphemy laws that are widely misused against religious minorities, especially Christians;

(F) to repeal the hijab ban in Karnataka and allow thousands of Muslim girls and women to attend classes, as students or teachers, while wearing the hijab;

(G) to allow unrestricted access to Jammu and Kashmir and other independent human rights observers and international press; and

(H) to allow unrestricted access to Jammu and Kashmir and other independent human rights observers and international press; and

(4) calls on the Government of India to repeal the colonial-era sedition law (section 124 of the Indian Penal Code) that is used to stifle dissent and has been used against individuals who express their opposition to the CAA.
formed the American Bison Society in response to the near extinction of bison in the United States;

Whereas, on October 11, 1907, the American Bison Society, among others, sponsored the first public round-up of the remaining bison on the United States; and

Whereas the Geneva Consensus Declaration was issued on October 22, 2020, by 32 countries as the “Geneva Consensus Declaration”;

Whereas, the Geneva Consensus Declaration reiterates the core principles of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas the Geneva Consensus Declaration reaffirms that “there is no international right to abortion, nor any international obligation on the part of States to finance or facilitate abortion”;

Whereas, historically the United States has been a vocal advocate for the Geneva Consensus Declaration and continues to be committed to its principles;

Whereas the United States has been a strong ally of the Geneva Consensus Declaration; and

Whereas the Geneva Consensus Declaration reaffirms that “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State”;

Whereas the Geneva Consensus Declaration reiterates that “there is no international right to abortion, and upholding the importance of the family as foundational to society”;

Whereas the Geneva Consensus Declaration reaffirms that “the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State”;

Congress resolved—
(1) designates November 4, 2023, as “National Bison Day”;
(2) recognizes the efforts of Native Tribes, bison producers, conservationists, sportsmen, educators, and other public and private partners who have celebrated the annual National Bison Day since 2012 and are committed to continuing this tradition annually on the first Saturday of November; Now, therefore, be it

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1356. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1356. Mr. KAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1355. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1092 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) to the bill H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

At the appropriate place in division C, insert the following:

SEC. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to withhold approval of a surface transportation project of a State or metropolitan planning organization for failing to meet a target as described in the proposed rulemaking entitled “National Performance Management Measures; and Performance of the National Highway System, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure” (87 Fed. Reg. 42401 (July 15, 2022)) (or a successor rulemaking).

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

SEC. (a) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall publish a written enforcement plan describing how the Secretary will remove from the market any disposable flavored ENDS products—
(1) for which no premarket tobacco application was submitted to the Secretary pursuant to section 910(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387j(b)) on or before September 9, 2020; or
(2) which is subject to denial of a premarket tobacco application pursuant to section 910(c) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 387j(c)), unless such denial is otherwise stayed by the Secretary or through court order.
(b) The plan under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:
(1) Detailed guidance to wholesalers, distributors, and retailers on how to identify any disposable flavored ENDS products described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a).
(2) Clearly defined and detailed enforcement strategies, including directed communications regarding a detailed escalating penalty structure, directed communications to the manufacturers and wholesalers of disposable flavored ENDS products from manufacturing,
AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

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

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PROJECT SAFE CHILDHOOD ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 68, S. 1170.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior assistant legislative clerk will report the bill by title.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1170) to reauthorize and update the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 68, S. 1170.

The senior assistant legislative clerk will report the bill by title.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1170) to reauthorize and update the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 68, S. 1170.

The senior assistant legislative clerk will report the bill by title.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1170) to reauthorize and update the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program.
“(1) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

“(2) FAMILIAR.—The term ‘familiar’ means a child.”

“...facilitated.—The term ‘technology-facilitated’, with respect to an offense, means an offense that is committed through the use of a computer or an electronic communication device and in which the use of a computer or electronic communication device is an element of the offense.

“(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Attorney General shall create and maintain a nationwide initiative to align Federal, State, and local entities to combat the growing epidemic of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, to be known as the ‘Project Safe Childhood program’, in accordance with this section.

“(c) ACTIVITIES.—The Attorney General, in coordination with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice, and in consultation with training and technical assistance providers under the ICAC Task Force Program who are funded by the Attorney General and with appropriate nongovernmental organizations, shall—

“(1) develop best practices to adopt a balanced approach to the investigation of suspect leads involving contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, and offenses involving child sexual exploitation, and the prosecution of those offenses, when feasible to identify a child victim or a serious offender, which approach shall incorporate the use of—

“(A) proactively generated leads, including leads generated by current and emerging technology;

“(B) in-district investigative referrals; and

“(C) CyberTipline reports from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children;

“(2) develop best practices to be used by each United States Attorney and ICAC task force to assess the likelihood that an individual could be a serious offender or that a child victim may be identified;

“(3) develop and implement a tracking and communication system for Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutor’s offices to provide useful and timely information on contacts, when the investigation may involve a potential serious offender or the identification and rescue of a victim or a child victim may be identified;

“(4) encourage the submission of all lawfully seized and identified images and videos to the CyberTipline, which may be used in the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice; and

“(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Except as authorized under subsection (e), funds authorized in this section may only be used for the following 4 purposes:

“(1) Integrated Federal, State, and local efforts to investigate and prosecute contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, and offenses involving child sexual abuse material, including—

“(A) the partnership by each United States Attorney with each Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force within the district of such attorney;

“(B) training of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors through—

“(i) programs facilitated by the ICAC Task Force Program;

“(ii) ICAC training programs supported by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice;

“(iii) training by appropriate nongovernmental organizations with subject matter expertise, technical skill, or technological tools to assist in the identification of and response to serious offenders, contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material; and

“(iv) any other program that provides training—

“(I) on the investigation and identification of serious offenders or victims of contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material; or

“(II) on the investigation and identification of serious offenders or victims of child sexual abuse offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material; or

“(III) on the investigation and identification of serious offenders or victims of child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material; or

“(IV) on the investigation and identification of serious offenders or victims of child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material; or

“(V) the ICAC task forces and ICAC affiliate partners;

“(VI) the development of plans and protocols to target and rapidly investigate cases involving potential serious offenders or the identification and rescue of a victim of a contact sexual offense, a child sexual exploitation offense, or an offense involving child sexual abuse material; or

“(VII) the use of training and technical assistance programs to incorporate victim-centered, trauma-informed practices in cases involving victims of contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material, which may include the use of child protective services, children’s advocacy centers, support specialists, or other supportive services;

“(VIII) the development of plans to track, report, and clearly communicate successful cases of victim identification and child rescue to the Department of Justice and the public;

“(IX) an analysis of the investigative and forensic capacity of law enforcement agencies and prosecutor’s offices of each district, and goals for improving capacity and effectiveness;

“(X) a written policy describing the criteria for referrals for prosecution from Federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies, particularly when the investigation may involve a potential serious offender or the identification or rescue of a child victim;

“(X) any relevant component of Homeland Security Investigations;

“(A) training and technical assistance providers under the ICAC Task Force Program who are funded by the Attorney General;

“(B) any relevant component of Homeland Security Investigations;

“(1) Integrated Federal, State, and local efforts to investigate and prosecute contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, and offenses involving child sexual abuse material including—

“(1)(A)(i) the use of the best practices developed pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

“(1)(B) the development of plans and protocols to target and rapidly investigate cases involving potential serious offenders or the identification and rescue of a victim of a contact sexual offense, a child sexual exploitation offense, or an offense involving child sexual abuse material;

“(1)(C) the use of training and technical assistance programs to incorporate victim-centered, trauma-informed practices in cases involving victims of contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material; and

“(a) the United States Postal Service Investigation Service; and

“(b) the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice, which plan—

“(1) the use of the best practices developed pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (c);

“(2) the development of plans and protocols to target and rapidly investigate cases involving potential serious offenders or the identification and rescue of a victim of a contact sexual offense, a child sexual exploitation offense, or an offense involving child sexual abuse material; and

“(d) a quadrennial assessment by each United States Attorney of the investigations within the district of such attorney of contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, and offenses involving child sexual abuse material—

“(1) the variety of sources for leads; and

“(2) the proportion of such offenses involving proactive or undercover law enforcement investigations;

“(3) the number of serious offenders identified and prosecuted;

“(4) the number of children identified or rescued; and

“(5) information from which may be used by the United States Attorney, as appropriate, to revise the plan described in paragraph (1);

“(6) major case coordination by the Department of Justice (or other Federal agencies as appropriate) including specific cooperation, as appropriate, with—

“(A) the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice;

“(B) any relevant component of Homeland Security Investigations;

“(C) the plans and protocols component of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

“(D) the ICAC task forces and ICAC affiliate partners;

“(E) the United States Marshals Service, including the Sex Offender Targeting Center;

“(F) the United States Postal Inspection Service; and

“(G) the United States Secret Service;


“(2) Major case coordination by the Department of Justice; and

“(3) Increased Federal involvement in, and commitment to, the prevention and prosecution of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation offenses or offenses involving child sexual abuse material by—

“(A) using technology to identify victims and serious offenders;

“(B) developing processes and tools to identify victims and serious offenders; and

“(C) taking measures to improve information sharing among Federal law enforcement agencies, including for the purposes of implementing and revising the plans and protocols described in paragraph (1) or (2) to identify and rescue—

“(1) victims of contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material;

“(2) victims of serious offenders, or

“(3) victims of serious offenders.

“(4) The establishment, development, and implementation of a national ‘Safer Internet Day’ every year developed in collaboration with the Department of Education, national and local internet safety organizations, parent organizations, social media companies, and schools to provide—

“(A) a national public awareness and evidence-based educational programs about the threats posed by circle of trust offenders and the threat of contact sexual offenses, child sexual exploitation offenses, or offenses involving child sexual abuse material, and the use of technology to facilitate those offenses;

“(B) information to parents and children about how to avoid or prevent technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation offenses; and

“(C) information about how to report possible technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation offenses or offenses involving child sexual abuse material through—

“(i) the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children;

“(ii) the ICAC Task Force Program; and

“(iii) any other program that—

“(1) raises national awareness about the threat of technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation offenses or offenses involving child sexual abuse material; and

“(2) provides information to parents and children seeking to report possible violations of"
Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be considered and agreed to.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1170), as amended, was passed.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns at the end of business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 25, that 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 upon the conclusion of morning business, notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 198, H.R. 3496, as provided under the order of October 24; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Looman nomination and that all postcloture time be considered expired; that upon disposition of the Looman nomination, the Senate resume legislative session; finally, that if the nomination is confirmed during Wednesday’s session, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s actions.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate, Senators should expect rollcall votes in relation to amendments to the minibus during Wednesday’s session.

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

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:59 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KAMALA SEHIN LAKhdIR, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF MINORITY STUDIES, FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2029.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

CLAIR A. W. HOBBY, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2025.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

JOHN D. RUSSELL, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2028.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

CLINTON J. MURPHY, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

JESSICA S. SIMBER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

KIMBERLY K. WATTS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

NURU K. S. ADAMS, OF MONTANA, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2025.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

ROBERT G. HEIDRICK, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

STEVEN D. KLEIN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

TAMRA R. SHAW, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2027.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

CHRISTOPHER M. BRIGGS, OF MONTANA, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

CHRISTOPHER T. BUCHANAN, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

JOHN D. RUSSELL, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2025.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

DANIEL M. PHILLIPS, OF MONTANA, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

TOM L. GARRETTH, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

WILLIAM E. SCHAEFFER, JR., OF MONTANA, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

MARGARET C. KOHLMAN, OF MONTANA, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

HARRIETTE W. RALPH, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

JAMES A. G. KRAMER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

KARL W. KNAUSS, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

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UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

WILLIAM E. SCHAEFFER, JR., OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2026.
CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate October 24, 2023.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on October 24, 2023 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

JAMES ANDERSON, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPiring JULY 1, 2028. (REAPPOINTMENT), WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 12, 2023.

JASON ANDERSON, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPiring JULY 1, 2028. (REAPPOINTMENT), WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 12, 2023.
RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS GAUCHER DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DeLUZIO
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. DeLUZIO. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize that October is Gaucher Disease Awareness Month and spotlight the national patient advocacy organization, the Gaucher Community Alliance. Gaucher Disease is the most common genetic disorder for persons of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry. This disorder results from a build-up of fat laden Gaucher cells in organs such as the spleen and liver or in the bone marrow. As a result of this build up, the organs of people with Gaucher Disease can become enlarged, impeding their ability to function. If the bone tissue and bone marrow become affected, patients’ bones will become weaker, making them more prone to fractures and ultimately could lead to bone death.

There are different forms of Gaucher Disease. Gaucher Type I accounts for 95% of patients in the United States. Patients with this specific type, experience spleen and liver enlargement including low blood counts and issues with the clotting process and various problems with their bones. The FDA has approved two types of treatments for Gaucher Type I, including enzyme replacement therapies (ERT) or oral substrate reduction therapies (SRT).

Gaucher Type 2 is rarer than Type I and is typically fatal within the first two years of life because of the severe neurological abnormalities associated with this type. Patients with Gaucher Type 2 suffer from poor development, seizures, jerking movements, poor ability to suck and swallow, as well as an enlarged liver and spleen. GCA hopes that a cure is possible.

In the 1970s, he started the Jefferson County Jets Track Club, an AAU program that produced athletes who competed in the Big 8 Conference with one reaching the Olympics. He began his career in Poplar Bluff and coached a season at Herculaneum as well. But he spent most of his career in his hometown of Crystal City where he graduated high school and then attended the University of Missouri in 1960.

No one could be prouder of his achievements than his wife Mary Ellen, his son Richard, and daughters Mary Beth, Jill, and Amy Jo. I congratulate Coach Cook on his induction into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame this year and I am pleased to share his accomplishments today before the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of three outstanding women. Ashley Ferris, Yvette Marquez-Sharpnack and Alice Jackson who will be honored by the Northwest Douglas County Chamber & Economic Development Corporation as “Women Who Soar”.

Mark Pelletier, a New Hampshire resident who was recently named the 2023 Young Professional of the Year by the Cooperative Credit Union Association. The Cooperative Credit Union Association annual awards recognize individuals across Delaware, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire that make the extra effort to empower their coworkers, company, and community. As the Young Professional of the Year, Mark has been recognized for his experience, enthusiasm, and strong work ethic at St. Mary’s Bank in Manchester. A senior data analyst at St. Mary’s, Mark was nominated by the credit union’s leadership team and employees because of his inclusive leadership style, his skills in devising data-driven solutions, and his extensive volunteer record. For the past two years, Mark has served as Chairperson of St. Mary’s Young Professionals Group. In this role, Mark has taken to guiding, influencing, and supporting other young professionals. Mark’s time as leader of this Group is a testament to his talent and passion for promoting young business leaders across New Hampshire.

Outside of the office, Mark has commited himself to addressing the needs of his community. In his free time, Mark volunteers with organizations such as Families in Transition and Habitat for Humanity. Dedicated to empowering young leaders and committed to supporting the local community, Mark has enriched the lives of all those around him.

I look forward to seeing all that Mark accomplishes in the years to come, and I am confident that he will continue to serve as a guide for all those looking to make a difference at their workplace and in their community. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, I applaud Mark for his commendable leadership and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today in recognition of Mark Pelletier, a New Hampshire resident who was recently named the 2023 Young Professional of the Year by the Cooperative Credit Union Association. The Cooperative Credit Union Association annual awards recognize individuals across Delaware, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire that make the extra effort to empower their coworkers, company, and community. As the Young Professional of the Year, Mark has been recognized for his experience, enthusiasm, and strong work ethic at St. Mary’s Bank in Manchester. A senior data analyst at St. Mary’s, Mark was nominated by the credit union’s leadership team and employees because of his inclusive leadership style, his skills in devising data-driven solutions, and his extensive volunteer record. For the past two years, Mark has served as Chairperson of St. Mary’s Young Professionals Group. In this role, Mark has taken to guiding, influencing, and supporting other young professionals. Mark’s time as leader of this Group is a testament to his talent and passion for promoting young business leaders across New Hampshire.

Outside of the office, Mark has committed himself to addressing the needs of his community. In his free time, Mark volunteers with organizations such as Families in Transition and Habitat for Humanity. Dedicated to empowering young leaders and committed to supporting the local community, Mark has enriched the lives of all those around him.

I look forward to seeing all that Mark accomplishes in the years to come, and I am confident that he will continue to serve as a guide for all those looking to make a difference at their workplace and in their community. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire’s First Congressional District, I applaud Mark for his commendable leadership and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of three outstanding women. Ashley Ferris, Yvette Marquez-Sharpnack and Alice Jackson who will be honored by the Northwest Douglas County Chamber & Economic Development Corporation as “Women Who Soar”.

Ashley Ferris, a law enforcement officer, left an indelible mark in Denver from 2018 to 2023. Even before her tenure as a dedicated law enforcement officer, her background as a United States Army Intelligence Analyst and project manager showcased her remarkable skills.

Ashley’s heroic efforts were exemplified during the critical incident on December 27, 2021,
where she confronted and took down the Lakewood, CO mass shooter, despite sus-
taining injuries herself. This act of bravery earned her accolades, including the Law En-
forcement Officer of the Year 2022 by the Na-
tional Police Hall of Fame and the Valor Award. Her unwavering determination and re-
silience, even in the face of adversity, make her an inspiration.

Yvette Marquez-Sharpnack, a celebrated cookbook author and Emmy Award-winning creator and chef, blends her Texan roots into culi-
navian cooking. Drawing inspiration from her grandmother’s Mexican traditions and her mother’s home-style dishes, she crafts de-
lectable creations showcased on MuyBuenoBlog.com. Besides her blog, Yvette, based in Colorado, is a sought-after brand ambassador and recipe developer, engaging her audience on social media.

Alice Jackson is a trailblazer in the energy sector, shining as Xcel Energy’s Senior Vice President of System Strategy and Chief Plan-
ning Officer. Her leadership in this male-domi-
nated field has been transformative. With a decade of contributions, Alice has redefined the standards of excellence in executive lead-
ership. Her success story is not just inspiring but a testament to her resilience, making her an inspiration for aspiring professionals in the industry.

From saving lives during a mass shooting to Emmy winning inspiration, this year’s recip-
ients have made a lasting impact on those around them and in our community. It is lead-
ers like these women who will allow us to achieve a more prosperous and inclusive fu-
ture and I congratulate them all on being rec-
ognized as “Women Who Soar.”

TRIBUTE TO OPTUS BANK
HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished South Carolina bank for its unwavering com-
mittal to advancing minority-owned busi-
nesses. Optus Bank of Columbia, South Caro-
olina was recently awarded the Minority Busi-
ness Development Agency (MBDA) 2023 Rob-
ert J. Brown Minority Business Enterprise of the Year Award. Their steadfast support of businesses in distressed areas has uplifted communities and the lives of many.

To recognize the important role of entre-
preneurs and institutions in advancing minor-
ity-owned businesses, the Minority Business Development Agency at the United States De-
dartment of Commerce established Minority Enterprise Development Week in 1983. Since then, the Department of Commerce has com-
menced numerous awards to celebrate the outstanding achievements of minority entre-
preneurs. The Robert J. Brown Minority Busi-
ness Enterprise Award recognizes companies that have exceeded industry standards and achieved phenomenal financial success while showing a commitment to social responsibility and strong community involvement. The award is among the highest levels of recognition that a U.S. minority business enterprise can re-
cieve from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Optus Bank was selected because of its commitment to closing the racial wealth gap, exacerbated by systemic disparities in the fi-

nancial industry. Following in the footsteps of Victory Savings Bank, the first Black-owned bank in South Carolina, Optus is committed to providing access to capital to individuals and businesses excluded from the banking system. By turning deposits from community members into loans that benefit businesses, Optus provides funding for enterprises that may not be approved for traditional loans. Their unique community driven mission has allowed them to achieve great success while helping scores of minority-owned enterprises succeed in South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating Optus Bank and their unwavering commitment to serving communities and people in need. Their actions should serve as an example to other organizations dedicated to positively im-
pacting the communities they operate in. South Carolina is more prosperous because of the efforts of Optus Bank and I wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MRS. CINDY CASTELLO
HON. BARRY LOUDERMILK
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Cindy Castello for the vital role she has played in the development of Cherokee County, Georgia as a stronghold of conservative values.

Cindy and her husband, Pete, have been friends of my family for many years. We have witnessed her character and dedication to our shared cause in all of her numerous roles as a community servant. As a dedicated leader, Cindy has been instrumental in recruiting and developing many community activists to be-
come public servants and run for public office. She has utilized her extensive network of rela-
tionships and years of experience within the Georgia Republican Party, the 11th Congres-
sional District, and the Cherokee Re-
publican Party to lay a foundation which will impact Cherokee County for years to come.

She has devoted countless hours volun-
teering her time, talents, and energy to serve eleven years on the Zoning Board of Appeals; and, during her eighteen years of service on the Tax Equalization Board, she played a vital role for Cherokee County in steering the future of the county by applying commonsense con-
servative values.

In her thirty-three years of dedicated service on the Cherokee County Board of Elections, Cindy has helped to set a standard of excel-
ence, and helped develop the Board into one of Georgia’s finest and most innovative enti-
ties.

She has provided invaluable support and has been instrumental in the development of the Cherokee County Republican Party for the past forty years. She exemplifies the very best of public service and is truly an inspiration to so many. It is abundantly fitting and proper that Cindy’s dedication to the cause of faith, family, and freedom be appropriately recog-
nized in the U.S. House of Representatives.

On behalf of the citizens of Cherokee Coun-
ty, Georgia’s 11th Congressional District, and myself and my family, I offer my sincere ap-
preciation to Mrs. Cindy Castello for her dec-
dades of faithful public service to our commu-
nity.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SAMANTHA WOLL
HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, it is with profound grief that I pay tribute to the life of a passionate advocate, a dedicated formal Congressional staff member, an organ-
izer, and a true believer in interfaith dialogue, Samantha Woll. Sam had a brilliant mind, a generous spirit, and was a true light in the community. While we do not yet know the cir-
cumstances of her death, we do know how she lived, so today I ask that we remember the profound impact she had on her commu-
nity, our state, and the Nation in her short time on this earth.
Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise to recognize the transformational ‘Medical Debt Relief Initiative’ in Cook County, Illinois which has successfully abolished $281,338,840 of medical debt for Cook County residents. I applaud the tireless efforts of Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and the Cook County Board to provide much needed relief to Cook County families, many of whom are living paycheck to paycheck.

Medical debt continues to be a crisis in our country. According to ‘RIP Medical Debt,’ every day, 1 in 2 Americans must choose between paying medical bills and covering their basic needs. Our country is blessed to have such heroes who care enough to honor their comrades as well as serve the communities they call home. That is why approximately 100 Colorado veteran volunteers, who provided the final rites for deceased veterans.

During a time of rising costs, Congress must do its part to assist working families. We must seek bipartisan solutions to reform our healthcare system because no one should be punished for becoming sick or receiving medical care. While we seek bipartisan policy solutions, partnerships across all levels of government should continue to facilitate medical debt relief. This relief, such as the ‘Medical Debt Relief Initiative’ in Cook County, Illinois, has the power to give economic mobility to working families and boost our economy. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I extend immense gratitude to the Cook County Board, under the direction of Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle, for being a model for other jurisdictions across the country. I continue to seek opportunities to advance commonsense models like this one to address the medical debt crisis.
RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 100 YEARS OF THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU OF UPSTATE NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
NEW YORK IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today I am honored to recognize the Better Business Bureau of Upstate New York as they celebrate a century of dedicated service to our community. Headquartered in Amherst, NY, this organization, and their staff have undoubtedly had a lasting impact on countless constituents in Western New York.

Founded in 1923, the reach and growth of this chapter of the Better Business Bureau is nothing short of impressive. The eighth largest Better Business Bureau, it serves 6 million people across 48 counties in New York State. Due to their unwavering enthusiasm, BBB of Upstate New York closes 15,000 complaints annually while posting over 10,000 reviews. Throughout their long history, millions of service-oriented tasks have been completed in the name of consumer education and standards enforcement. Their mission is simple: provide consumers with resources to not only avoid dishonest business practices but also remedies for those who have been wronged. Very importantly, all levels of government rely on BBB of Upstate New York to front-end this education of consumers. Federal, state, and local law enforcement have also been able to begin investigations (and ultimately prosecutions) of bad faith actors in our local marketplace. That type of responsibility is only given because the Better Business Bureau of Upstate New York has proven to be an honest broker for consumers.

Trust is at the very core of business, and it is only due to organizations like the Better Business Bureau of Upstate New York that consumers can approach matters with confidence. I applaud their century of work to better our community, and I wish them continued expansion and prosperity in aiding the men and women of our community.

RECOGNIZING DR. FRED LUTHER HAYNES

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO
CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Mr. VALADAO of California. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Fred Luther Haynes, who passed away on September 2, 2023, and to thank him for his more than 40 years of dedicated service to the Bakersfield City School District. Dr. Haynes was born in Clarksville, Oklahoma to Harvey Haynes and Mable Haynes-Harvey. He was the eldest of five sons. At an early age, his mother instilled in him the value of education, which inspired him to become an educator. He attended college at Langston University in Oklahoma, where he received his bachelor of science degree in education. Dr. Haynes pursued his postgraduate studies at Fisk University in Tennessee, where he obtained his master's degree in education. Over the course of his career, he earned additional credentials and teaching certificates at the California State University of Fresno and Bakersfield, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and Dillard University. In 1977, Dr. Haynes attended Brigham Young University, where he received a doctorate in education.

In 1951, Dr. Haynes married Marcy Alice Williams in Tulsa, where they would start their family of eight children. Ten years later, he moved his family to Bakersfield, California, where he began his extensive teaching career in the Bakersfield City School District (BCSD). Dr. Haynes became the principal of Baker School before becoming the school's Assistant Principal. He later moved to the district office, where he worked as a Resource Teacher and became BCSD's first African American district-wide supervisor. During his time as supervisor, Dr. Haynes was focused on parental involvement, even creating the Parent Involvement and Community Relations Division to strengthen the relationship between students, parents, and teachers at BCSD. For 26 years, Dr. Haynes served as Principal across multiple BCSD elementary schools and at Emerson Jr. High School. Throughout his tenure as Principal, Dr. Haynes was dedicated to the achievement of all students and was instrumental in district-wide changes that supported underrepresented students.

In 1996, the Dr. Fred Haynes Award was established to honor the leadership, strength, and courage displayed by Dr. Haynes over the course of his career. Each year, the award is given to male students in the district who exhibit the qualities of Dr. Haynes in their academic pursuits. In 2016, Dr. Haynes was inducted into the BCSD's Hall of Fame, to honor him for his 40 years of exceptional service to the district. After his retirement, Dr. Haynes became a Board Member for BCSD, a position he held until 2020. As a member of the board, he continued to advocate for the well-being and success of students in the district.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Haynes was passionate about the lives of members of the community. He was the author of African American Women Trailblazer, which celebrates the sacrifices and achievements of African American women. He received several awards to honor his service, including awards from the NAACP, Boy Scouts of America, and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life of Dr. Fred Luther Haynes. Dr. Haynes' lifetime of service as an educator in the Central Valley will be felt for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING SHAKOPEE BREWHALL AS ONE OF AMERICA’S TOP SMALL BUSINESSES

HON. ANGIE CRAIG
MINNESOTA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Ms. CRAIG of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, I rise today to congratulate Shakopee Brewhall—Taproom and Coffeehouse as the Midwest regional finalist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s America’s Top Small Business Award.

Shakopee Brewhall was selected as one of seven finalists out of a total of over 15,000 small business applicants for the annual Top Small Business Award. At its inception in 2018, the brewhall operated modestly with a nine-member team, opening its doors for just 41 hours across five days each week. During that time, the team focused on and, as demand grew, distributing its unique beers. Today, they employ 27 workers, with over half of the original staff still remaining on the team and have grown their customer base and expanded their offerings to include morning coffee, espresso over 86 hours every week.

I’m grateful for co-founders, Ryan Lindquist and Damon Schuler’s role in the revitalization of downtown Shakopee by turning their historic space into Scott County’s first taproom and coffeehouse. Their leadership of the brewhall showcased necessary innovation when pivoting to distribution during the pandemic and working with other local small businesses. I’ve also appreciated their “Share More Than A Beer Day,” which creates awareness and financial support for partnering organizations and has led to more than $50,000 in donations to local non-profits.

It was a special honor to join Shakopee Brewhall’s Caitlin Drayna at the Chamber’s Awards Gala on October 19th. It is my privilege to represent Shakopee Brewhall in Congress and I look forward to sharing a beer together soon.
Earlier this year, Cambodia held a sham election that made a mockery of the democratic process. The prearranged result saw a landslide victory for Hun Sen who in turn announced an immediate transfer of power to his son, Hun Manet. Let me be clear, these most recent elections violated the Cambodian Constitution, a document that Hun Sen helped draft and signed three decades ago, and his unprecedented decision to unilaterally transfer power to his son indicates Cambodia will be subject to authoritarian rule for another generation.

As we recognize the 32nd anniversary of the Paris Peace Agreement, the Congressional Cambodia Caucus stands firmly against the rising tide of authoritarianism in Cambodia. We will not stand idly by while Hun Manet picks up where his father left off. Instead, we will continue to use every tool at our disposal to push for a free, democratic Cambodia. I am a proud co-lead of the Cambodian Democracy and Human Rights Act (H.R. 4659), legislation that promotes free and fair elections, democracy, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia by applying sanctions on Cambodian officials who denigrate those rights. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Cambodian Caucus to pass this bill and with the Biden Administration to ensure that these sanctions are imposed effectively.

Passing the Cambodian Democracy and Human Rights Act will help ensure that the principles of the Paris Peace Agreement are upheld and that Cambodians can move closer to achieving the self-determination and dignity they deserve.
Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5125–S5153

Measures Introduced: Seventeen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3104–3120, S. Res. 423–426, and S. Con. Res. 22. Pages S5143–44

Measures Passed:

Project Safe Childhood Act: Senate passed S. 1170, to reauthorize and update the Project Safe Childhood program, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. Pages S5150–52

World Food Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 397, designating October 16, 2023, and October 16, 2024, as “World Food Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to. Page S5152

Public Radio Music Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 425, expressing the support of the Senate for the designation of “Public Radio Music Day” and deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States. Page S5152

National Bison Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 426, designating November 4, 2023, as “National Bison Day”. Page S5152

Appropriations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader in consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024; that during consideration of the bill, Murray/Collins Amendment No. 1092 be considered an Appropriations Committee amendment for purposes of Rule XVI, with no other Rule XVI points of order waived by this agreement; that H.R. 4366, H.R. 4368, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, as reported in the House of Representatives on June 27, 2023, and H.R. 4820, making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, as reported in the House of Representatives on July 24, 2023, serve as the basis for defense of germaneness under Rule XVI for any floor amendments, and that it be in order for floor amendments to amend the substitute in more than one place; that the only amendments in order to Murray/Collins Amendment No. 1092 be the following amendments, if offered; and that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader in consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate vote on or in relation to the amendments: Moran Amendment No. 1250; Daines Amendment No. 1185; Sullivan Amendment No. 1216; Sullivan Amendment No. 1221; Peters/Cornyn Amendment No. 1283; Rosen Amendment No. 1117; Schatz Amendment No. 1120; Booker/Tuberville Amendment No. 1175; Tillis/Welch Amendment No. 1264; Reed Amendment No. 1202; Britt Amendment No. 1270; Kelly/Tillis Amendment No. 1116; Hirono/Moran Amendment No. 1113; Warnock/Cornyn Amendment No. 1351; Smith/Ricketts Amendment No. 1153; Rosen/Crapo Amendment No. 1220; Cardin Amendment No. 1277; Padilla Amendment No. 1140; Shaheen Amendment No. 1131; Klobuchar/Moran Amendment No. 1203; Kelly Amendment No. 1133; Padilla Amendment No. 1139; Ossoff/Braun Amendment No. 1255; Merkley/Crapo Amendment No. 1352; Ernst Amendment No. 1177; Stabenow Amendment No. 1115; Vance Amendment No. 1210; Rubio Amendment No. 1237; Kennedy Amendment No. 1354; Braun Amendment No. 1182; Hawley Amendment No. 1200; Cruz Amendment No. 1296; Blackburn Amendment No. 1349; Budd Amendment No. 1243; Cramer Amendment No. 1241; Paul Amendment No. 1217; Paul Amendment No. 1347; Cruz Amendment No. 1249; Lankford Amendment No. 1232; Lee Amendment No. 1121; that 60 affirmative votes be required for adoption of the following amendments: Cramer Amendment No. 1241; Paul Amendment No. 1217; Paul Amendment No. 1347; Cruz Amendment No. 1249; Lankford Amendment No. 1232; and Lee Amendment No. 1121; that upon disposition of the amendments listed above, Senate
vote on adoption of Murray/Collins Amendment No. 1092, as amended, if amended, with a 60 affirmative vote threshold required for adoption, and Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with a 60 vote affirmative threshold required for passage; and that upon disposition of the bill, the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration, and Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 662, to amend the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 to improve disaster relief funding for agricultural producers, the Scott (FL)/Rubio substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, and Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with a 60 affirmative vote threshold required for passage, without intervening action or debate.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, notwithstanding Rule XXII, Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4366, as provided under the order of Tuesday, October 24, 2023; that at 11:30 a.m., Senate continue consideration of the nomination of Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, post-cloture, and that all post-cloture time be considered expired; that upon disposition of the nomination of Jessica Looman, Senate resume legislative session.

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–26) Pages S5140–41

Looman Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor. Page S5135

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 264), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By a unanimous vote of 94 yeas (Vote No. EX. 262), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Kamala Shirin Lakhdhir, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia.

Claria Horn Boom, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2029.

Clinton J. Fuchs, of Maryland, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maryland for the term of four years.

John Gleeson, of New York, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission for a term expiring October 31, 2029.

Johnny C. Gogo, of California, to be United States Attorney for the District of Guam and concurrently United States Attorney for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands for the term of four years.

Sara E. Hill, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

David L. Lemmon II, of West Virginia, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of West Virginia for the term of four years.

Joshua S. Levy, of Massachusetts, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts for the term of four years.

John David Russell, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

Routine lists in the Army and Coast Guard.

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Nancy Anderson Speight, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2024, which was sent to the Senate on June 12, 2023.

Nancy Anderson Speight, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years expiring July 1, 2029, which was sent to the Senate on June 12, 2023. Page S5153

Executive Communications:

Pages S5141–43

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S5144–46

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S5146–49

Additional Statements:

Pages S5139–40

Amendments Submitted:

Pages S5149–50

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Page S5150

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—264) Pages S5132, S5134–35
Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:59 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 25, 2023. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5152.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

ROBOCALLS
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband concluded a hearing to examine protecting Americans from robocalls, after receiving testimony from Margot Freeman Saunders, National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of the Consumer Federation of America, Megan L. Brown, Wiley Rein LLP, on behalf of the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform, and Joshua M. Bercu, USTelecom—The Broadband Association Industry Traceback Group, all of Washington, D.C.; and Michael Rudolph, YouMail, Inc., Los Angeles, California.

SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA
Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine instability in the Sahel and West Africa, focusing on implications for United States policy, after receiving testimony from Molly Phee, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

BUSINESS MEETING
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress:

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations: Senators Blumenthal (Chair), Carper, Hassan, Ossoff, Butler, Johnson, Scott (FL), Hawley, and Marshall.

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight: Senators Hassan (Chair), Sinema, Rosen, Ossoff, Romney, Lankford, and Scott (FL).

Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management: Senators Sinema (Chair), Carper, Blumenthal, Butler, Lankford, Johnson, and Romney.

Senators Peters and Paul are ex-officio members of each subcommittee.

COMPETITION AND CONSUMER RIGHTS IN HOUSING MARKETS
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine competition and consumer rights in housing markets, after receiving testimony from Diane Yentel, National Low Income Housing Coalition, Vanessa Brown Calder, Cato Institute, Luis E. Quintero, Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School, and E.J. Antoni, The Heritage Foundation, all of Washington, D.C.; and Maurice E. Stucke, University of Tennessee College of Law, Knoxville.

INTELLIGENCE
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

THE PRECURSOR PIPELINE
United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: Caucus concluded a hearing to examine the precursor pipeline, focusing on techniques that drug cartels use to procure and finance precursor chemicals that are used to manufacture illicit synthetic drugs, and actions the Federal government can take to address this issue, after receiving testimony from Margaret Nardi, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; William F. Kimbell, Chief of Operations, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; and Ricardo Mayoral, Deputy Assistant Director, International Operations, Homeland Security Investigations, Department of Homeland Security.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 20 public bills, H.R. 6020–6039; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 70; and H. Res. 805–809, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.
Recess: The House recessed at 11:02 a.m. and reconvened at 6:43 p.m.
Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourned today, it adjourn to meet at 12 noon tomorrow, October 25th.
Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine how climate change threatens supply chains, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, to hold hearings to examine S. 175, to codify certain public land orders relating to the revocation of certain withdrawals of public land in the State of Alaska, S. 297, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize certain construction activities on public lands, S. 1348, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, S. 1719, to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to establish emergency fireshed management areas, S. 1764, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, S. 1889, to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 2132, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program for the establishment and use of a pre-fire-suppression stand density index, S. 2151, to amend the Southwest Forest Health and Wildlife Prevention Act of 2004 to require the establishment of an additional Institute under that Act, S. 2581, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, S. 2615, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, S. 2855, to modernize and streamline the permitting process for broadband infrastructure on Federal land, S. 2867, to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, S. 2991, to improve revegetation and carbon sequestration activities in the United States, S. 3033, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 3036, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, S. 3044, to redesignate the Mount Evans Wilderness as the “Mount Blue Sky Wilderness”, S. 3045, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, S. 3046, to make permanent the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity National Forest marina fees, H.R. 3324, to extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029, S. 3062, to provide for the removal of small-diameter trees in fire hazard areas, and S. 3079, to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security began a markup on legislation on the Advanced Reactor Fee Reduction Act; legislation on the Advanced Nuclear Reactor Prize Act; legislation on the Nuclear for Brownfields Site Preparation Act; legislation on the Strengthening American Nuclear Competitiveness Act; legislation on the NRC Mission Alignment Act; legislation on the Nuclear Licensing Efficiency Act; legislation on the Advanced Nuclear Deployment Act; legislation on the Modernize Nuclear Reactor Environmental Reviews Act; legislation on the Advancing Nuclear Regulatory Oversight Act; H.R. 995, the “Global Nuclear Energy Assessment and Cooperation Act”; H.R. 5718, the “Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023”; H.R. 4528, the “Strengthening the NRC Workforce Act of 2023”; H.R. 4167, the “Protecting America’s Distribution Transformer Supply Chain Act”; legislation on the Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act; legislation on the GRID Act; legislation on the Affordable HOMES Act; and H.R. 4045, the “Hydropower Clean Energy Future Act”.

OVERSIGHT OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Government Operations and the Federal Workforce; and Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services held a joint hearing entitled “Oversight of the Internal Revenue Service”. Testimony was heard from Daniel Werfel, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; and Jessica Lucas-Judy, Director, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office.

MEASURING POVERTY: HOW THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO REDRAW THE POVERTY LINE AND ROB RESOURCES FROM RURAL AMERICA

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Work and Welfare held a hearing entitled “Measuring Poverty: How the Biden Administration Plans to Redraw the Poverty Line and Rob Resources from Rural America”. Testimony was heard from David Hansen, Director of Educational Opportunities and Investments, Perry County Job and Family Services, Ohio; and public witnesses.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 6:43 p.m.
real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine paid leave, focusing on policy, practice, and impact on the workforce, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider the nomination of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Ambassador to the State of Israel, Department of State, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., S–116, Capitol.

Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, to hold hearings to examine the Department of State’s strategy for security in the Black Sea region, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Erika L. McEntarfer, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, Amanda Wood Laihow, of Maine, to be a Member of Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 2685, to make data and internal guidance on excess personal property publicly available, S. 2866, to improve the customer experience of the Federal Government, ensure that Federal services are simple, seamless, and secure, S. 3029, to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal employees, S. 2150, to establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, S. 2087, to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act, S. 2414, to require agencies with working dog programs to implement the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office relating to the health and welfare of working dogs, S. 1258, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, S. 3071, to amend section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects, and S. 3067, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct an evaluation and submit to Congress a report on ways to reduce the complexity of the cost effectiveness requirements for hazard mitigation assistance, 10:30 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act in native communities, 2 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine ensuring the safety and well-being of unaccompanied children, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, to hold hearings to examine the human rights of foster children, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold hearings to examine VA accountability and transparency, focusing on quality care and benefits for veterans, 3:30 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, hearing entitled “The Submarine Industrial Base and its Ability to Support the AUKUS Framework”, 2:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.


Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Supporting Access to Long-Term Services and Supports: An Examination of the Impacts of Proposed Regulations on Workforce and Access to Care”, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion, hearing entitled “Modernizing Financial Services Through Innovation and Competition”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.


Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled “The U.S.- Honduras Bilateral Relationship: Analyzing the Socialist Government of President Xiomara Castro de Zelaya”, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.


Committee on Natural Resources. Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1792, the “South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2023”; H.R. 2560, the “Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2023”; H.R. 3415, the “Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act”; H.R. 4587, the “Red Snapper Act”; H.R. 4770, the “Chesapeake Bay Science, Education, and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2023”; H.R. 5009, the “WILD Act”; H.R. 5283, the “Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act of 2023”; and H.R. 5616, the “BRIDGE Production Act of 2023”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.


Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 520, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide that artificially propagated animals shall be treated the same under that Act as naturally propagated animals; H.R. 2990, the “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Improvements Act of 2023”; H.R. 5103, the “FISHES Act”; H.R. 5504, to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to withdraw proposed rules relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes; H.R. 5509, the “Electronic Permitting Modernization Act”; H.R. 5874, the “TAAP Act”; and legislation to prohibit the implementation of certain documents until the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Marine Fisheries Service issues documents relating to the Rice’s whale, 2:15 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability. Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled “Faith Under Fire: An Examination of Global Religious Persecution”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.


Committee on Ways and Means. Full Committee, hearing entitled “Educational Freedom and Opportunity for American Families, Students, and Workers”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meeting
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. to hold hearings to examine Hamas’ hostages, Putin’s prisoners, and freeing international captives, 10 a.m., 1334, Longworth Building.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD
Week of October 25 through October 27, 2023

Senate Chamber
On Wednesday, Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. At 11:30 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon. Following disposition of the nomination of Jessica Looman, Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 4366, with addition roll call votes expected.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: October 26, to hold hearings to examine combating the networks of illicit finance and terrorism, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: October 25, to hold hearings to examine how climate change threatens supply chains, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: October 25, Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining, to hold hearings to examine S. 175, to codify certain public land orders relating to the revocation of certain withdrawals of public land in the State of Alaska, S. 297, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize certain construction activities on public lands, S. 1348, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, S. 1719, to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to establish emergency fireshed management areas, S. 1764, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, S. 1889, to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 2132, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program for the establishment and use of a pre-fire-suppression stand density index, S. 2151, to amend the South-west Forest Health and Wildlife Prevention Act of 2004 to require the establishment of an additional Institute under that Act, S. 2581, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, S. 2615, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, S. 2855, to modernize and streamline the permitting process for broadband infrastructure on Federal land, S. 2867, to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, S. 2991, to improve revegetation and carbon sequestration activities in the United States, S. 3033, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral
entry, S. 3036, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, S. 3044, to redesignate the Mount Evans Wilderness as the “Mount Blue Sky Wilderness”, S. 3045, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, S. 3046, to make permanent the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity National Forest marina fees, H.R. 3024, to extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029, S. 3062, to provide for the removal of small-diameter trees in fire hazard areas, and S. 3079, to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, 2:30 p.m., SD–366.

October 26, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Federal offshore energy strategy and policies, 9:30 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: October 26, Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine evaluating alternative materials for single-use plastics, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: October 25, to hold hearings to examine paid leave, focusing on policy, practice, and impact on the workforce, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: October 25, business meeting to consider the nomination of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Ambassador to the State of Israel, Department of State, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., S–116, Capitol.

October 25, Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, to hold hearings to examine the Department of State’s strategy for security in the Black Sea region, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: October 25, business meeting to consider the nominations of Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Erika L. McEntarfer, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, Amanda Wood Laihow, of Maine, to be a Member of Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: October 25, business meeting to consider S. 2685, to make data and internal guidance on excess personal property publicly available, S. 2866, to improve the customer experience of the Federal Government, ensure that Federal services are simple, seamless, and secure, S. 3029, to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal employees, S. 2150, to establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, S. 2087, to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act, S. 2414, to require agencies with working dog programs to implement the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office relating to the health and welfare of working dogs, S. 1258, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, S. 3071, to amend section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects, and S. 3067, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct an evaluation and submit to Congress a report on ways to reduce the complexity of the cost effectiveness requirements for hazard mitigation assistance, 10:30 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: October 25, to hold hearings to examine implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act in native communities, 2 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: October 25, to hold hearings to examine ensuring the safety and well-being of unaccompanied children, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

October 25, Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law, to hold hearings to examine the human rights of foster children, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

October 26, Full Committee, business meeting to consider subcommittee assignments, and the nominations of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, John A. Kazen, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Eumi K. Lee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Shalyn A.S. Park, and Micah W.J. Smith, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii, and Jamel Semper, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: October 25, to hold hearings to examine VA accountability and transparency, focusing on quality care and benefits for veterans, 3:30 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: October 25, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: October 26, to hold hearings to examine access to therapies for people with rare, progressive, and serious diseases, 10 a.m., SD–106.

House Committees

Committee on Financial Services, October 26, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ”Moving the Money: Understanding the Iranian Regime’s Access to Money Around the World and How They Use It to Support Terrorism”, 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: October 25, to hold hearings to examine Hamas' hostages, Putin's prisoners, and freeing international captives, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth Building.
Next Meeting of the **SENATE**
10 a.m., Wednesday, October 25

**Senate Chamber**

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. At 11:30 a.m., Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon. Following disposition of the nomination of Jessica Looman, Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 4366, with addition roll call votes expected.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
12 noon, Wednesday, October 25

**House Chamber**

**Program for Wednesday:** To be announced.

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**Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue**

**HOUSE**

- Buck, Ken, Colo., E1005, E1007
- Clyburn, James E., S.C., E1006
- Craig, Angie, Minn., E1008
- Deluzio, Christopher R., Pa., E1005
- Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E1007
- Higgins, Brian, N.Y., E1006, E1008
- Krishnamoorthi, Raja, Ill., E1007
- Loudermilk, Barry, Ga., E1006
- Pappas, Chris, N.H., E1005
- Slotkin, Elissa, Mich., E1006
- Smith, Jason, Mo., E1005
- Trahan, Lori, Mass., E1008
- Valadao, David G., Calif., E1008