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No. 55

Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, use the hearts and hands of our lawmakers to lift burdens and liberate lives. Give our Senators the wisdom that will lead them to know what must be done to make a better nation and world. Open their ears to hear the cries of those on life's margins. Infuse them with courage to act by bringing relief and release to those who are bruised by life's storms.

Lord, whisper words of counsel to our leaders, particularly during their moments of important decision making. And, Lord, help them to do the very best they can each day, leaving the results to You.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will 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 James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The Senator from Iowa.

BLOT CLOT AWARENESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last night the Senate passed my bipartisan resolution to bring attention to a very important issue but one that isn't discussed often enough: It is the deaths by blood clot.

We call March Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month. So that is a fancy name for blood clots, and last night the Senate took this action. It took that action because we want to bring attention to the fact that this health problem affects about 900,000 Americans and contributes to \$10 billion in medical costs annually.

While blood clots can be life-threatening, they are preventable and treatable. Sadly, they are among the leading causes of preventable hospital deaths. Cancer patients, pregnant women, older Americans, and patients having surgery all face increased risks of blood clotting.

So I have a constituent who is very active in this movement, and I have met with him over the last 3 or 4 years that he has led a national effort to bring attention to the problems of blood clotting.

I am thankful that Des Moines, IA, resident Todd Robertson is working on this issue and was in my office yesterday to discuss what can be done, even beyond passing this resolution naming a whole month for this attention. He

has the title of National Blood Clot Alliance patient liaison.

I want to give thanks to Todd in a big way about his passion because we are all more aware of the risk of blood clots and the necessary steps to prevent blood clotting and preserving our Nation's health with the people that have this problem.

So I would encourage all Americans to visit stoptheclot.org so every American can understand possible risks with clotting and how you can prevent that in your own life.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

AGRICULTURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, there is not much in our lives that doesn't depend in some way on agriculture: the food on our table, the gas in our car, the cotton in our shirts. Agriculture is the lifeblood of our country. I am grateful for the men and women who rise before the dawn for a hard day's work on farms and ranches across America.

Agriculture is a difficult way of life. It is filled with uncertainty. Storms, drought, or an early freeze can wipe out entire crops or herds, sometimes in an instant. There is market volatility, processing and transportation challenges, and the list goes on.

The last few years have been especially challenging for America's farmers and ranchers. They face declining commodity prices, higher input costs, and higher interest rates, not to mention the natural disasters that have struck many parts of the country.

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



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Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall recently told the Agriculture Committee that “in 2025, farmers will plant one of the most expensive crops ever.” Many commodity producers are bracing for the prospect of serious financial losses this year.

These challenges are real. That is why last December Congress approved relief funding for agriculture producers hit by economic headwinds as well as those affected by natural disasters. Secretary Rollins committed to getting these funds out the door quickly during her confirmation hearing. Last week, USDA announced that farmers could now apply for direct payments from the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program through their local farm service agency, and additional assistance for those affected by natural disasters will be available soon.

Programs like the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program are designed to help farmers weather the current storm, but let's be clear: They are only temporary measures, and they are no substitute for an updated farm bill that provides the resources that farmers and ranchers need to face current conditions.

When I became majority leader, I made it clear that a full and updated farm bill would be a priority for the new Republican majority. Secretary Rollins has been clear that this is a priority for the Trump administration as well. I appreciate the work that the Agriculture Committee is doing under Chairman BOOZMAN to respond to the needs of farmers and ranchers.

During my time in Congress, I have had a role in crafting four farm bills. This will be my fifth. It is a difficult task at any time, and it is harder when the situation is as dire as it is today. But Senate Republicans remain committed to finishing this important work and delivering a farm bill that ensures farmers and ranchers have the resources they need to face today's challenges and tomorrow's as well. I hope that our Democrat colleagues will join us in working productively to deliver this important legislation.

Farmers and ranchers need certainty so they can plan for the future, and providing that certainty is a priority of mine. I have introduced a number of bills that I will work to see incorporated into the farm bill, including the Crop Insurance for Future Farmers Act and the Livestock Disaster Assistance Improvement Act, among others.

Strengthening the farm safety net is an important priority of mine, as is a stable biofuels policy, including year-round access to E15 and timely and meaningful updates to the renewable volume obligations that matter to ethanol producers in America's heartland.

I continue to advocate for eliminating the death tax once and for all so that no farmer or rancher has to worry about whether the family farm or ranch will be able to stay in the family after they pass.

Life on a farm or ranch isn't easy, and I am grateful to all of our farmers

and ranchers, including in my home State of South Dakota, for the remarkable job they do day in and day out feeding not only our country but the world.

We have a responsibility to the men and women who work hard every day to deliver food, fuel, and fiber for America and the world. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to deliver the updated legislation that farmers and ranchers need.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

THE ATLANTIC REPORT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the more we learn about the unsecured text exchange of sensitive military operations, the more questions we have about how such an egregious breach of military intelligence occurred in the first place.

What the Atlantic released today is confounding and extremely disturbing to any American who worries about our national security and our safety. It is appalling. Worst of all, it confirms our darkest assumptions about mishandling of sensitive military operations.

The release of this letter was extremely important, but many outstanding questions are not answered by this letter's release, so we need the full text exchange released by the administration. This morning's report reinforces the need for immediate answers, transparency, and accountability from President Trump, Secretary Hegseth, and all the others who were involved.

So today I wrote a letter with top Senate Democrats to President Trump and Secretary Hegseth demanding they release the full, unredacted transcript of all texts in their Signal chats.

Many outstanding questions are simply not answered by the Atlantic's release of the text messages this morning. That is why we need all the texts in the Signal chat. This includes all text exchanges that occurred after Mr. Goldberg removed himself from the group chat. Goldberg released his information, so now the administration must release theirs.

Again, what is so damaging is not just the presence of a reporter—as bad as that was. It is that these sensitive conversations happened on an unsecured channel at all. And that is why we need all the texts.

Director of National Intelligence Gabbard testified that no classified information was shared in the text chain. So what is the administration hiding by not releasing the full and complete

transcript of this text chain? If no classified information was shared, the administration should have no issue with the full transcript being shared with Senators. Again, this is something that cannot be answered by this morning's report from the Atlantic, as important as Mr. Goldberg's release was.

We have other questions in our letter too. Americans need to know if any officials in the chat used personal devices that lacked government overwatch and cyber security protections. How many of these officials were overseas during these conversations, susceptible to foreign surveillance?

It is alarming—alarming—that Director Gabbard refused to answer repeated questions on whether or not she was using her personal phone. That should be a very easy, “Of course not.” But it didn't come from her.

Were there any other individuals without any security clearance erroneously included in the text chain? Has the intelligence community fully assessed the damage caused by the potential leak of classified information? Are there any other Cabinet-level officials using unsecured channels like Signal to discuss classified or sensitive information?

And another important question: Are there any other conversations that have taken place like this? These are all questions we have asked in our letter. They are all very important. They all follow on what Mr. Goldberg released.

But as I said, there are so many outstanding questions, even after the release of Mr. Goldberg's text, that we need answers to. The American people need answers to these questions. What we learned this morning from the Atlantic is appalling, confounding, disturbing; and it reinforces the need to get answers to the questions in our letter. Our letter seeks to get to the bottom of these things to ensure this never, never happens again.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, on the economy, yesterday we got another piece of evidence that Donald Trump is failing at the one thing the American people want him to do: keep the economy strong. The Conference Board, one of the most trusted business research organizations, showed consumer confidence has dropped for the fourth straight month. And it didn't just drop; it is now at the lowest levels since January of 2021, the last time Donald Trump was President.

Donald Trump's disastrous policies are starting to catch up with him. The economic chickens are coming home to roost, and I fear this is just the beginning.

How can any American have confidence in the economy when Donald Trump and Elon Musk are trying to take away their Social Security and healthcare to cut taxes? How can Americans feel confident when Donald Trump starts, stops, starts, changes his position on tariffs? How can Americans have confidence when the prospect of

trade wars sends the stock market plunging and lets billionaires like Elon Musk take a chain saw to people's benefits?

Americans look at this chaos, they are worried, they are troubled. So what do they do? They say: I better keep some money in my pocket because who knows what is going to happen next and what will hurt me next. This fall is the lowest level of confidence in 12 years. This fall is the lowest level since January of 2021 and the lowest level that we have seen in so long, all because Donald Trump is creating chaos in the economy. And Americans are worried and afraid. When they are, they spend less money, they hire less, and the economy shrinks.

More and more people are learning that Donald Trump and his leadership in the economy—or lack of leadership—is far too erratic, far too chaotic, far too unpredictable. And many of us fear—many Americans fear—it is only the beginning.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. President, on voting rights, yesterday Donald Trump escalated his attacks on the bedrock of American democracy. Without a shred of authority, Donald Trump issued an Executive order that will, effectively, coerce States to institute policies that will prevent millions of American citizens from voting.

Let us be very clear: This is an assault on democracy. Donald Trump's order has nothing—nothing—to do with election security. It is an illegal power grab.

We all support safe and transparent and secure elections, but what Donald Trump is doing is making it harder for citizens to vote. He is fanning the flames of election denialism—nothing new to him—claiming without any evidence—without any evidence—that elections are rigged and the system is broken. Every single election authority says this is false.

We all know that if Donald Trump is anything, he is an election denier. He hates the idea of free and fair elections. This is another dark and twisted example of Donald Trump's lawless campaign to recreate America into his personal kingdom.

I am confident the courts will look at this power grab and quickly deem it unconstitutional.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on Social Security, yesterday, the Senate Finance Committee heard from Frank Bisignano, who has been nominated by Donald Trump to lead the Social Security Administration.

To confirm Mr. Bisignano as the head of Social Security is like hiring an arsonist to run a fire station. His claim to fame is cutting and shrinking the companies he has been a part of.

A "yes" vote on Bisignano is a vote to cut Social Security. I say to my Republican colleagues: If you vote yes on Bisignano, you are voting to cut Social Security.

The Senate should oppose his confirmation. Mr. Bisignano would be a disaster because, at this very moment, in fact, because of what Trump has already done, the Social Security Administration is in crisis. Yesterday, Senate Democrats released a report detailing exactly what is happening now to the Social Security Administration and how Americans are going to suffer. Up to 60 percent of all regional offices are shutting down, dozens of field offices will be closed, and 7,000 workers are being laid off—12 percent of the entire staff. Cutting staff means people with disabilities could be waiting up to 3 years—3 years; disabled people who are entitled to Social Security, 3 years—to get their benefits. The wait time over the phones will explode. Seniors are already having to wait over 2 hours—sometimes longer, it is reported—to get someone on the phone.

Why are they doing this? Why are Donald Trump and Elon Musk doing this? The goal of Trump and Musk is clear: Destroy Social Security from within. Make it so unworkable, so inefficient that Donald Trump has a pretext to cut benefits and privatize the program.

Republicans are saying it loud and clear, and Donald Trump said it in his address to the joint session: This administration, the Trump-Musk administration, is going after Social Security. And why are they doing such a horrible thing? To cut taxes for billionaires like Elon Musk.

Senate Republicans should be using their majority to protect Americans' benefits, not to destroy them. Senate Republicans should be demanding that Elon Musk reverse the firings of the 7,000 staffers, reopen the field offices, and restore the phone services. Senate Republicans haven't done any of that. It is shameful, and they are complicit in destroying Social Security the way Musk intends to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes, followed by Senator CRUZ for up to 10 minutes, prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I traveled last week to visit with over 150 members of our Wyoming Army National Guard. They are stationed in Jordan and in Syria, and they are a long way from home—nine time zones away from Wyoming. They are there to keep our country safe and free.

One year ago, our adversaries were growing bolder, stronger, and more aggressive. That was a year ago. Today, America is stronger, safer, and much more secure. President Trump is restoring peace through strength. This is a dramatic change from what we saw in the previous administration.

Within days of taking office, President Trump began freeing American

hostages—Marc Fogel, Keith Siegel. Almost a dozen former hostages who were held by our adversaries are now safe on American soil. President Trump is bringing American citizens home.

He is also bringing America's enemies to justice. Let's look at the recent precision strike in Yemen against the Houthi terrorists. Remember who the Houthis are. They are Iran-funded terrorists. Their official slogans say "Death to the United States" and "Death to Israel." They are a direct threat to the American people and specifically to our servicemembers and to American trade.

Since October 7, 2023, the Houthis have attacked U.S. Navy ships 174 times. They have attacked U.S. commercial ships 145 times. Iran provides them with high-tech missiles and precision-guided drones.

These attacks continue. Why? Because Joe Biden and the Democrats were weak, and Joe Biden, their President, projected weakness. President Trump is strong, and he projects strength. President Trump responded firmly with overwhelming strength.

I am grateful for our servicemembers who carried out the attacks.

President Trump sent a clear message to the terrorists: Stop or get destroyed. He also sent a clear message to Iran: You will not escape accountability.

This is a remarkable change from his predecessor. Joe Biden appeased Iran. His administration gave Iran \$100 billion in sanctions relief. President Trump is keeping up maximum pressure on Iran, and the Houthi strike proves it.

President Trump knows that Iran is responsible for the chaos in the Middle East. Since taking office, President Trump rightfully has hit Iran with 94 new sanctions. President Trump also placed sanctions on Iran's so-called ghost fleet. These are the oil smugglers who move Iranian oil to China. These sanctions against Iran help put communist China on notice. These fleets are moving Iranian oil and selling it to China at a discount, making Iran richer and making China more powerful. Remember, 90 percent of Iran's exports of oil go to communist China. We saw a lot of it under the last administration. As the Wall Street Journal editorial board recently wrote, "[T]he Iranian oil-export problem is really a Chinese import problem" because they are getting the cheap oil. President Trump is responding firmly to this new axis of evil.

Here in the West, President Trump is taking historic action against the killer cartels. He recently designated killer cartels as "foreign terrorists." With this designation, he can move more aggressively to deport illegal immigrant criminals who are members of these deadly groups.

The President of the United States is our Commander in Chief, and President Trump takes the role seriously. He is

reestablishing our military as the most lethal and intimidating force in the world. Under the Trump administration, recruitment has surged to its highest level in 15 years. This is important because history teaches us an important lesson. And what is that lesson? Weakness invites conflict. Strength deters war. When our military is prepared, America is strong and projects strength.

President Trump is also the best chance for peace between Russia and Ukraine. Both Russia and Ukraine must come to an agreement on a lasting cease-fire. President Trump and his administration are pursuing an end to the killing and to the bloodshed.

In the Middle East, peace and prosperity are also necessary. That begins with American support for Israel. The Senate should confirm Governor Mike Huckabee to be America's Ambassador to Israel.

Overall, President Trump is off to a strong start. His swift actions are making America safer and stronger. Fully restoring peace through strength, however, requires congressional action as well. In the Senate, Republicans are preparing legislation to do just that. Republicans will rebuild our military, improve military readiness, expand shipbuilding, and invest in the newest technologies to keep America safe, and that includes an Iron Dome for America. All of this makes our military more lethal.

Americans strongly support these policies. They know that this is the path toward safety and security. Republicans are going to bring back peace through strength. We will get America back on track.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF AARON REITZ

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, it is a distinct honor for me to speak today on behalf of Aaron Reitz as he continues through the confirmation process to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Throughout his career, whether in law, government, or on the battlefield, Aaron has earned the respect and the admiration of all who have had the privilege of working with him.

I have worked closely with Aaron day-to-day, and I can attest to his exceptional career, unrelenting commitment, and strong moral values. He is an ideal candidate for this position.

The Office of Legal Policy is integral to the Department of Justice. It is the cornerstone of the Department's most

significant policy initiatives and serves as a key driver of its legislative and programmatic agendas. OLP plays a critical role in facilitating the relationship between the executive and the legislative branches, particularly regarding legislation, regulations, policies, and judicial appointments.

Aaron possesses the vision, the experience, and the leadership needed to excel in this role, and I have no doubt that he will lead the office with the same dedication he has shown throughout his career.

But before diving into his professional credentials, it is important to highlight that Aaron is more than just an outstanding legal expert. He is a dedicated family man. He is blessed and fortunate to have his wonderful wife Meredith and four beautiful children. All of them have much to be proud of.

Allow me to share a few highlights from Aaron's distinguished career, which demonstrates why he is so well-qualified for the position.

Aaron graduated magna cum laude from Texas A&M University, where he earned the role of Regimental Commander at the Corps of Cadets. Following his education, Aaron served with distinction as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. During nearly 5 years of Active Duty, he deployed to Afghanistan's Helmand Province, where he worked alongside the Afghan National Army, leading logistics in one of the world's most challenging environments. He didn't merely oversee operations from behind a desk; he led from the front, ensuring mission success and safeguarding the lives of our troops in a combat zone.

Aaron then attended law school at the University of Texas, where he served as President of the Federalist Society's student chapter, and he also served as the editor in chief of the Texas Review of Law and Politics, and then he clerked at the Texas Supreme Court.

After completing his military service in law school, Aaron continued his leadership in the legal and public policy fields, working in private practice and later as deputy attorney general for legal strategy in the Office of the Attorney General of Texas. While serving in the Texas Attorney General's Office, Aaron was instrumental in shaping the State's most important legal and policy initiatives.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Aaron stands out for his ability to build consensus, unite people, and navigate complex situations with poise and effectiveness.

I have witnessed this firsthand while he served as my chief of staff here in the Senate. Aaron's contributions have been indispensable in advancing my legislative agenda, which includes securing the U.S.-Mexico border, protecting children from online harm, and expanding our economy through investments in semiconductor manufacturing and tech infrastructure. He also

played a key role in the efforts to build critical bridges across the Rio Grande River, and he was instrumental in shepherding the Justice for Jocelyn Act. His deep involvement with my Judiciary Committee team will serve him well when he is confirmed for this position.

Now to the heart of why Aaron is the best candidate for Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy. OLP is vital to the Department of Justice, as it shapes and executes the Department's most important priorities. Leading this office requires someone with experience managing complex, cross-departmental initiatives, and a proven ability to get things done at the highest level. That is Aaron.

Aaron has a demonstrated ability to lead and coordinate efforts that have meaningful, measurable impacts, whether in the courtroom, on Capitol Hill, or within a broader policy landscape. His extensive experience across legal, governmental, and political sectors, combined with his exceptional team-building skills, make him very well-qualified for this role.

But beyond his professional qualifications, what truly sets Aaron apart is the strength of his character. He is a man of faith, family, and unwavering principles. He stands firm in his commitment to doing what is right, even when faced with challenging circumstances. His integrity is evident in all his actions.

With his leadership, Aaron will be an invaluable partner to Attorney General Pam Bondi. I have every confidence that OLP will continue to advance the Department's most important policy priorities under his guidance, ensuring that they are grounded in justice, fairness, and the rule of law.

I strongly support Aaron Reitz's nomination. He is the right person for this critical role, and I am confident that he will bring the same dedication, leadership, and integrity to the Office of Legal Policy that he has demonstrated throughout his career.

I urge my colleagues to support his nomination, and I look forward to the outstanding work Aaron will continue to do in continued service to our Nation.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Reitz nomination.

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

VOTE ON BISHOP NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bishop nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 145 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Gallago	Sanders
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The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 48, Aaron Reitz, of Texas, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Ashley B. Moody, Ted Budd, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Justice, Steve Daines, Ron Johnson, Josh Hawley, John R. Curtis, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, David McCormick, Mike Lee, Rick Scott of Florida.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Aaron Reitz, of Texas, to be an Assistant Attorney General, 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 Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 146 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Gallago	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Aaron Reitz, of Texas, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here on the floor because we are in a moment of crisis for our veterans. It is a moment of profound historic challenge to the Veterans' Administration, and what we need from Members of this body—and I am encouraged by the response so far—is a call to action. We need a plan for accountability. That is our job—to hold responsible officials who have the obligation and opportunity to serve our veterans at a time when Elon Musk and Donald Trump are slashing and trashing our Veterans' Administration, with real-life impacts on the healthcare and disability benefits that are afforded to our Nation's heroes. It is a disgrace, it is shameful, it is unacceptable, and we need to muster the courage and fortitude on the part of this body to call it out and call it off.

That is why I am here, and it is only the beginning of a plan for accountability that will include others—my colleagues coming to the floor this week and next—as well as hearings that we will organize, shadow hearings—not necessarily formal hearings of the committee but hearings that we will have on aspects of this challenge that call for us to highlight the need for action.

We are going to come to the floor as well to seek unanimous consent on measures that will stop the degrading and decimation of the Veterans' Administration. It is illegal. It is immoral. It is immoral because we have a solemn responsibility—I don't need to make a long speech to tell my colleagues about this responsibility. We recognize it rhetorically all the time. I am here not to make a speech but to have an impact.

Next week, we are going to be voting on the next VA Deputy Secretary nominee, Paul Lawrence, and I just want to be really blunt. I voted for Doug Collins to be VA Secretary. It was a mistake because Secretary Collins has not been forthcoming with facts. He has not been transparent. He has not been responsive to us or to veterans and his employees who are asking questions about what the future of the VA will be given the firing of 80,000 members of the VA workforce, projected, in the next few months without a plan, without a strategy, without any forethought about what its real-life impact will be.

I voted for Doug Collins, and I regret it. I apologize for it. I am not making the same mistake with Paul Lawrence. There is no reason to believe he will be any different—not to mention any better—because he is the Deputy. I have respect for their service in the military, as I do for anyone who has worn the uniform, but I cannot—I cannot—vote for Paul Lawrence. I hope my colleagues will be as vigilant as I am seeking to be in voting against him. I will oppose his nomination.

Since taking office, this administration has shortsightedly shortchanged and systematically betrayed our veterans with policies that are against their interests. The goal here: save money so that tax cuts can be financed—tax cuts for the billionaires and millionaires that populate this administration and drive its policy.

They fired already 2,400 VA employees, many of them high performers. They have been promoted to provisional positions because they have been high performers. They are in those provisional positions for a time when they would become permanently in those positions, but because they are provisional, they have been fired; likewise, the younger members of the workforce who have just been recruited for positions that are open and where their talent is vitally needed. They are the future of our VA, younger VA employees who want to make a career of it, want to serve fellow veterans.

Thirty percent of all the fired workers are veterans because 30 percent of the workforce there is veterans. In fact, the newer employees may be veterans in a higher percentage. We are terminating the future workforce of the VA—again, simply to save money to finance tax cuts for Elon Musk and his fellow billionaires and the ultrawealthy.

Now, the workers who have been fired are in positions of healthcare and disability benefits processing. So what is at risk here is literally the everyday medical needs of our veterans. They are physicians, thousands of them; nurses; schedulers; counselors; the janitors who make sure the facilities are clean. The surgeon who goes into the operating suite can't do it alone; he needs his team. We are firing his team as well as the medical care providers.

On the disability benefits side, the increase in workforce that took place in recent years is to deal with the PACT Act increase in applicants for disability benefits, our veterans who have been exposed to burn pits and toxic chemicals. They are in need of screening, advising, consulting, as well as care and treatment.

We had bipartisan support for the PACT Act. The law is dead letter if it is implemented haphazardly, and we are betraying the goals and the trust we sought so proudly to espouse when we passed that PACT Act that recognized the sacrifice veterans are making—and their families—when they have cancer or hypertension or diabetes or any of the diseases that can result from exposure to those toxic chemicals.

VA Secretary Doug Collins has claimed falsely that there will be no impact to veterans' healthcare and benefits as a result of the administration's malign directive.

At the end of the Biden administration, the VA was delivering more benefits and more healthcare to more veterans than ever before as a result of the success of the PACT Act, for toxic-exposed veterans, and trust in the VA was at an alltime high.

We are risking the healthcare and benefits to veterans not just now but in the future because the credibility of the VA will be decimated, along with its workforce.

The cancellation of contracts eliminates another source of resources for our veterans. VA employees are the ones delivering healthcare. VA employees are the ones processing the PACT Act benefits.

I am disappointed and dismayed that so many of my Republican colleagues are seeking to minimize or diminish the human impacts of these cuts, firings, freezes—the cuts in funding, the freezes in hiring, the firings of employees who are there now—even at a time when there are 40,000 open positions. The VA is recruiting to fill them—3,000 surgeons, 6,000 nurses, thousands of counselors and schedulers—open positions. At the same

time that it is trying to recruit people to fill those positions, it is firing the workers who have similar or the same positions right now. It makes no sense.

But the human impacts are what trouble me the most. To my colleagues or anyone who claims there are no impacts, go host a veteran townhall in your State. Talk to the local VFW or American Legion or any of the other veterans service organizations. Go visit a local VA medical center or clinic or talk to employees who work there. When you meet face to face with your constituents, the immediate impacts of this administration's malign directives, whether it is out of malevolence or simply malign neglect, will become apparent, and either way, it is unacceptable.

I invite Secretary Collins to actually come to a townhall—make it Connecticut; make it anywhere—a townhall where you will meet face to face with a group of veterans who will tell you what these cuts, freezes, and firings mean in real life to the services that are supposed to be provided to them and will be denied because of these directives.

Let's be clear: The one behind this is Elon Musk. The one who is directing these cuts, freezes, and firings is an unappointed, unelected billionaire who has never contemplated wearing the uniform of this country, not to mention helping or serving our veterans in any way.

Elon Musk, you come to a townhall with veterans. You face them and tell them that they can't have the medical care they need and deserve to treat cancer or hypertension or any of the diseases or illnesses that result from exposure to toxic chemicals or burn pits.

I attended a veterans event last week. I talk to veterans all the time when I am back in Connecticut. I know firsthand what these cuts, freezes, and firings mean to them. The impacts caused by Musk and Trump—heart-breaking, heartless cuts and other damaging directives—are being felt in every corner of my State of Connecticut and every part of our country.

I just want to read a few sentences from *Sioux Falls Live*, a newspaper in South Dakota:

"Staffing cuts in the federal Department of Veterans Affairs are disproportionately affecting the veterans that the department preferentially hires," said members of a South Dakota veterans' advocacy group.

They worry the Trump administration's goal of cutting 80,000 VA employees will put more veterans out of work without a vetting process, and erode the quality of services provided.

Eugene Murphy, of Sioux Falls, is a past national commander of Disabled American Veterans and a Vietnam War vet who was paralyzed by gunshot wounds.

"How are you going to treat my brothers and sisters like that?" He said. "This is not right."

I hope those words will echo in this Chamber. It is not right. It is not right. These veterans in South Dakota have a

right to be angry, not to mention concerned and worried not just for themselves but veterans across the country.

We heard that a VA hospital in South Dakota is at risk of losing nearly 20 percent of its staff as a direct result of Trump and Musk's illegal and indiscriminate reduction-in-force plans.

And yet Secretary Collins continues to dutifully carry out the Musk plan with no buy-in, no consultation, no townhall with that.

Now let me read you an excerpt from an article in the *Spokesman-Review* that contained interviews with some of the VA employees that Collins illegally fired. VA employees like Ricky Noschese who worked at Lovell Federal Healthcare Center.

Here is what Ricky Noschese—I apologize for the mispronunciation—Ricky Noschese says about that Federal health center where he supervises a team of technicians in charge of keeping equipment running at the hospital—another corrective. He supervised them.

Lovell serves 90,000 patients a year, including veterans, Active-Duty servicemembers, and their dependents:

In less than a year on the job, Ricky had identified more than \$10 million in cost savings and had a long list of ideas to improve operations and complete long-delayed projects.

With the support of his boss, Noschese wrote a detailed four-page document to justify his employment. He described how he had helped save taxpayers more than \$10 million by using nearly two decades of experience as an HVAC technician to identify efficiencies and find cost-effective ways to extend the life of air-handling units.

He was head of a 12-person team responsible for ensuring clean water, fire safety, and other essentials required to maintain the hospital's accreditation.

Noschese and his bosses hoped he would be exempt from the mass firing, but after they sent the justification memo up the chain, they got a curt, simple, stark response: The document was too long. He should sum up his position in no more than three sentences.

Noschese was told a member of hospital leadership did that, but it made no difference. He had to turn in his badge and go home.

Now I tell you this story in some detail because it shows that efforts to eliminate waste when they are draconian and cruel and indiscriminate actually create more costs. Laying waste to the VA with across-the-board cuts without careful, selective consideration actually raises the expense, as it will in Noschese's job where there is nobody to do that excellent work based on his experience and expertise; and, ultimately, the costs will be higher as a result. But Elon Musk, apparently, doesn't care, nor does Doug Collins.

Take disabled veteran Megan Richelle Cole. She worked at Lovell, managing the supply of medications and ensured patients so that they would receive only the best drugs, not

expired or recalled drugs. When she was fired—simply on the basis of being a probationary employee—she was in the final stages of buying a house. Disabled veteran, doing work responsibly and well, about to buy a house—suddenly, she has no income.

Let me read a few more lines about her:

To make matters worse, the VA didn't provide her with a form required to file for unemployment benefits, and she had to withdraw from that home purchase. "Everything was going smoothly, like it was supposed to," she said, until the sudden termination left her feeling humiliated and lost. "Nobody knew anything. It was just heartbreaking." Cole's supervisors, again, tried to help her preserve her job to no avail.

Let's be clear: This administration's actions have a real lasting impact on veterans' care and benefits despite Secretary Collins' blatantly disingenuous claims that there have been none, there will be none. Elon Musk should know what those consequences will be, and Secretary Collins should be transparent with the administration and with us.

These heartbreaking and heartless cuts will destroy lives and livelihoods. VA Secretary Collins, Musk, and Trump are prioritizing a "fire first, analyze later" mindset and strategy at the expense of the very people they are supposed to serve—people who served and sacrificed for us: America's veterans. It is unconscionable. It is unwise and ineffective. It is immoral.

I will say this in closing: Nobody is claiming—certainly, I am not—that there isn't waste that we can eliminate, that fraud or abuse shouldn't be pursued. In fact, if this administration were serious about fraud and abuse and waste, they wouldn't have fired Mike Missal, the inspector general, whose service under both Democratic and Republican administrations has been exemplary.

He has been saluted and praised in Republican administrations, as well as Democratic, by my colleagues on the Republican side, as well as ours, but he was fired inexplicably, inconsistently with the goal of eliminating waste and fraud. It belies their claims and pretensions to want to eliminate abuse and fraud and waste to fire the watchdog who would call it out, investigate it, and refer it for prosecution as he has done saving tens of millions of dollars for taxpayers and benefits for veterans.

He has served both Republican and Democratic administrations, and there is nothing partisan about anything that I have said here, about the impact on veterans, the cruelty, and deeply heartbreaking consequences of these actions.

My Republican colleagues should join us when we begin next week with floor speeches and unanimous consent requests and the hearings—shadow hearings—that we will conduct and other actions that we will undertake in this call for accountability—a call for action.

Nothing partisan should deter them from joining us. This responsibility is

one that we share in this body to highlight and call out and call off the Musk-Trump disastrous and disgraceful cuts in benefits and healthcare for our veterans.

We are hearing from veterans, and again, I encourage my colleagues to hear more directly, immediately, personally from them. I invite Secretary Collins to join me in a townhall as soon as possible.

I invite him again, as I did in a letter recently, to appear on April 2 before a shadow hearing we will conduct in this Capitol. He can explain himself. He can tell me why I am wrong but, most important, he can answer to our Nation's veterans who deserve and need better from this administration.

America's veterans deserve nothing less than for every single Member in this body to call into question these damaging policies. They deserve nothing less than the gold standard in healthcare, as well as full and complete benefits of the PACT Act and in every other respect, the respect and responsibility that we have. To disrespect them is un-American.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mrs. BRITT. I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Faulkender nomination.

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

NOMINATION OF AARON REITZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the nomination of Aaron Reitz, President Trump's nominee for Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy.

Simply put, Mr. Reitz's nomination is a danger to the rule of law. At his confirmation hearing, I asked him a very simple question that should be a softball for any nominee seeking Senate confirmation.

When I asked him whether an elected official should be allowed to defy a Federal court order, Mr. Reitz said, "There is no hard and fast rule about whether in every instance a public official is bound by a court decision."

I was disgusted to hear these words come out of the mouth of a nominee aspiring to hold a key role at the Department of Justice.

Mr. Reitz's failure to unequivocally commit to following Federal court orders even prompted my colleague Senator KENNEDY to admonish Mr. Reitz, "Don't ever, ever, take the position that you're not going to follow the order of a federal court. Ever."

I couldn't agree more.

Despite that sage advice, Mr. Reitz repeated this equivocation in answers

to written questions, stating that, "Parties to litigation are bound by the lawful holdings of their respective court in most circumstances," but not all circumstances.

This administration has continued to undermine our system of checks and balances by pushing the boundaries of executive power, and, in turn, chipping away at the authority and legitimacy of the judicial branch.

Mr. Reitz has made clear his intent to aid the President in pursuing this agenda, regardless of whether it is in accordance with judicial orders.

But that is not my only concern with Aaron Reitz. He has attempted to hide his disturbing views on many topics, deleting approximately 4,000 social media posts. Nothing was off-limits in the posts the Judiciary Committee uncovered.

Reitz has condemned millions of Catholics and Christians who supported President Biden, writing that there was, "no excuse" for their vote.

He openly opposes the legality of same-sex marriage, calling the Obergefell decision, "anti-const[itutional]" and a "low point in SCOTUS history."

Mr. Reitz also has aligned himself with Matt Walsh, a self-proclaimed "theocratic fascist," who believes that, "the LGBT left indoctrinates and recruits children."

And despite the protections enshrined in the 14th Amendment, Mr. Reitz incorrectly wrote, "Friendly reminder that 'birthright citizenship' is not a thing."

Before Derek Chauvin was convicted of murdering George Floyd and despite the video footage of Chauvin kneeling on Mr. Floyd's neck for over 9 minutes, Mr. Reitz wrote, "No question in my mind that Chauvin is not guilty."

That is simply an offensive statement. Several Republican Members of the Senate rightfully spoke out about this horrific crime.

Even after Chauvin was convicted, Mr. Reitz called the jury's decision, "a bogus guilty verdict."

I guess it should come as no surprise that Mr. Reitz's disrespect for the finality of court orders is matched by his disrespect for the finality of a jury's verdict.

Mr. Reitz's online commentary demonstrates his penchant for fringe policy positions and extreme ideologies.

His failure to comply with Federal court orders should cause great concern for all of us who believe in our constitutional order, built on the foundation of three coequal branches of government.

Failing to unequivocally commit to following Federal court orders should be disqualifying for any nominee before this body.

Mr. Reitz is not fit for a role within the Department of Justice, particularly not one in which he will be charged with developing and implementing the Department's legal policy initiatives and vetting candidates for Federal judgeships.

I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing this nomination.

VOTE ON REITZ NOMINATION

Mrs. BRITT. I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Reitz nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 147 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeben	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Moran
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Gallego	Hyde-Smith
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The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 51, Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Roger Marshall, Shelley Moore Capito, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Justice, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Todd Young, Kevin Cramer, Ted Budd, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, David McCormick.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, 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. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 148 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeben	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Gallego	Hyde-Smith
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, the bill that Senate Republicans have brought to the floor today and which we will vote on sometime soon is the latest example of the "great betrayal" in action.

On the campaign trail, Candidate Donald Trump promised that he was going to help Americans deal with their pocketbook issues, kitchen table issues, and he said that on day one—day one—he was going to bring prices down; that he was going to bring down costs for American families. Well, costs are going up, and President Trump and Republicans are taking actions that will raise those costs on the American people even further, and today's bill is exhibit A.

I want to take a step back and put this bill that we are considering today in context. You know, one of the infuriating experiences that so many American consumers have is the mountain of junk fees they face. These are hidden fees that are sometimes in very fine print in contracts. They are all these fees that get added to their bills, where they really have no idea what additional value they are getting for those fees because often there is no additional value for that fee or that the additional value is minuscule in comparison to the fee they are being charged. So people pay these fees and grind their teeth and essentially get ripped off. We also see many predatory lending practices, where financial interests prey on those who are living paycheck to paycheck.

So, years ago, after the financial crisis of 2008, Congress created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—also known by its shorthand CFPB—to help protect American consumers from a whole range of predatory practices. Senator WARREN was one of the people who thought of establishing that important consumer protection Agency. Now she is the ranking Democrat on the Banking and Housing Committee, on which I am privileged to serve.

Since its creation, the CFPB has gone after all sorts of fraudsters, all sorts of con artists, all sorts of people who try to find different ways to cheat American consumers out of their hard-earned money. They have been successful, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. They have returned over \$21 billion to American consumers who have been cheated out of their hard-earned money. In other words, they brought lawsuits to go after these fraudsters or changed practices in order to make sure that people could keep more of their hard-earned money. That includes \$71 million that was returned to my constituents in the State of Maryland who were ripped off.

Along the way, the CFPB made some powerful enemies, and many Republicans have been trying to dismantle the CFPB for years. Now they have Elon Musk to help do their dirty work.

In one of the most corrupt bargains in American history, Elon Musk spent \$280 million to help elect Donald Trump, and Donald Trump has turned around and given Elon Musk the keys to many Federal Agencies. Make no mistake, this has nothing to do with making the Federal Government more efficient and has everything to do with rigging the government to serve people like Elon Musk at the expense of everybody else in America. In fact, one of the great examples of that is that they went right after the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

I find it just gross that the richest man in the world would go after a Bureau whose purpose it is to help return money to American consumers who have been cheated out of their hard-earned dollars, but that was one of the very early targets of Elon Musk and his DOGE cronies.

Now, apparently, that wasn't enough. It was not enough just to go after and try to dismantle that Agency. That step and the one we are dealing with here in the Senate today is an effort to go back and undo some of the important consumer protections that the CFPB put in place under the Biden administration.

One of those protections was a rule that is in place now to prevent banks from charging consumers exorbitant fees when a consumer overdraws their account balances using a debit card.

So how does this work? Well, let's say you have got your debit card. You go into the grocery store. You are going to buy some groceries for the family. You use your debit card to pay, and you overdraw your account. Now, some of the biggest banks in the country will typically charge you \$35 for each of those overdrafts no matter how big your overdraft amount is. So you overdraw your account by one buck, \$35; by 5 bucks, \$35.

The average overdraft amount is \$26. So you can see on each one of those transactions those banks are making a hefty return. In fact, it is like a loan with an APR of 16,000 percent. And it happens time after time. In other words, you leave the grocery store. You go pick up your kids at school. You go to a local convenience shop. You get a cup of coffee. You pay with your debit card, and—boom—you get hit with another \$35 overdraft fee. And on and on and on.

In fact, every year, some of the biggest banks—Wells Fargo and Chase—make over \$1 billion from consumer overdraft fees. And some of these banks have built an entire system to try to maximize the amount they get from their consumers through these overdraft fees. If you look collectively at the banking system, this is a \$5 billion-a-year rip-off.

So if you look at the people who are being primarily hit by this, not surprisingly, it is people who are living paycheck to paycheck—in fact, many of the people who Candidate Trump said he wanted to look out for when he was campaigning in the last election.

If you look closely, you will find that 79 percent of overdraft fees are charged on about 9 percent of accounts. These are accounts where people have an average balance of around \$350. So these big banks are preying on the people who literally are going paycheck to paycheck. And for those households, the average hit every year is about \$225 in exorbitant fees. So you make a tiny miscalculation, and you get hit hard by these predatory practices.

Last year—this last year—the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—the one that Elon Musk and DOGE are trying to shut down as we speak—last year, they developed a rule to help protect consumers. It was something many of us had pushed for years, and we were glad to see them do it.

The rule was pretty straightforward. It would cap the overdraft fees at \$5 a time instead of \$35 a time. And it would also require banks to be transparent in their pricing and their overdraft penalty structure so that consumers would know and have eyes wide open as to what penalties they were going to incur. So you wouldn't have people inadvertently hit with 35 bucks for a cup of coffee, 35 bucks when you go pick up some more groceries.

This has become a way for some of the biggest banks to rip off consumers, especially those who are going paycheck to paycheck, as I said, to the tune of \$5 billion.

So that is the rule. That is what the CFPB did, pretty simple measure: Make sure that consumers don't get ripped off and not even know they are being ripped off sometimes until they know about the overdraft fee.

What Republicans have brought to the floor today is a proposal to override that consumer protection bill to allow those banks to continue to collect \$5 billion from American consumers, so many of them who are living paycheck to paycheck.

Everybody should know that that is what is going on here. We have got the richest man in the world trying to shut down an Agency that was created to help protect consumers, and here in the Senate, we have Senate Republicans trying to overturn a consumer protection rule that saves working people a little bit of money and makes sure that they don't get slammed for making a small overdraft on their accounts.

I urge my colleagues to vote to uphold the consumer protection law that was adopted. If you want to vote yes to protect the rule, you vote no on this effort to overturn it. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Maryland for his excellent presentation.

This is an issue which people with little money in the bank never think about. People who are living paycheck to paycheck don't have a big savings account, don't have anywhere to turn.

They are the ones who are penalized by the discussion we are having today and certainly ought to pay attention to this debate.

It is hard to believe that recent polls show that consumer confidence in the economy has dropped to its lowest level in 12 years. This comes after President Trump made campaign promise after campaign promise to lower prices on day one. Remember that? He said: We are going to "make America affordable again." But working families in America have not seen any relief; actually, just the opposite.

A month ago, President Trump, turning to his billionaire buddy—the unelected Elon Musk—tried to, in Musk's description, "delete" the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

I know a little bit about that Bureau. I was one of the original sponsors of the legislation creating it. The idea was to have one Agency of government on the side of the consumer that was willing to look out for rip-offs and to fight, if necessary, to protect the consumers.

Of course, that is the last thing in the world that Elon Musk and Donald Trump want to see. They are the folks who want to make sure that the big banks and the big corporations are not held accountable, so off they went with their DOGE operation for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

This Agency stood up to Wall Street to protect consumers when they had nowhere else to turn. And, now, today, hard to believe—hard to believe—my Republican colleagues want to go a further step to strip consumers of protections that went to the benefit of the big banks. They want to gut a rule from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that would cap overdraft fees.

Currently, consumers are charged on average \$35 in overdraft fees per transaction. So you write a check for one of your expenses, and it turns out there is some miscalculation along the way, and you don't have the money in your checking account to cover it. That is an overdraft. Well, the charge for that overdraft is \$35 currently, on average. It doesn't matter how big or how small you overdrew your checking account.

If a consumer purchases a product one cent over the amount in their checking account, an extra \$35 is tacked on to the transaction in overdraft fees.

According to the Federal Reserve, nearly 40 percent of Americans would have trouble covering an emergency \$400 expense. Forty percent of Americans do not have more than \$400 in cash available to them. For those households, a \$35 overdraft fee would be the difference between just making it or falling behind a little bit that day.

The CFPB's rule would cap these fees at 5 bucks unless the bank can demonstrate that its costs to run overdraft services are actually higher. This would save Americans up to \$5 billion a year, from \$35 on average to \$5 for

overdraft fees or \$225 for each household that pays overdraft fees.

The rule only applies to banks and credit unions that have more than \$10 billion in assets. That is about 130 of the biggest banks. So the community banks—the ones which you probably do a lot of business with—that sponsor the hometown Little League team or help support local charities, this rule would not apply to them. The bank has to have a value of more than \$10 billion in assets to be covered by this \$5 limitation.

What are some of the banks that are involved? JPMorgan's profits last year were \$54 billion—JPMorgan, \$54 billion; Bank of America's profits, \$25 billion; Wells Fargo's profits, \$20 billion. Let me draw a distinction. In 2024, JPMorgan and Wells Fargo both charged more than \$1 billion in overdraft fees. However, Bank of America has capped its overdraft fees to 10 bucks. They still made incredible profits to the tune of \$25.5 billion. When you crunch the numbers, the big banks' arguments that they absolutely need to charge people these outrageous fees just don't hold up.

That is why I am voting no on this offering to oppose the resolution that would overturn this rule that caps overdraft fees and helps everyday Americans.

I do want to commend the banks that are at least trying to help the consumers. Citigroup and Capital One have ceased overdraft fees, and Bank of America has capped its overdraft fee at \$10, underscoring how banks can continue to operate profitably—very profitably—without relying on these fees.

So I am going to oppose this offering by Senator SCOTT of South Carolina on this overdraft lending fee. I think when it gets right down to it, you have to ask yourself: Is it really costing the banks that much money for an overdraft? If it is, they can charge the consumer. But to automatically penalize them in this way is fundamentally unfair for a lot of people who are struggling. You can talk a lot about the cost of a dozen eggs, but I will tell you what, even a dozen eggs doesn't cost a \$35 fee that has been the usual charge in penalty for anyone who overdraws their account. So if you are on the side of the consumers and the families who are struggling with the cost of living, oppose this effort by Senator SCOTT of South Carolina.

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

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

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, this is an overdraft speech. It is about a commonsense rule that lowers costs for millions and millions of Americans,

while carefully targeting, really, the most egregious abusive overdraft practices in the financial industry today.

Banks have long offered overdraft services to allow their customers to make purchases or even pay a bill, even if they lack sufficient funds in their account, while sometimes charging a fee for this service. But in recent years, banks have exploited this practice, charging customers billions of dollars in deceptive fees. A recent study found that more than half of all the people who overdraw their checking accounts and paid a fee could not recall consenting to the overdraft service for which they are being charged.

Moreover, we know the customers who are being charged overdraft fees are overwhelmingly folks who are low-income, who work really hard and don't get that much pay, and a \$20 overdraft fee just further pushes them into a financial trap, into this cycle downward of financial instability that is hard to pull out of.

Too often, banks have been found trying to game the system, and this is really problematic. They try to game the system to impose fees on customers—even when they shouldn't be charged in the first place—by orchestrating transactions improperly or delaying deposits customers make into their accounts.

Just think about this. They can time your deposit with the time it hits your account. You think you can deposit a check and pull money out, but the way they rig the system is to create a gap in which you are actually in overdraft when technically you have already made that deposit.

Meanwhile, these fees generated enormous amounts of revenue for banks while most customers don't even know they have opted into this system.

Opponents of the rule argue that it could restrict access to emergency credit. We all are supporters of this idea of emergency credit. They think that this is an example, they say, of government overreach and that it is going to hurt banks' revenue model. Let's be honest. This isn't about protecting consumers; it is about protecting this massive, new profit line for big banks.

For years, I have fought against what is a predatory practice. I have introduced legislation to crack down on exploitative overdraft fees that banks charge consumers when they make a purchase or pay a bill that they don't have sufficient funds for in their account, trying to stop the games that banks play to make it more difficult for people to avoid the overdraft fees in the first place.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has been instrumental in cracking down on banks charging surprise overdraft fees, and many banks have said "You are right. This is a bad practice. We should stop" but not all of them. So last year, the CFPB finalized this rule to curb illegal and predatory practices. The rule lowered most big-

bank overdraft fees from \$35 to \$5, saving consumers in America—American hard-working citizens—saving them \$5 billion a year. On average, it delivered \$225 a year in savings for the average household. Think about this. It is about protecting households. There is still a consequence if you overdraft, but it can't be these usury rates.

The overdraft rule did not ban overdraft fees outright or go after small community banks and credit unions, which were exempted from the rule. It simply requires banks to either reduce their rates or comply with Federal banking laws when charging high credit fees.

Several financial institutions that I have mentioned, like Capital One and Citibank, have already eliminated overdraft fees and continue to provide overdraft protection. They are showing, to their credit, that it can be done and not somehow mess up their business model. You don't need to take advantage of consumers to make money. Meanwhile, though, Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase each earn over \$1 billion a year in overdraft and NSF fees—nearly four times more than the next highest bank.

Some banks are showing "You know what, we don't want to jerk over the customers," while others, to the tune of over \$1 billion a year, are still taking advantage of some of our most vulnerable and financially fragile Americans, who are working hard every day to try to get out of poverty traps, yet banks take advantage of them and send them back.

Perhaps most egregiously, in 2024, Navy Fed took nearly as much as the biggest banks from its servicemembers, veterans, and other customers. They took \$725 million despite a dramatically smaller customer base, clearly showing that they were trying to take advantage of our veterans, our servicemembers, and others. Who will stand up for them? Who will say "You are not going to do predatory practices on our servicemembers, on our veterans"—dramatically more than other banks that eliminated these practices.

For those who are most affected by overdraft fees—those folks living paycheck to paycheck, who are part of the 64 percent of Americans who live paycheck to paycheck and are often minutes to hours away from having the money necessary to cover expenses that lead to overdraft fees—this rule is a lifeline to them and their families.

I was proud that New Jerseyans wrote in to the CFPB sharing how these predatory practices were impacting them. Allow me to read from a New Jerseyan from East Orange, my neighbor. They wrote:

[M]y account was closed with no notice due to a merchant charging my account into the overdrafts. I've complained . . . for weeks about said situation. Nothing was ever done. A [\$4,300] deposit was released—

By the bank—

but due to account closing, I currently have no access to funds which were released.

One anonymous servicemember from Carteret, NJ, wrote:

I am writing to file a complaint against Navy Federal Credit Union regarding multiple overdraft fees I have incurred. Despite having sufficient funds when transactions were authorized, I was charged due to lagged posting of charges and credits. This issue aligns with the recent CFPB findings . . . for similar practices where transactions settled with insufficient balances despite initially available funds. I believe these practices are unfair and I request an investigation into my account transactions.

This is a New Jerseyan who is playing by the rules who is frustrated because of practices that are clearly predatory and that take advantage of folks who are living paycheck to paycheck, and they are a servicemember.

Another servicemember from Manchester Township was erroneously charged and then overdrawn from his business account from Wells Fargo.

The extra \$210 that was withdrawn from my account, including the original withdrawals and the overdraft fees, caused a cascade effect that has led to \$1,100 in overdraft fees [this] year. I had called Wells Fargo twice to ask for help in stopping these increasing overdraft fees. They reimbursed me for 2 overdraft fees—\$70. I was told that they were only allowed to reverse 2 overdraft fees a year. They also told me there was nothing else they could do to help me. The overdraft fees of \$1,100 over the last 2 months have caused me a tremendous financial burden. As of today's date, I am still being charged overdraft fees. I don't know what to do, and Wells Fargo has refused to help me. I will probably close my account with Wells Fargo, however, it is a nightmare trying to change all the insurance companies that I receive payments from.

Here is a servicemember, a small business person, getting screwed over because they don't have the protection this rule would provide.

To rescind this rule in order to further enrich a small handful of abusive banks and their shareholders that allow this to happen at the expense of working families, at the expense of veterans, at the expense of servicemembers, is despicable.

This body shouldn't be on the side of big banks and their further enrichment; they should be on the side of veterans and servicemembers and Americans struggling, working paycheck to paycheck, especially when certain banks have shown they don't need these usury fees to make enormous profits. Where is the moral value in that?

Instead of lowering prices and protecting consumers, I now see Members of this body who I know the values they speak to. Some of my colleagues on the Senate Republican side want to raise these prices on Americans and allow these banks to prey upon servicemembers, veterans, and working Americans. This is all while the President and Elon Musk have continued their onslaught and attack on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has returned billions of dollars to American consumers.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was created in the aftermath of

the 2008 crisis to protect Americans from predatory practices and fight discriminations in the financial sector.

I wasn't here in Washington, but when the banks needed a bailout, we were here for the banks. I don't know if we charged them overdraft fees, but are we going to stand up for consumers now?

The CFPB has returned to the American consumers \$19.7 billion in compensation, canceled debt, and other relief—\$19.7 billion. I know firsthand the difference that the work of this Agency has made for American families. I saw it in my time as a young lawyer taking on slumlords in Newark. Hard-working people who could barely afford rent, who worked 50, 60 hours a week, barely affording rent, fighting to put food on the table for their kids, and one improper practice at a bank can throw them into financial crisis—predatory practices, scams, exploitation, which some banks have stopped doing.

I don't understand that this is even an issue here. This rule is to help consumers. This rule is to help veterans. This rule is to help servicemembers. This rule is to help the Americans who are struggling because the top 50 percent of our country has done extraordinarily well in the last economies under Republican and Democratic Presidents, but the data is clear that the bottom 50 percent of our country is working harder and making less. And we want to advantage the big banks that have record corporate profits.

I won't back down from this fight to save the CFPB, to save those who fight to defend consumers from being screwed over by big institutions. Look, I know what it is like in my family story to fight. I know what it is like to be up against insurmountable odds from my family stories. I know what it is like to be searching for someone who will stand up for you when you are doing everything right in this country, when you are working hard, when you are playing by the rules, when you are serving in your community, when you are coaching Little League, when you are trying to help on your block. I know what it is like, when you are volunteering at your church, to turn around and have some big, impersonal, distant bank screw you for their profits.

It is time for this body to do the right thing. This is not political. This is not partisan. This is, who do you stand for? At a time when people are cynical about all of Congress—they don't feel like anybody is fighting for them—who is going to stand up today and say: I fight for the little guy. I fight for the small business. I fight for the working servicemember.

Who is going to stand up? Who is going to stand up?

I know where I stand, and I encourage my colleagues to preserve this rule that stops predatory big banks from savaging the financial lives of too many Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to follow my friend and colleague from New Jersey, whom I salute for his passion and his eloquence. And thank you to Senator WARREN for her leadership in bringing us together today and to my colleagues who are rising today in opposition to S.J. Res. 18, which seeks to undo the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's overdraft fee rule.

Now let's be very clear: This overdraft rule never should have been necessary. If big banks were doing the right thing and playing fair with their customers, this rule would never have been necessary. Taking that fee from \$35 to \$5 simply reflects what the possible cost is of overdrafts rather than banks, in effect, making money on overdrafts, which are commonly the result of people not having enough money in their bank account. And that is commonly the result of people being poorer than they want to be.

I suspect that most of this administration hasn't had an overdraft fee recently. I am guessing—I think it is an educated guess—that Elon Musk has not had an overdraft fee recently.

Overdrafts hit people who are living paycheck to paycheck, people who are at the bottom rung of our economic order through no fault of their own—often the result of discrimination and denial of rights that others are fortunate to have.

But put aside the inequities of this rule or the overdraft practices that it tries to ameliorate, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is, in effect, the watchdog or the top cop in the beat of preventing consumers from being scammed as they are by overdraft fees.

It is under attack by the Trump administration. It has returned \$21 billion to consumers. And most relevant to our conversation here today, lowering overdraft fees from \$35 to \$5 would save households \$5 billion annually. That is \$5 billion that goes into our economy rather than into the coffers of banks that have over \$10 billion in assets and who trick people into paying those excessive overdraft fees; and they earn profit from the most vulnerable families in this country.

I want to focus on one group in particular who are particularly vulnerable—and I say it as a member of the Armed Services Committee and the ranking member of the Veterans Affairs Committee. Servicemembers and their families in particular have a higher stake in this rule prohibiting exploitive overdraft fees.

And the reason is—despicably, disgustingly—servicemembers are often targeted by bad actors and financial institutions for abusive and predatory practices like overdraft fees or that result in overdraft fees.

A Department of Defense survey revealed that 10 percent of Active-Duty and Reserve servicemembers paid overdraft fees two or more times in the

past year, which is more than the average American. Let me just repeat: Two or more times in 1 year, they paid overdraft fees. My guess is that most Members of this Chamber haven't paid overdraft fees in years and years, maybe not since you were in college or law school, graduate school.

Two or more times, our servicemen and -women have been exploited by these banks in charging fees for overdraft.

For years, servicemembers across the country have filed complaints with the CFPB over these unfair and deceptive practices, like skyrocketing fees.

Just one example: A servicemember in Connecticut filed a claim with the CFPB in 2018 about Wells Fargo's predatory overdraft practices. He reported he had an overdraft protection turned off his account, but Wells Fargo still allowed autopayments to be taken out and then charged \$35 rather than denying the payments for lack of funds.

These overdrafts should have been denied, but instead, they went through and cost this servicemember over \$60 in unwanted fees.

Now, I know to a lot of Members of this body, 60 bucks is no big deal. Anybody familiar with the young enlisted men in our U.S. military today who live, literally, paycheck to paycheck knows that \$60 may be the difference between having the means to get home on leave. It may be the difference between enjoying a weekend on leave.

So the \$60 in unwarranted fees that that servicemember paid was a big deal to him. But today, the Republicans unfortunately are shamefully doing the Trump administration's bidding. They are stripping crucial protection away from working American families and our military members, and it is simply and plainly a gift. It is a gift to Big Bank.

We can speculate on what the motives are. They are big banks. They contribute a lot of money to campaigns. But every attack on the CFPB, including this CRA, is an attack on consumer protection, commonsense safeguards that make sure that Americans can avoid being exploited by big and powerful institutions.

Overtaking the overdraft rule is yet another giveaway to these big banks and the billionaires who control and run and own them.

I have said before but it bears repeating: President Trump will always help his billionaire friends at the cost of helping you.

Today, I urge my colleagues to vote against this attack on the CFPB. Vote no on S.J. Res. 18.

I yield the floor to my great friend and colleague from Massachusetts Senator WARREN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Connecticut for his work today in defending the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

and highlighting again the importance of this work from CFPB to help level the playing field just a little between the billionaire banks and our hard-working servicemembers and families that are living paycheck to paycheck.

I also want to thank Senator BOOKER for coming here and talking today about how people from New Jersey have been directly affected by overdraft fee abuses and appreciate his work on this.

President Trump and Republicans promised the Americans that they would lower their cost of living. Instead, they are now linking arms with some of the biggest banks in the country to impose billions of dollars in fees on working families.

Today, Republicans are voting to overturn a CFPB rule that prevents big banks like Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, and Wells Fargo from saddling customers with hundreds of dollars in overdraft fees when a customer overdraws a checking account by only a few dollars.

Let's be clear: This rule covers only the biggest banks, those with more than \$10 billion in assets. Community banks are completely exempt from this.

All this rule does is ensure that overdraft fees are reasonable. Under the rule, banks are allowed to recoup all of their costs and all of their losses associated with providing overdraft. That is, typically, under \$5, which is why the CFPB's rule generally caps overdraft fees at \$5. But if the bank can show its costs are higher, then they charge the full amount of their actual costs and losses.

What the banks cannot do is play a game of gotcha in which the bank manipulates the customer's account to hit the customers with hundreds of dollars in overdraft charges.

Today, a handful of giant banks are charging about \$35 per bounced payment, squeezing families for far more than what it typically costs to offer this overdraft. And consumers carrying the vast majority of these fees are disproportionately low-income Americans, with the typical customer who gets caught with overdraft fees ending up paying more than \$400 a year.

Now, \$400 can be the cost of a mortgage payment or rent for someone with a modest income; \$400 can be the difference between their kid's medication or just going without; \$400 for some families can be several weeks' worth of groceries. This money matters to millions of families.

Altogether, the CFPB rule saves American families up to \$5 billion a year. Republicans claim they care about lowering costs, but overturning this rule will make big banks richer and hard-working families poorer.

The Republicans are deeply sympathetic—deeply sympathetic—to giant banks. They worry about poor little Wells Fargo. They shed a tear for JPMorgan's extra billion dollars in profits that they make from overdraft

fees on top of \$27 billion they make in their other banking services.

Yes, the Republicans worry about those giant banks and that \$5 billion that they would have to forgo if they could only charge \$5 on an overdraft fee.

Look, banks can survive with limits on overdraft fees. How do we know that? Because they are already doing it. In fact, many banks, including Capital One and Citibank, have eliminated overdraft fees entirely, and they are still making billions of dollars in profits.

No, these fees are about kicking hard-working Americans when they are down.

My constituent April from Massachusetts shared this:

During the years of my life when money was always tight, nothing was more stressful than overdrafting my account by \$1 only to lose \$35 due to overdraft. More than once, that additional \$35 loss tangled up my budget for multiple paychecks or made the difference between getting groceries or not.

Joan, also from Massachusetts, talked about how insidious these fees can be.

Several times when money was tight, I refilled my account a bit too late. I was charged an overdraft fee that then itself caused the next check to bounce, causing another fee. On top of that, there were daily fees because overdraft charges kept me behind even as I added money to the account.

To make matters even worse: These abusive, anti-consumer practices often target servicemembers and military families.

Last year, the CFPB ordered Navy Federal Credit Union to refund \$80 million in illegal surprise overdraft fees, which they had charged servicemembers, even when the servicemembers' accounts showed enough money to cover the transactions.

Cracking down on abusive overdraft practices, particularly when they harm servicemembers, has bipartisan support. A year ago, my then-colleague JD VANCE and I launched an investigation into another credit union that had preyed on servicemembers with extortionate overdraft fees. I hope to see the same bipartisan concern now and support for the CFPB rule that puts a stop to this squeeze on military families.

Look, finally, I just want to mention: I know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and on this side of the aisle are concerned about debanking. Now debanking is something that happens when a bank closes someone's account without any real explanation.

Overdraft practices have been the reason for tens of millions of account closures, shutting out far too many Americans from our banking system. So for everyone who has concerns about debanking, consider that the CFPB rule eliminates one of the main excuses that banks have used for debanking their customers.

Look, our job is to lower costs for American families, not boost profits for giant banks. A vote against today's CRA is a vote to protect those families

and save them \$5 billion a year. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

ELON MUSK

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have spoken before about my constituent, my fellow Texan, Elon Musk here on the floor and recounted the fact that it was really, maybe, probably—at least 15 years ago, maybe a little longer, when he came to my office here in Washington, DC, and said he had a new company called SpaceX, and he wanted to compete for the business of NASA and commercial space.

And as it turned out, Mr. Musk had to sue the U.S. Government just for the privilege of competing with the United Space Alliance, I believe it is called, the existing entity that had an exclusive contract on space flight with the U.S. Government.

I read recently that now SpaceX carries about 90 percent of the payloads in the world into space. It is a remarkable testament to not only his incredible innovation but resilience and persistence to build such a successful company.

And that is not the only one he has built. Tesla is headquartered in Texas. I have been out to the Gigafactory right outside of Austin, TX, and he is building cars that are very popular and employing an awful lot of Texans—which I am all in favor of—and they continue to grow and hire more of my constituents.

Mr. Musk has done something here in Washington, DC, in the last couple of months which is heresy; it is heresy. He has actually said the Federal Government spends too much, and he said a lot of what the Federal Government spends is waste and fraud and abuse. And much of it, as we have seen, are things that most of us had no real awareness of. But as he has targeted some of the most egregious examples of waste and abuse of the taxpayer dollar, I think there are many people across the country—certainly where I come from—who have applauded that effort. They feel like this has been long coming and long overdue.

One of the major challenges we face here in Washington, DC, is that spending money is very popular, and, of course, people who spend money—even though it is not theirs, it is the taxpayers' dollars—can go home and say: Guess what I did for you. And most of it involves spending. But we are now having to come to grips with the fact that we are \$36.4 trillion in debt, and we have kicked the can down the road so long that we have run out of road.

And, indeed, many of us have talked over the years about the fact that this is immoral. We basically are writing checks that our children and grandchildren will have to cash. Somebody is going to have to pay that money back.

And now we are spending more money on interest on the national debt than we are to defend the Nation, which is a very dangerous set of cir-

cumstances, given the situation we find ourselves in, which is the most dangerous time since World War II.

Now, it is no secret that Elon Musk is perhaps the richest man in the world. I don't begrudge him that. It looks like he has done some amazing things and continues to do so. I know that with that sort of money, he doesn't have to be up here volunteering to do some of the work that needs to be done in terms of identifying the waste and abuse. He could go relax on an island somewhere. He could buy an island. He could do whatever he wants and he wouldn't have to lift a finger to help anybody else and he could just live a life of luxury and leisure for the rest of his existence, but I don't believe he is wired that way. I am grateful for that because, instead, he is volunteering his time to serve not only the President of the United States but the American people.

You don't have to agree with everything that Mr. Musk recommends to recognize that this is an incredible public service, and this is long overdue, identifying all of the waste and abuse and egregious expenditures of taxpayer dollars.

In fact, I am a little shocked that our Democratic colleagues don't join us in this effort. I happen to be a member of what we call the DOGE Caucus, the Department of Government Efficiency. We are making recommendations to DOGE to look at different departments of the government and say: Can you find savings here? Can you find expenditures that don't make any sense?

I am kind of shocked our Democratic colleagues refuse to join us in that. It seems like, in a normal world, they would be concerned about this too. Instead, they just say: The status quo is just fine. We don't need to change a thing—\$36.4 trillion and counting.

And, in fact, they seem to be in denial of the fact that President Trump and Republican majorities in both Houses were elected on November 5. Hopefully, that won't continue indefinitely.

But what I want to mention is some of the violence and the acts of vandalism that have occurred around the country that have been focused primarily on Tesla owners.

Now, by the way, most of these Teslas aren't owned by Elon Musk anymore. They have been sold to private citizens, and yet they have been the target of a lot of the vandalism and violence that we have seen around the country.

Just 2 days ago, police officers found what they called multiple incendiary devices at a local Tesla dealership in North Austin, where I live. Now, this prompted a full bomb squad to respond, and an investigation is still underway. Thankfully, there were no injuries, but it is ridiculous that the state of our public discourse has reached this point.

The North Austin Tesla dealership bomb threat, unfortunately, is not the first of its kind. It comes on the heels

of another attack in Las Vegas where several Teslas were set on fire outside of a service center. I have no idea what that was supposed to accomplish.

The protesters vandalized the building by spray-painting the word "resist" on the front doors, while at least one protester reportedly threw a Molotov cocktail.

Over on the west coast in Seattle, four Cybertrucks were set on fire earlier this month.

The Associated Press has reported that there have been at least 50 demonstrations around the country focused on Tesla, while more are planned, not just here in the United States but around the world in countries like England, Spain, and Portugal.

Some Tesla owners have reported incidents of vandalism of their personal vehicles. Some have been even spray-painted with swastikas. Now, why anyone would think that would be a good idea is beyond me.

It should go without saying, but I will say it anyway, that that kind of violence and vandalism of private property is unacceptable. But I know not everybody is speaking up to condemn these attacks.

Now, I support the First Amendment. Obviously, I take an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States—all of us do here in the Congress—and I will defend the right of all Americans to express their views about government, even when they and I may disagree. But the First Amendment, we know, does not protect activities like placing explosive devices or damaging private property. Those are simply crimes, and I would hope that much is obvious.

It is certainly understandable, and perhaps inevitable, that some people will disagree about reducing government spending. Our Democratic friends are the party of government. They got us 40-year high inflation because, during the last 4 years, we have seen an unprecedented expenditure of taxpayer dollars, which is inherently inflationary. And every single American has seen an increase in their cost of living and a decrease in their quality of life because they are paying about 21 percent more today than they did 4 years ago.

But there are people who think that spending money without any sort of second thought is a good idea—maybe people who benefit from that government spending—but they also have a right to express their concerns. I am not suggesting that they don't. But what is far from understandable and, in fact, is inexcusable is what we are seeing in the examples that I mentioned: this expression of political disagreement in the form of vandalism, destroying private property, and especially using potentially fatal means like the incendiary devices that were found in Austin. We should not hesitate to call this what it is: domestic terrorism.

Now, I wish I could say that this kind of behavior is an anomaly and has

never happened before and is unlikely to happen again, but, unfortunately, this has happened before, and it is reminiscent of the violent unrest that plagued our Nation with the BLM riots that happened during the summer of 2020.

We live in a democratic republic, not a banana republic. We are blessed to live in a country where we value and protect the rights of citizens to speak freely. We live in a country with universal suffrage, where citizens can bring their disagreements with their government officials to the ballot box.

But placing bombs and lighting cars on fire is not an appropriate means of expressing dissenting views in a country like the one we are blessed to live in. We are so much better than that.

For this reason, I was disappointed to see one of my fellow Texans in our congressional delegation go so far as to condone these kinds of activities. Congresswoman JASMINE CROCKETT recently made comments encouraging violent protests at a virtual rally. She said, and I quote—these are her words, not mine. She said:

All I want to see happen on my birthday is for Elon to be taken down.

Well, that could be interpreted any one of a number of ways, but I believe it is wrong to wish on any American, much less a fellow Texan, and I would expect better than this sort of incendiary rhetoric from a Member of Congress who was elected to her position because of the very democracy we are fortunate to enjoy.

But this isn't the only thing she said recently that has raised eyebrows and resulted in condemnation. Congresswoman CROCKETT recently commented that our Governor, Gov. Greg Abbott—who happens to be a paraplegic as a result of a terrible accident years ago—she referred to him as “Governor Hot Wheels,” presumably because he is in a wheelchair due to an accident decades ago.

And then Senator CRUZ, my colleague, the junior Senator from Texas, she said should “be knocked over the head, like hard.”

This is disgraceful, and we should call it for what it is. We have a duty as elected officials to bring out the best in our country, not to take the low road. And, particularly, we should not encourage harm against people we don't particularly agree with. This is a disturbing trend in political rhetoric, one that has turned to violence—again, not for the first time, but we should condemn it, and we should shut it down now.

These events should serve as a wake-up call that it is past time to turn down the temperature. I believe that all Americans and all Texans deserve better.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS DEJOY

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I will be brief. I know we are coming up on a vote.

I just wanted to come to the floor and thank my friend and fellow North Carolinian, Louis DeJoy, for his service as Postmaster General. He announced a few weeks back his intent to resign, and that has been accelerated. Hopefully, he will come back and continue to provide advice on a transition plan for the U.S. Postal Service that is unlike any transition in the Postal Service's modern history.

Louis DeJoy is a very successful businessperson who many people believe was appointed to Postmaster General because he has also historically been a big supporter of President Trump, but the reality is that Louis DeJoy was identified by the Postal Service Board through a nationwide search as one of the most capable people in the United States to be Postmaster General. That is because he had built an idea around a kitchen table of an enterprise that ultimately became a business that, when it was sold, was nearly worth \$1 billion, in transportation and logistics.

Louis came to the Postal Service a little less than 5 years ago and really shook things up, but in the process of doing that, I believe he has created a plan that is a best practice for what we are attempting to do with the Department of Government Efficiency. He has gone across the Nation. He has listened to the concerns of Members of Congress and of Members of the Senate. He has been to Alaska. He has gone out in the rural areas. He understands the unique mission of the U.S. Postal Service.

Many people may not realize that it was designated in the Constitution, at the urging of Benjamin Franklin, to do something very different: to have a constitutional mandate to make sure that every household in the United States of America could be visited if, in fact, they had somebody with a post that needed to get to them. That is extraordinary.

In North Carolina, we are a 50-50 State—about 50 percent urban, 50 percent rural. So you can make, maybe, the numbers and logistics work there. But when you go to States like Alaska, Montana—some of these large, expansive, rural States—the U.S. Postal Service is the only way to touch those communities. The postal package carriers can do a little bit of it, but it makes no economic sense for them to go there.

So Louis inherits this very complex and efficient organization and puts together a transformation plan that is only beginning. And he is going to be leaving the Postal Service, but I just wanted my friend and what I consider to be one of the best Postmaster Generals in modern times—I don't want his

work and the impact that he is having to be lost on anyone. I do hope that this administration recognizes the work that has been put into that plan and that we have to carry it through. It is great work.

As for my friend Louis DeJoy, I am going to miss talking with him on postal matters, but what I will miss in that I will gain in having him back in North Carolina. I just wanted to state for the record that I appreciate his dedication and the sacrifice for this job. He certainly had many other opportunities, and I think that the American people owe him a debt of gratitude.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL FAULKENDER

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the confirmation of Mr. Michael Faulkender, who is nominated to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

The Deputy Secretary advises and assists the Secretary in the supervision and direction of all of the Department and its activities. Along with Secretary Bessent, the Deputy Secretary will be thoroughly involved in Congress's efforts to craft pro-growth tax policies, which will benefit all Americans and allow U.S. businesses to compete on the global stage. Mr. Faulkender's depth of experience in the public and private sector, in addition to his academic credentials, makes him a highly qualified choice for this position.

Mr. Faulkender spoke strongly at his confirmation hearing about his determination to tackle America's affordability crisis. I look forward to working with him to restore economic prosperity and opportunity and usher in the economic golden age envisioned by the President.

Mr. Faulkender, also, clearly met the standard of the Finance Committee's rigorous nomination process, and I commend the candor and the diligence that he displayed during the extensive meetings that he had with committee members and committee staff.

Qualified nominees for Deputy Treasury Secretary in prior administrations have normally received bipartisan support. I strongly encourage my colleagues today, on both sides of the aisle, to join me in voting to confirm Mr. Faulkender.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes after 5.

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

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President and colleagues, the Senate will soon take a vote on the nomination of Michael Faulkender to serve as Deputy Treasury Secretary. I urge my colleagues to oppose the nomination.

I am going to take just a few minutes to explain why he got zero support from Democrats in the Finance Committee, and I am going to start with the big picture.

For the last 2 months, Elon Musk and Donald Trump have let loose a pack of cronies who, in my view, are looting the United States of America. They are violating laws, they are blocking accountability, and they are breaking key programs in ways that are going to hurt a lot of Americans.

All the while, there has been a parade of Trump nominees marching through the Senate, and one after the other they pretend that they know nothing about what I just said. They all swear up and down that they follow the law. Under their watch, everything will be on the level.

The reality is, in nearly every case, it is just not true.

Just yesterday, in the Finance Committee, the nominee to head up Social Security told me that he was not involved in any discussions regarding DOGE personnel at Social Security. I asked him directly. That was his response, and his response was a lie.

The committee had received whistleblower testimony from a senior official who worked at Social Security and has recently left. The whistleblower said this nominee had personally intervened to get key DOGE officials installed at Social Security.

This is happening again and again. Trump nominees show up in the Senate, and they always say: I am a choir boy.

But they are directly involved in the ransacking of the country, and Americans are outraged from coast to coast.

Dr. Faulkender is another example. He has been in the building at Treasury since January 21, working in an unofficial capacity. So he knows what is going on there. He knows that DOGE personnel showed up at Treasury with the intent of violating our constitutional authority over Federal funding. Yet, when he was asked about DOGE's activity at Treasury and at the IRS, he, too, had nothing to say—just a bunch of dodging and ducking.

I asked him, as well, directly whether the President has the authority to impound funds, which is a constitutional breach.

His answer was:

I do not know the legal authority of the President when it comes to impoundment.

However, during a television interview last year, he actually said he sup-

ported impoundment and talked about how the President should use it to trample over congressional appropriations and our article I authority.

If confirmed, he will be the No. 2 official at the Department that oversees the IRS, but he had nothing to say about the fact that the administration is intent on violating taxpayer privacy laws and weaponizing the IRS against American taxpayers.

But it wasn't all bobbing and weaving during the hearing. In fact, the most telling moment was when Dr. Faulkender decided to give an awfully revealing answer to a question he probably could have avoided.

Here is what happened.

Everybody understands that the Treasury Department's big job under Donald Trump is giving huge handouts to billionaires and corporations. They plan to pay for it, in part, by slashing Medicaid and kicking tens of millions of Americans off their healthcare.

Senator WARNOCK, our colleague, asked Dr. Faulkender a pretty simple question.

He asked:

Do you think that it's a good idea to take families off of Medicaid?

The funny thing is nobody would have blamed him for saying that the Treasury doesn't have jurisdiction over Medicaid so he wouldn't have to take a position, but that is not what he said.

Dr. Faulkender went out of his way to defend the Republican plan to slash Medicaid and kick tens of millions of Americans off their healthcare. He answered with the same traditional Republican spin—that it was all about “self-sufficiency and getting off of government dependency.”

We are talking about a program that covers nearly 40 million kids, half of all kids with special needs, and two-thirds of all nursing home beds in America. Without Medicaid, rural America would become even more of a healthcare desert.

Dr. Faulkender's nonsense about self-sufficiency is basically what I call trickle-down economics for healthcare. It is a talking point that papers over an agenda that benefits the very affluent at the expense of everybody else.

So, colleagues, this is another case of a nominee dodging nearly all the tough questions and misrepresenting his role in what is going on in the Trump administration. The most forthcoming answer we got during his nomination indicated that he is totally on board with the agenda that is going to put people's lives in danger by kicking tens of millions of Americans off their health insurance so that those at the very top, like Elon Musk, can afford bigger yachts and probably some kind of island.

Dr. Faulkender has been at Treasury since January 21. He is already tied up with DOGE. He has already made himself a part of the harm that the Trump administration, through DOGE, is inflicting on the American people. That is why he got zero support from Democrats in committee.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this nomination when the Senate votes on it in a little bit.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VOTE ON FAULKENDER NOMINATION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Faulkender nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 149 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—43

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Fetterman	Warner
Gallego	Warnock

The nomination was confirmed.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATING TO "GROSS PROCEEDS REPORTING BY BROKERS THAT REGULARLY PROVIDE SERVICES EFFECTUATING DIGITAL ASSET SALES"—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 27, H.J. Res. 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 27, H.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

VOTE ON MOTION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 150 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Alsobrooks	Gillibrand	Moody
Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Booker	Hawley	Murkowski
Boozman	Heinrich	Ossoff
Britt	Hickenlooper	Padilla
Budd	Hoeven	Paul
Capito	Husted	Ricketts
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cornyn	Johnson	Rosen
Cortez Masto	Justice	Rounds
Cotton	Kennedy	Schatz
Cramer	Kim	Schiff
Crapo	Lankford	Schmitt
Cruz	Lee	Schumer
Curtis	Lujan	Scott (FL)
Daines	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Marshall	Sheehy
Fetterman	McConnell	Slotkin
Fischer	McCormick	Sullivan

Thune
Tillis
Tuberville

Warner
Warnock
Wicker

Young

NAYS—28

Baldwin
Bennet
Blumenthal
Blunt Rochester
Cantwell
Coons
Duckworth
Durbin
Hassan
Hirono

Kaine
Kelly
King
Klobuchar
Markley
Merkley
Murphy
Murray
Peters
Reed

Sanders
Shaheen
Smith
Van Hollen
Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Cassidy

Gallego

The motion was agreed to.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATING TO "GROSS PROCEEDS REPORTING BY BROKERS THAT REGULARLY PROVIDE SERVICES EFFECTUATING DIGITAL ASSET SALES"

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the provisions of the Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 802, there will now be up to 10 hours of debate equally divided between those favoring and opposing the joint resolution.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, earlier this month, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin announced he would reconsider over 30 rules and policies that protect human health and the environment, calling it "the greatest day of deregulation our nation has seen." With a barrage of press releases, Administrator Zeldin threatened to replace the central mission of EPA—to protect the environment and the health of Americans—with a newer and more sordid mission: to protect the financial interests of President Trump's Big Oil polluting mega donors.

EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment has guided the Agency for more than 50 years, with bipartisan support. The Agency was created by Republican President Richard Nixon, and conservative Presidents like Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush chose administrators like Bill Ruckelshaus and Christine Whitman, who took the Agency's mission seriously.

EPA's bipartisan pedigree and mission matter little to Trump, Zeldin, and their crew of fossil fuel donors.

Administrator Zeldin claims that slashing these protections will "un-

leash American energy." Huh. In reality, these rollbacks will keep Americans dependent on expensive dirty fossil fuels, while other countries keep moving forward with energy innovation, developing cleaner, cheaper, and more efficient energy. We are deliberately losing a competition.

Trump is exalting an antiquated polluting fossil fuel industry and degrading the lives of the American people.

Administrator Zeldin gleefully declared, "We are driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion." But the protections EPA threatens to roll back mostly relate to keeping air and water clean. In the wealthiest country in the world, does it make sense to increase uncertainty about whether water is safe to drink?

Administrator Zeldin likely can't juice substantially more fossil fuel production, but slashing these protections will unleash tons more pollution—more pollution from oil and gas producers, powerplants, manufacturers, cars and trucks; fewer protections for drinking water, wetlands, and streams.

Coal-fired powerplants will release more mercury into the air we breathe, settling into our water and our soil and eventually finding its way into our food.

We will experience more bad air days like we get in Rhode Island from upwind out-of-State polluters, when the air is thick with soot and other pollutants, triggering asthma attacks and respiratory diseases.

They threaten even to overturn the good neighbor rule that gives States the ability to push back when upwind States foul the air, as happens to us in Rhode Island.

The ability to pollute another State with impunity deliberately is a core thing for EPA to stop, and yet they are caving in to the polluter States.

And, yes, these rollbacks do threaten to remove limits also on carbon pollution from powerplants, oil and gas facilities, and vehicles, turbocharging the ongoing heating of our planet.

Let's be clear: Climate change ain't religion; it is science—and well-understood, established, mature science at that.

My Republican colleagues in this building all have home State universities that teach climate science.

Greenhouse gas emissions—science knows—from the production and combustion of fossil fuels are heating our planet, raising sea levels, increasing the severity and frequency of violent storms, worsening droughts, and causing more intense wildfires. Even the fossil fuel industry's own scientists understood the climate risks of unchecked fossil fuel emissions. Exxon's own climate scientists warned that the burning of fossil fuels was changing our planet's climate and correctly modeled the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on global temperatures.

When Zeldin testified in January before the Environment and Public

Works Committee, he pledged to “work with the scientists” and “leave the science to the scientists.” What happened to that Lee Zeldin? Where did he go? Because the Lee Zeldin of January has been replaced by a Lee Zeldin willing to ignore his own scientists and ignore the facts for the benefit of President Trump’s Big Polluter donors.

These fossil fuel industry favors will increase costs for American families. The fossil fuel industry spent almost \$100 million—that we know of—to boost Trump in the last election and hundreds of millions more on Congress. Trump famously asked industry executives for \$1 billion in exchange for delivering an industry wish list, and here is Zeldin producing that industry wish list. But for people who are not fossil fuel billionaires, the growing exposure to hazardous pollutants and the increase in carbon pollution will increase costs.

Tonight, colleagues will talk in more detail about various protections that Zeldin threatens to end and the safety and health policies he is curdling. I will discuss Zeldin’s mischief with the social cost of carbon.

What is the social cost of carbon? It is a measure of the costs of each additional ton of carbon pollution released—increased mortality, for instance, from heat and storms; increased sickness from heat and air pollution; damage to agriculture and infrastructure from droughts and floods; even insurance collapse.

The Biden EPA estimated the social cost of carbon at around \$190 per ton, which is consistent with most knowledgeable estimates, and the Office of Management and Budget ordered that this number be used in cost-benefit analysis for regulations as well as in a wider suite of government actions.

This analysis is nothing more than common sense. If the government is considering taking a step that would increase carbon pollution, it should consider the costs of doing so. If it is doing something that would decrease carbon pollution, it should understand and enjoy the economic benefits.

Zeldin is proposing to have the government ignore the facts. He wants to ignore the science, he wants to ignore the economics, and he wants to utilize a social cost of carbon whose value is deliberately and falsely set close to zero. If he succeeds, the Federal Government will no longer accurately assess the true costs and benefits of climate decisions.

This isn’t new math or even fuzzy math; this is fake math—fake math to benefit Trump’s oil and gas donors, who get to pretend, falsely, that the American people aren’t picking up the tab for their industry’s carbon pollution.

The International Monetary Fund, which is not a green institution, pegs the costs the public bears from fossil fuel pollution at more than \$700 billion every year in the United States alone.

Last Congress, as chair of the Senate Budget Committee, I organized hear-

ings on the economic and financial costs of climate change. We heard warnings from economists, scientists, medical professionals, insurance and investment executives, the new Prime Minister of Canada, a former Prime Minister of Australia, and even a former Republican Senate majority leader. Throughout the hearings, witnesses emphasized the systemic economic risks that climate change poses and warned that if we don’t shift away from our dependence on fossil fuels, things will get much worse.

“Systemic” was the word I emphasized in that last sentence. “Systemic” may sound like a bland academic term, but a systemic risk in economics is one which threatens to bring down the entire economy, much the way failures in the mortgage market led to the great recession of 2008.

Zeldin’s promised rollbacks will have real economic consequences for families. American families will bear increased healthcare costs. Even with an honorably functioning EPA, healthcare costs from fossil fuel air pollution and climate change are estimated to total nearly \$820 billion in the United States each year. Doctors appointments, emergency room visits, rehab and home health support, and prescription drugs all strain the pocketbooks of American families. Lost work and school days and reduced labor productivity cost both families and the broader economy.

Last year, the United States suffered a recordbreaking 27 separate billion-dollar disasters, pushing up prices, damaging insurance markets, and burdening the families who were in harm’s way. Economic losses from natural disasters reached more than \$200 billion.

Climate-related extreme weather—hurricanes, wildfires, and floods—damages property, damages infrastructure, damages agriculture, and damages supply chains. These recurring disasters are disrupting insurance markets across the country.

Turmoil in the insurance markets bleeds over into turmoil in the mortgage and housing markets. If you can’t get insurance on your house, the next buyer can’t get a mortgage on your house, and that reduces the pool of buyers and results in plunging property values. If your insurance premium quadruples, say from \$2,000 a year to \$8,000 a year, your home’s value will fall, as the carrying costs associated with owning it have dramatically increased.

Last year, the Budget Committee obtained county-level data for the entire country, showing the evolution of nonrenewal rates for homeowners insurance from 2018 to 2023, and what we showed is that nonrenewal rates were rising—indeed, skyrocketing—as insurers retreat from areas of the country battered by the storms and wildfires that climate change makes both more likely and more intense. While the usual suspects are Florida, California, and Louisiana, nonrenewals are also

skyrocketing across areas of southern New England, the Carolinas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, the Northern Rockies, and Hawaii.

We found that nonrenewals increased the most in the counties most exposed to climate risk—not surprising—and also that where nonrenewals were spiking, premiums were surging as well.

Earlier this year, the nonpartisan First Street Foundation took a look at the data we had looked at in the Budget Committee and looked forward and made some prediction about what increasing premiums and declining availability of insurance will mean for property values. They looked at the 30-year period of a mortgage entered into today, and they found that property values will decrease—decrease—in many counties by 20, 40, 60, or even 100 percent. Change in home value due to insurance costs: minus 100 percent. If you are in that category—and there are a few of them and more coming in the future—your home will lose all its value during the period of your mortgage, and you can bet the people selling you that mortgage are going to notice.

Let’s not forget that for most Americans, their largest asset is their home. Home ownership is how most families build wealth. So something that is going to systemically reduce home values is hurting Americans. In a future gripped by climate change, the home ownership path to economic security breaks. What Zeldin is proposing will accelerate that danger forward, bringing the inevitable day of reckoning closer.

In Administrator Zeldin’s home of Suffolk County, NY, for instance, nonrenewals nearly tripled from 2018 to 2023 and annual premiums have already increased by almost \$800. And that is just a taste of what is to come.

By the way, it is not just me saying this. Fed Chair Jerome Powell warned the Senate Banking Committee that in 10 to 15 years, there will be entire coastal and wildfire-exposed regions of the United States in which it will no longer be possible to get a mortgage. That is our future.

When your insurance premium goes up by hundreds or by thousands of dollars, that is Republican climate denial in action. When your grocery bill goes up because orange juice, sugar, coffee, chocolate, and olive oil are more expensive because of climate-related extreme weather, that is climateflation in action.

Before I yield, I will close with one last thought. We are where we are, entering the era of climate consequences, because American politics failed to get this right. Our political system failed because the American political process became corrupted by the big money influence of the fossil fuel industry. Our politics got corrupted, and that is why we have so grievously failed at addressing climate change.

We have Senators here from States whose State universities teach climate

science pretending that climate science isn't real.

Mr. President, history will look back at us with anger and disgust, justifiably.

I yield the floor to my wonderful senior colleague from Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE, the ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee and the foremost voice for sensible climate policies, someone who for years has warned us of the approaching dangers of climate change and today once again has demonstrated his great insights—particularly with respect to the cost to homeowners—of climate change. He is raising the alarm about President Trump's environmental policy and the effect it will have on the health and well-being of Americans. I want to thank him for his leadership on this important issue.

Earlier this month, EPA Administrator LEE ZELDIN announced that his Agency would move to repeal 31 environmental and health protections. This Trump environmental plan will undo restrictions on air pollution from powerplants, cars, and trucks. It would allow harmful discharges into our water systems, relax restrictions on emissions of mercury and other known neurotoxins, ease limits on soot and haze pollution, and the list goes on and on and on.

These rollbacks appear to be a quid pro quo for President Trump's fossil fuel donors, whom he reportedly asked to donate a billion dollars to his campaign last year.

One of Trump's most concerning proposals is the repeal of the EPA's long-standing scientific finding that greenhouse gases are pollutants. After losing in the Supreme Court in 2006, the fossil fuel industry has been out to overturn this so-called endangerment finding for nearly two decades. Repealing it would degrade the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, meaning it could no longer act to curb emissions from vehicle exhaust, factories, powerplants, and many, many more locations. Relaxing these standards will result in more pollutants in our air and in our water.

The fact is, these pollutants are not just numbers on a chart; they are the reason millions of Americans are suffering from asthma, heart disease, and other respiratory conditions. Several studies have shown that air pollution can negatively impact maternal health and lead to miscarriages and low birth weights. These health impacts will particularly harm low-income communities, where the effects are disproportionately severe.

Mr. ZELDIN claims these actions will "unleash American energy," but really they will just unleash more pollution on the American people. Mr. ZELDIN claims that these actions will drive down costs for American families, but

the evidence shows otherwise. Indeed, EPA previously found that for every \$1 the country spends to reduce air pollution, it is estimated to yield \$30 in economic benefits in return.

These actions will worsen climate change and contribute to more flooding and coastal erosion, which have cost homes and businesses in my home State of Rhode Island millions of dollars in just the past few years.

Mr. ZELDIN claims that by rolling back these protections, he is simply giving power back to the States, but we know that pollution does not respect State lines.

We are all in this together to protect our air, water, and human health. The Trump administration is taking us backwards and hurting hard-working families in the process.

I firmly oppose the Trump EPA's misguided plan and will continue to join Senator WHITEHOUSE and my other colleagues in pushing back against this administration's harmful agenda.

Once again, let me salute Senator WHITEHOUSE for his leadership on this critical—indeed, this existential—issue.

I yield the floor to Senator WELCH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues. You know, this issue of the environment is being completely—completely—ignored. Worse than that, the problems we have in our environment are being intensified by what the Trump administration is doing.

You know the EPA mission is clear. It is about protecting human health and the environment. EPA regulations are intended, in some cases, to prevent mercury—that is what I am talking about—contaminating our drinking water. They protect us—some of those regulations—from toxic gases, soot, and ash polluting out of the air.

They keep lead out of our drinking water and asbestos out of our homes, and they do help fight climate change and prevent premature deaths caused by pollution.

Now, there is a mantra in the Trump administration that regulations are bad—bad. There is not a single Member of this Senate—and that includes every single Democrat—who is not willing to make the most efficient regulations we can have to do the job that needs to be done to protect the health and safety.

If there are regulations that need to be looked at, they need to be revised, they need to be reformed, let's do it. But the idea that the Federal Government would turn a blind eye to active pollution that is produced because it results in profit to the polluters is something not a single Member of this body should ever tolerate—ever, ever, ever.

What you are seeing from the administration is that the repeal of these regulations is not about improving them; it is about giving license to the polluters.

You know, Mr. President, shouldn't the polluter pay for the pollution that a polluter causes? Should large corporations have free rein to pollute our air and water, contaminating the environment, threatening the health and welfare of our kids?

The Trump administration is trying to decimate the Agency that has protected us and the environment since the 1970s. Let me just emphasize: It is not their intention to reform it or to improve it. It is to, basically, destroy it.

That is why the President has fired the members of EPA's Scientific Advisory Board and Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee. Get rid of the scientists is the answer they present as a way of getting rid of pollution. It doesn't work that way.

So as I said, I have absolutely not only no problem, but I am completely—completely—committed to doing anything I can to make regulations to be practical and effective. I am absolutely, adamantly opposed to giving polluters a free rein to make profit at the expense of the health and welfare of the people that I represent and that we all represent.

Nowhere is the Trump administration more clear than their attempt to rescind the endangerment finding, which affirms that greenhouse gases pose a threat to the health and welfare of the American people. That was a finding based on science.

You know, it is one thing if you don't like the finding. It is another thing to deny that the finding has a solid basis in fact and science. You can pretend climate change doesn't exist. You can pretend dirty air doesn't exist. You can pretend dangerous water doesn't exist.

You won't be able to breathe it or drink it for too long without finding out that you are wrong. But when you are the President and you have a responsibility to the health and welfare of the American people, that is not a luxury you are entitled to take.

Firing the EPA scientists on the SAB and on the CASAC, that won't change the facts. You can fire the scientists, but you can't change the facts. But it is the preference of the administration to want to blatantly ignore those facts so they can follow through on the President's campaign promise and make it easier for the polluters to pollute.

Mr. President, I oppose—and oppose firmly—the Trump administration's attempts to weaken the EPA. I will always support making it more efficient, more effective, but the mission that the EPA has—an organization started during the Nixon administration—is to protect the health and welfare of the American people. And we can never step back from our commitment to do that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT NELSON

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks, I want to take a few

minutes to thank Bob Nelson, the Small Business Administration's District Director for Massachusetts upon his retirement on Monday after 30 years of Federal service.

Bob is a paragon of public service—commuting each day more than 100 miles from Connecticut to Boston to serve Massachusetts' small businesses.

For 26 years, Bob has helped small businesses recover from everything from the economic downturn after 9/11 to the great recession of 2008 to the COVID-19 pandemic. Bob is known for giving small business owners his direct cell phone number so that they never have to go through a moment of uncertainty.

His career is a testament to the impact that steady and passionate public service can have on everyday people and local economies.

Everyone who has worked with Bob respects him; and that goes for me, my staff, and all of the SBA employees that he has worked with over all of the years and the thousands of small businesses that he has helped during those years.

Bob Nelson is a small business champion, and because of him, countless business entrepreneurs and communities are strengthening our Nation, creating jobs, and making our economy the envy of the world.

Thank you, Bob—thank you, Bob—for everything that you have done, for bringing a public servant's heart to your work, and for your many years of service making the Massachusetts Small Business Administration district office the best in the Nation.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. President, over the last 2 months, the Trump administration has made one thing painfully clear: They do not have an “all of the above” energy strategy. They have an “oil above all” energy strategy—oil above the law, above the economy, above the health and wallets of working families in our Nation.

Gas prices are up. Electricity bills are up. Home heating costs are up. Yet instead of investing in working families, Donald Trump is launching a full-scale assault on the very programs designed to bring costs down and create jobs, all while spewing baseless lies that begin in the White House and then spread across his entire administration, but especially focused on his energy policy.

At the Department of Energy, staff have been ordered to draw up a hit list of clean energy programs—programs Congress already funded, programs workers are counting on.

These are not hypothetical investments. These are real dollars that could unleash real jobs and real benefits for communities across the country. And now they are being sacrificed to serve a political agenda that rewards polluters and punishes the public.

Nowhere was this agenda more proudly displayed than at this week's

CERAWeek—or as I like to call it, the Olympics of oil—where Energy Secretary Chris Wright gave a speech that would make Big Oil blush. Although, it is more likely that they just turned with a flush because of the incredible way in which they were treated.

Big Oil had a big treat coming from the speech by Energy Secretary Chris Wright. Let's take a moment to fact-check Secretary of Energy Chris Wright's Big Oil-sponsored big lies at CERAWeek in Houston.

Chris Wright said:

The previous administration's policy was focused myopically on climate change with people as simply collateral damage.

False. Chris Wright is wrong. When Democrats controlled the White House and Congress, we invested in solutions that centered smart communities and a livable future. Since the Inflation Reduction Act was passed in 2022, the clean energy boom has created more than 400,000 new jobs and spurred \$420 billion in investments, most of it in red districts; 70 to 80 percent of the funding is in red districts. That is a people-powered economy.

That is an “all of the above” strategy. Everyone is included. So if we are talking myopic, look no further than Trump. It is the pot calling the kettle black.

Trump has been exclusively focused on tax breaks for the rich with extensive collateral damage. New reporting shows that more than 50,000 energy jobs have been lost or stalled since Trump was elected and that over \$56 billion in U.S. clean energy investments were canceled or stalled in that same time.

If he continues down this road and guts the IRA, he will be driving an estimated 790,000 jobs off a cliff while wiping \$160 billion from our economy by 2030 and raising household energy costs by \$32 billion over the next decade.

In other words, President Trump and his energy policy are engaging in economic sabotage. So let's continue fact-checking Secretary Wright.

Secretary Wright also said in that speech:

Wind and solar . . . supply roughly 3% of global primary energy.

The truth: Renewables powered 30 percent of the world's electricity in 2023. Got it? Not 3 percent; 30 percent of the world's electricity in 2023. And in the first 9 months of 2024, 96 percent of all new electrical generation capacity installed in the United States was renewable—wind, solar, battery—96 percent of all new electrical generation capacity installed, with the majority actually coming from solar. It is the fastest growing, cheapest energy out there.

Big Oil isn't just losing its monopoly; it simply cannot compete. The natural gas industry, they are petrified. Can you imagine if you are saying: Well, we are the only way in the future in which you can have predictable electricity which is generated; natural gas is the answer—when in 2024, 96 percent of all

new electrical-generating capacity was wind and solar and battery storage technology?

If you knew that, for 10 years in a row, the natural gas industry is facing an existential moment, that is what they are afraid of. They are afraid of competition. They are afraid of alternative energy sources. Oil, gas, and coal, they got a tax break for 100 years from the Federal Government, and they were able to squash all of the competition over all of those years.

But when finally we leveled the playing field and the alternatives show out that are nonpolluting, that don't have any greenhouse gases to go up into the planet, that don't warm the planet, all of a sudden, we are hearing: The Secretary of Energy in the Trump administration is lying about that? Because they have to lie. Otherwise, they would have to explain why they are planning on killing hundreds of thousands of new jobs in these industries, which are absolutely bursting at the seams.

But, wait, there is more. Here is what else Secretary Wright said at the SARA conference down in Texas:

The last administration recklessly pursued policies that were certain to drive up electricity prices.

Once again, false. False. The fact, however, is that onshore wind is the cheapest source of new electricity in America. It has been for nearly a decade. It beats fossil fuels even without subsidies and costs half as much as new natural gas on average.

Again, existential threat to the natural gas industry—onshore wind beat it in the marketplace every day for 10 years in a row.

So what is Secretary Wright saying? He is saying he is going to lead the effort to kill it and to kill solar—to kill all of it. And building new solar? Well, it is cheaper than running existing coal or building new gas projects in the United States. Solar is winning in the marketplace, and it is frightening to the natural gas industry—just absolutely frightening. It is fossil fuel volatility that has hammered families at the pump and on their power bills, with fossil fuel exports going to the highest bidder abroad. Now, in my home State of Massachusetts, many gas bills are double what they were last year. That is unacceptable.

Let's keep going with the fact checks.

In a pathetic attempt to justify the benefits of deadly pollution, Secretary of Energy Wright said:

We've raised atmospheric CO₂ by 50 percent in the process of doubling human life expectancy.

Then he said:

Everything in life involves trade-offs.

Well, let me be clear. In the United States, climate-fueled disasters already kill more than 1,300 people every year. More CO₂ doesn't mean more life; it means more floods, more fires, suffering, deaths. There was \$300 billion worth of damage between Hurricane

Helene and Hurricane Milton last fall and \$150 billion worth of damage in Los Angeles from climate-driven storms. By the way, only \$50 billion of it was covered by insurance—catastrophic for all those communities.

So let's talk about the real tradeoffs. Clean air traded for asthma. Safe homes traded for billion-dollar climate disasters. Lower bills traded for Big Oil windfall profits. This administration has made its tradeoff clear: your future for their profit. That is Trump's art of the deal, and what a great deal for the oil, gas, and coal industry. All they have to do is just raise money for Donald Trump, and in return, they kill the competitors which are killing the oil, gas, and coal industry in the market.

ADAM SMITH is spinning in his grave so fast that he would actually qualify for a tax break under an IRA. That is how much they are lying about the marketplace and how it is responding to finally the incentives that are there to compete against oil, gas, and coal, which brings us to the Environmental Protection Agency because what is a fossil-fueled agenda without a full-on assault on the very Agency tasked with protecting our air and our water and our climate?

Two weeks ago, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced that he is taking more than 30 actions to unravel our bedrock environmental safeguards in a nauseating attempt to shock and awe us into submission. These are the regulations that keep our air breathable and our water drinkable. These are the standards that keep us healthy instead of sick. And all so that their Big Oil BFFs can make a few more big bucks while the rest of us will foot the bill with our health conditions that will be created by these fossil fuels, these pollutants going up into the atmosphere.

These rollbacks are not a revolution for American progress and energy; they are a return to the same, tired fossil-fueled program of the past. For starters, they are attempting to eliminate EPA's authority to regulate dangerous greenhouse gases based on the threat they pose to public health or welfare—known as the endangerment finding.

This finding came from a Supreme Court ruling in my very own home State, which brought the case to the Supreme Court—*Massachusetts v. EPA*—in 2007, which said something we all know: Greenhouse gases pose an “actual” and “imminent” threat to people everywhere.

And it doesn't stop there. They are hoping to roll back air quality standards for particulate matter pollution that are projected to avoid 4,500 premature deaths and 800,000 cases of asthma over just 6 years. That is all going to get wiped out if they have their way.

We are going to fight them, by the way. We are going to fight them every single step of the way on this dangerous, health-endangering strategy which they are seeking to put on the books.

They are aiming to gut wastewater regulations so coal plants can contami-

nate the water we drink from and swim in. They are trying to pump the brakes on clean car and truck regulations that reduce harmful air pollutants and save families money at the pump. The list goes on and on.

They are dismantling the Federal Government before our very eyes. This isn't about efficiency; this is about sacrificing the health of our communities for the health of their pocketbooks.

And just like Energy Secretary Chris Wright's speech, we know it is a lie. They aren't making America great again; they are selling America to the highest bidder—to the oil and gas and coal industry. That is what they are doing. They are just selling us out. We must continue to speak up for the truth and continue to fight.

The natural gas industry—they are threatened by a wind and solar and battery revolution that will generate the electricity we need in our country. Natural gas doesn't like it. They want to kill it.

The oil industry—we put 70 percent of all the oil we consume into gasoline tanks. They don't want to see the all-electric vehicle revolution continue to grow exponentially. They are going to try to kill that, too, so that we do not have that reduction in the amount of oil we put into the cars we drive around our country that spew that pollution up into the sky.

So the oil and gas industry—they go to the White House, they go to Donald Trump, they go to Mar-a-Lago in order to get the protection they need against competition, the protection they need against clean energy, the protection they need against the creation of a million new clean energy jobs in our country that should be our future. And it is what young people want more than anything else. They want that revolution. They are the Green New Deal revolution. That is what they want. They want to see it happen.

Because it is happening, oil and gas are having, unfortunately, this White House, Secretary of Energy Christopher Wright, his entire Cabinet, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin—all of them just dismantle all of the protections which have been put on the books over a generation.

This is a historic moment, and all we can say to you, oil, gas, and coal; all we can say to you, Trump White House, is that we are going to fight. We are not going away.

There is a young generation out there that is rising up, and they are not happy with what is happening in this White House. They do not want to see their future sold for campaign contributions from polluters in our country.

So we are ready to fight, and we are going to align ourselves with the young people in our country that want a different future, a better future, a clean future, and that is what we are going to get because we will not lose.

I can't thank Senator WHITEHOUSE enough for being our leader on the En-

vironment and Public Works Committee and for bringing us out here this evening to have this incredibly important, historic discussion about the direction of our Nation.

Thank you.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Would the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts yield for a question?

Mr. MARKEY. I would love to have a conversation with the Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Well, you referenced the value to the fossil fuel industry of being able to run to Congress or run to the White House and throw money around and, as a result of that expenditure on politicians, earn the right to pollute for free and get enormous competitive advantage against clean energy.

The industry clearly spends a lot of money. We know they spent a hundred million dollars getting Trump elected. He asked them for a billion dollars, which could have come through dark money, in order to deliver on this subsidy program they want.

How lucrative do you think the fossil fuel political operation is?

Mr. MARKEY. I think it is the most well-financed lobbying effort in Washington, DC. I think they have had an ownership of this building for a hundred years, and they are afraid it is about to slip away. Would the gentleman from Rhode Island agree with me?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I would not be surprised, actually, if the political lobbying and dark money influence operation of the fossil fuel industry was not actually its most lucrative line of business because for the \$1 billion or \$6 billion or \$7 billion spent manipulating our politics, they protect a \$700 billion annual subsidy, according to the International Monetary Fund. That is a \$100 return every year for every \$1 invested. They don't make that much off their tar sands. They don't make that much off their oil wells. They don't make that much off their methane leaks.

Mr. MARKEY. You know, the Senator from Rhode Island is wise and precise in his analysis of the agenda of these companies.

The Senator from Rhode Island and I have for 12 years led the effort, along with the Senator from Connecticut, to have offshore wind all along the Atlantic coast, and the Biden administration put in place a plan to deploy 30,000 megawatts of offshore wind.

What Donald Trump, what Chris Wright, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Interior are now planning is to kill that entire revolution capturing the winds that blew the Pilgrims to our shores, capturing the wind that had the whaling crews go out in order to fuel the energy of the 19th century. But when it wants to be used for the energy of the 21st century, the oil and gas and coal industry say: Absolutely not. We can't allow that to happen.

Why can't they allow it to happen? Because it would replace natural gas-

generated electricity that pollutes, it would just transform the way in which electricity powers our businesses and powers our homes all across the east coast of the United States, and we could wave goodbye to that natural gas-fossil fuel polluting future for the 21st century.

So what is Donald Trump doing? After receiving tens and tens of millions of dollars in contributions from the natural gas industry, led by Harold Hamm, who promised Trump—the No. 1 natural gas guy in America—that he would raise the money for him in the campaign, well, the payoff, the payback is, kill offshore wind.

So they say “all of the above”—nah, they don’t mean “all of the above.”

Chris Wright, the Secretary of Energy, says: People really don’t like wind, so we have to make an exception because people don’t like wind.

Do you know who doesn’t like wind? The natural gas industry. They hate wind. They hate it because it is the competition, because it is working, because it is cheaper, and because it is also cleaner, in the same way the oil industry hates the all-electric vehicle revolution because it kills oil as a business as we move to a renewable way of generating electricity that then powers the vehicles we have in America.

So the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee as usual has just put his finger right on the problem, and it is the money that is sloshing through Mar-a-Lago and Washington, DC, the White House. It is an absolute disgrace, and I can’t thank him enough for bringing this up on the floor for a full exposition.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. And we welcome our colleague from Connecticut to join the festivities here on the Senate floor.

All three States are downwind States from the pollution of the Midwest, of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio. There is nothing we can do about it, other than breathe in the waste that they don’t clean up.

Mr. MARKEY. What does that mean by “downwind,” just so people can understand it? What do you mean by that?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Well, it means that the prevailing winds that blow over West Virginia, that blow over Pennsylvania, that blow over Ohio, blow over their smoke stacks that have been deliberately built high into the air so that the pollution coming out of the smoke stacks gets caught up in those prevailing winds and ends up falling down in the form of ozone and particulate matter in Massachusetts, in Connecticut, and in Rhode Island. And the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection can do nothing about it because those States have chosen to put it up into the sky above them so that it lands on us.

Mr. MARKEY. And it blows into the lungs of the people in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

I yield to the Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. A perfect segue to my remarks, if I may be recognized, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, it is the perfect segue to my remarks because “downwind” means we are the recipient of their air and their pollution, which are the small particulates. They are often the size of, literally, a quarter of the head of a pin, and the reason that they are so dangerous is that they are inhaled to the very deepest parts of our lungs, where they do the most damage.

And so I am grateful to be talking about the good neighbor rule. That is actually the purpose of my coming to the floor, to talk about the rule that applies to those powerplants and States that are supposed to be good neighbors. And, according to this rule, they would be good neighbors, but the EPA is rolling it back, withdrawing it.

And so I am grateful to be here with two champions, my great friend and neighbor the Senator from Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE, who has made this battle a constant struggle from his seat on the floor, in meetings, in townhalls, in forums, literally, around the world; and my neighbor from Massachusetts, the author of the Green New Deal, which I was proud to join in its first day and still represents a milestone in environmental advocacy. And we are here today to advocate.

I am joyous, even though saddened by the need to be here—joyous—to be amongst this band of brothers and sisters who are going to stand strong and steadfast against the Trump administration’s sellout.

You heard it from Senators WHITEHOUSE and MARKEY: These rollbacks are a gift. They are literally a payback to the lobby—the anti-environment lobby, the fuel and oil and gas lobby—that has so infiltrated and permeated our government, including, now, the Environmental Protection Agency.

And so let me begin by highlighting for people who care, and that should be everyone. It really should be everyone who has children, who will inherit the mess we are creating. It should be everyone who cares about the planet and what we are leaving for others, our stewardship of the environment.

The EPA is becoming a shell. Literally 65 percent of its workforce has been fired; 65 percent are planned to go. There is no way that the EPA, as a law enforcement Agency, can function with the remaining 35 percent of its staff.

But perhaps most egregiously, the Administrator of the EPA announced, just 2 weeks ago, that he was targeting 31 climate and health protections to roll back. He called it “the largest de-regulatory announcement in U.S. his-

tory.” He said it was the most momentous day in the history of the EPA. In my view, it is a day that will live in environmental infamy. It marks a step back by decades.

And for people who think, well, we need some disruptors like Elon Musk, who is behind these steps to decimate the Agency, disruption can sometimes be constructive, but not when you burn down the house, burn down an Agency, burn down a framework of laws that have been carefully built and reflect not only an intellectual commitment but also a deliberately constructed way to balance the needs of environment and energy and other interests that serve the public.

This administration is destroying that balance. It is easy to destroy things. It is easy to burn down a house. It is much harder to construct it. And this administration is blatantly and malignly and cruelly destructive, firing 65 percent of a workforce that has dedicated itself to caring about the environment and acting on our statutes to protect the environment.

So let’s just call it what it is. Elon Musk and Donald Trump are using Lee Zeldin—I am tempted to say he is their puppet; certainly, he is their instrument—to take a wrecking ball to environmental protections that have safeguarded Americans from toxic air and water pollution for decades.

And so, far from ensuring clean land, water, and air for all, Elon Musk and EPA are giving Donald Trump’s big polluters a carte blanche to trash the planet—no exaggeration, really. I mean, come right down to it. Let’s call it for what it is. The administration is running roughshod over our Federal environmental protection laws, writ large.

I am going to focus today, as I mentioned just moments ago, on one of the rules that EPA is rolling back: the Good Neighbor Plan. And it is appropriately called the Good Neighbor Plan because it is a landmark environmental protection law that literally safeguards Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New York, and other States of New England against the pollution generated in Ohio and other Midwestern States that is brought by the prevailing winds.

The polluters didn’t create those prevailing winds, but, nonetheless, the pollution is carried on them toward the east coast. The funny thing about those little pieces of soot created in fuel-burning powerplants is they have no respect for State boundaries, none.

I don’t know why. You know, we have in Connecticut—as Rhode Island and Massachusetts do—strong laws that protect our air and water. And those pieces of soot, the nitrogen, the other pollutants have no respect for our boundaries.

The Clean Air Act, through its good neighbor provision, empowers the EPA to step in when States’ emissions are significantly contributing to the air quality problems of another State.

In 2023, the EPA released its final Good Neighbor Plan, which would ensure 23 States meet the Clean Air Act's good neighbor requirements by reducing pollution that significantly impacts downwind States, like Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Connecticut has some of the worst air quality in the country—let's be honest here—largely due to pollution traveling from powerplants in the Midwestern States. Data shows that anywhere from 90 to 95 percent of air pollution impacting Connecticut on high ozone days originates from outside our State, and it is causing serious harm to Connecticut and our residents. Last year, Connecticut exceeded the Federal health standards for ozone on 23 different days. That is almost a month out of the year.

Three of Connecticut's cities—Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport—rank within the top 100 most challenging cities to live with asthma last year. That is according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America Annual Report. One of the top 100 most challenging cities in which to live with asthma is a pretty lamentable distinction.

These consequences are cumulative. They mean more hospital visits, more healthcare costs, more missed school and workdays, and, ultimately, more serious illnesses, more premature deaths.

They are the equivalent of imposing second-hand smoke on children or people with asthma or other kinds of respiratory problems.

Zeldin, Musk, and Trump's rollback was touted as lowering the cost of living for Americans—lowering the cost of living. It is going to do just the opposite.

Not only is protecting the environment the right thing to do for our planet; it also benefits America economically. The EPA projected: In 2026, the first year the Good Neighbor Plan was set to be implemented, Americans would see significant health benefits because of this rule, including preventing approximately 1,300 premature deaths, avoiding more than 2,300 hospital and emergency room visits, cutting asthma symptoms by 1.3 million cases, and avoiding 430,000 school absence days and 25,000 lost workdays.

One estimate found that this Good Neighbor Plan would provide over \$16.2 billion in net monetary benefits when you count the hospital visits, the lost workdays, the school days, the doctors' treatments—all that adding to \$16.2 billion. That is no bargain for the United States of America. What you may say on day 1, you pay in multiples on day 5 or 10, throughout the year.

Only the Federal Government is empowered to protect the people of the United States who live downwind from these powerplants. Connecticut cannot do it, nor can Massachusetts, nor Rhode Island on their own. It is legally and physically impossible.

But protection is impossible if Musk and Trump, through Lee Zeldin, roll back this rule. And let's be, again, honest about what is happening here. This Good Neighbor Plan rollback is part of a larger pattern and practice to undermine and undercut and eventually eviscerate environmental protections. It is the reason they are firing 60 percent of the EPA's workforce. It is the reason why they are slashing and trashing other Agencies that are vital to environmental protection. It comes as Trump's EPA has moved to cancel hundreds of grants for climate projects across the country.

For every action they take to chip away at our bedrock environmental protection, the world is less healthy. The world is less healthy and our planet is more endangered.

I urge my colleagues to stand in strong opposition to the Musk-Trump-Zeldin shameless attack on the Environmental Protection Agency and on our environment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MARKEY. Would the Senator from Connecticut yield?

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Absolutely.

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you. What I would like to talk about a little bit, if I could, with you and Senator WHITEHOUSE, is this pollution agenda that they have for us in New England, that they have writ large for the whole country as well.

Let's just take solar energy. In 2009, the total amount of solar ever deployed in the United States was 2,000 megawatts. That was it. In 2024, 40,000 megawatts was deployed. It is scaring the natural gas industry. Combined with battery storage, it is just saying that New England doesn't have to import any more natural gas, any more pollution. Slowly but surely, in other parts of the country, they, too, will deploy wind and solar with batteries and reduce the amount of pollution that is sent up into the atmosphere that blows our way on the east coast from the Midwest.

It actually is more economical for us. It is actually a job creator for us because the jobs are actually in New England, not in other States. We are doing it for ourselves offshore, on the roofs of people's homes, out along the highways as we deploy these renewable energy resources. It is absolutely frightening to them.

In the same way—I will add this number, too—in 2009, there were a grand total of 2,000 total all-electric vehicles in the United States. That was all we had from Henry Ford to 2009, 2,000 all-electric vehicles. Why? Because the auto industry said we can't figure it out. It is just too hard.

Then we put the incentives in place. The battery technologies were given incentives. There were incentives to buy all-electric vehicles. Last year, there were about one and a half million all-electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids sold in America, not just 2,000 total sold a year ago.

So the direction is absolutely vertical. It is just taking off exponentially. And, again, with it goes a reduction in greenhouse gases, especially as each year goes by and more and more of those technologies are employed.

I think that what Senator WHITEHOUSE has done on the floor over and over again, just bringing out the fundamental corruption of how policies are made in the energy and environment sector, it just becomes more and more true as we are only 8 weeks into the Trump administration. But we can see that, almost like an Old Testament prophet, SHELDON WHITEHOUSE has been shining a light on this corruption, and now it has all come to pass.

I can't thank the Senator from Connecticut enough for his great leadership on these issues. We kind of consider ourselves to be innovation States. We are going to figure this out. And as we figure it out, it is absolutely frightening to those States that have been producing energy for generations—good for them and good for their citizens—but if we figure it out as well, we should not be stopped any more than we stopped them in the 20th century. We should be allowed to innovate in the 21st century what they are trying to put in place.

The policies purchased from the Trump administration that block us from those issues, which were not just for ourselves, but like many other things invented in New England over the years, we can export them around the world. We can be the world leader in the development of and then export of all these technologies.

I can't thank you enough, Senator WHITEHOUSE, for your great leadership on the floor.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I am delighted to be joined by all of you.

I would make an observation of my own. I think Senator BLUMENTHAL wants to join in. The observation I want to make is our three States are known for great universities—Yale University in New Haven, CT; Harvard University in Cambridge, MA; and Brown University in Providence, RI. They all teach climate science, and they all teach economics as well.

But it is not just those three universities. If you go across the aisle and check in with our Republican colleagues, with their Republican home States, they have great universities in their own States, including State universities. And their State universities in their home States teach the very climate science that Republican Senators deny on the Senate floor.

I have been through the syllabuses of home State universities for Republican colleagues and gone through the classes that teach climate science, and they teach economics. And you can go to Milton Friedman, the famous free market conservative economist, and what does he say about pollution? He says the cost of the pollution has to be in the price of the product or else it is a big fat subsidy, and it is not market economics any longer. It is a government

subsidy; it is corporate welfare; and that is what we see in this dispute.

The climate science is real. Their own State universities teach it, and the economics is real. Their own State universities teach Milton Friedman. And what they are doing in this building, contrary to what their universities know, is to fight with political power, to keep polluting, and have the public bear all the cost of their pollution—have the public bear all the cost of their pollution, not be a real market economy—which the price of the pollution, as a negative externality, gets baked into the price of the product—but pollute for free.

This is a huge pollute-for-free scam, running to about \$700 billion every year. So no wonder it has taken a while for wind and solar to take off fighting the headwinds of a multihundred billion-dollar subsidy from an industry that gets to pollute for free.

And who bears all those costs? How are your fishermen doing in Long Island Sound as that water has warmed or mine or yours? And that is just one example.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. If the Senator from Rhode Island would yield.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I will.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I would add a footnote to that important conversation, which is they teach economics, and they teach that those externalities are, in effect, a subsidy if they aren't charged to the consumer and made transparent. But they can also distort the market.

When those subsidies caused consumers to buy cars that are more polluting or to use fuel that is more contaminating to our environment, they also avoid the benefits, the public-interest benefits, of cleaner fuel and better cars.

Just to give you an illustration, for many years, Senator MARKEY and I crusaded for safer cars—cars that were better built, cars that had seatbelts, cars that had airbags. The industry resisted—almost comically now in retrospect—because once they started installing these devices, once they made cars safe, you know what they found? Consumers wanted safer cars. They also wanted cars that were more energy efficient.

Lo and behold, when they saw the benefits of these kinds of energy-saving and environmentally friendly measures, consumers voted with their feet and their wallets and their dollars.

If we did not have these kinds of hidden subsidies, consumers would vote for electric cars if there were more charging stations, if there were batteries that took them longer distances without having to recharge.

I am kind of surprised that the President of the United States isn't having a showroom on the White House lawn for all electric vehicles, not just for Elon Musk's Tesla. Why not provide that kind of boost and elevation for electric vehicles generally? And the car manufacturers would bet on cleaner

cars if they were given the true cost and enabled to enjoy the true benefits of electric cars generally, not just the ones produced by a billionaire—unelected, unappointed official, unconfirmed official—acting, in effect, on behalf of Donald Trump with Lee Zeldin as his instrument to fire hard-working people at the EPA and to roll back rules that benefit consumers.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank my colleagues for their colloquy.

I see the Senator from South Carolina, whose time we are intruding on, has come to the floor.

We yield to Senator SCOTT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

H.J. RES. 25

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I rise to talk in favor of my CRA on the overdraft fees.

President Biden and his politically motivated junk fee conversation was not about helping consumers. It was about trying to change the conversation away from the devastation that inflation was bringing to kitchen table after kitchen table after kitchen table all across America. The average American, because of Bidenflation, lost \$1,000-plus in spending power, devastated by the Biden economy.

President Biden looked for something to change the conversation and it changed something called junk fees. One of the junk fees he talked about was the overdraft fee. Now, some would say: What is an overdraft fee? Your bank account goes beyond zero; you have to pay a fee; your bills are paid. Some people who live paycheck to paycheck use their overdraft option to pay their rent.

So when you start capping these fee structures, you start eliminating overdraft. You start eliminating the possibility of people working paycheck to paycheck to make the decision—to make the decision—to continue to use their resources in the most effective way.

Unfortunately, President Biden's devastating economy has reverberated for years now. This overdraft conversation is a critically important conversation, if you are, like me, a guy who grew up in poverty, single-parent household, who understands the difficulty, the challenge of single moms making those ends meet. I want every single hard-working American to have access to our financial system. That sometimes includes, as it did for us, free checking.

A free checking account is not free, but with the revenue streams coming into the institutions, they can use those revenues as an option to provide free checking for those living paycheck to paycheck.

Overtuning the Biden CFPB's overdraft fee structure is good for consumers.

Let me just quote from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York that confirmed the overdraft fee caps hinder financial inclusion. As a study stated:

[O]verdraft fee caps hinder financial inclusion. When constrained by fee caps, banks reduce overdraft coverage and deposit supply, causing more returned checks and a decline in account ownerships among low-income households.

To do the right thing for the working class is to give them all the options and let them decide. Trust them with their own resources. That is in the best interest of our Nation, and that is why I am offering this CRA tonight.

I yield back all time on Calendar No. 27, H.J. Res. 25.

VOTE ON H.J. RES. 25

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 151 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Alsobrooks	Grassley	Ossoff
Banks	Hagerty	Padilla
Barrasso	Hawley	Paul
Blackburn	Heinrich	Ricketts
Booker	Hickenlooper	Risch
Boozman	Hoeben	Rosen
Britt	Husted	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schiff
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Schumer
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kim	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Slotkin
Cramer	Lujan	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Warner
Ernst	Moody	Warnock
Fetterman	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Moreno	Young
Gillibrand	Mullin	
Graham	Murkowski	

NAYS—28

Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Shaheen
Blumenthal	King	Smith
Blunt	Klobuchar	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Markey	Warren
Coons	Merkley	Welch
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Hirono	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Gallego Schatz

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to Calendar No. 27, H.J. Res. 25, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

DISAPPROVING THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "OVERDRAFT LENDING: VERY LARGE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS"—Motion to Proceed

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 34, S.J. Res. 18.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 34, S.J. Res. 18, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions".

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 152 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hoeven	Ricketts
Britt	Husted	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Reed
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schumer
Booker	Kim	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Slotkin
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Galleo	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Hawley	Peters	

NOT VOTING—1

Schatz

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 47, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

DISAPPROVING THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "OVERDRAFT LENDING: VERY LARGE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS"

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 18) disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 37

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Democrat leader, no earlier than Tuesday, April 1, S.J. Res. 37 be discharged from the Committee on Finance and the Senate proceed to its consideration; further, that there be 6 hours for debate only, with the time equally divided between the leaders or their designees, on the joint resolution; and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on the joint resolution.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions which are at the desk: S. Res. 140, S. Res. 141, S. Res. 142.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON ITS 113TH BIRTHDAY AND CELEBRATING ITS FOUNDER, JULIETTE GORDON LOW, AND THE LEGACY OF PROVIDING GIRLS WITH A SECURE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE WHERE THEY CAN EXPLORE THEIR WORLD, BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS, AND HAVE ACCESS TO EXPERIENCES THAT PREPARE THEM FOR A LIFE OF LEADERSHIP

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 120.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 120) recognizing Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 113th birthday and celebrating its founder, Juliette Gordon Low, and the legacy of providing girls with a secure and inclusive space where they can explore their world, build meaningful relationships, and have access to experiences that prepare them for a life of leadership.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 120) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 10, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-16, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Qatar for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.96 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-16

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Qatar.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0.34 billion.

Other \$ 1.62 billion.

Total \$ 1.96 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Eight (8) MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA).

Two hundred (200) KMU-572 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) tail kits for Guided Bomb Unit (GBU)-38 or Laser JDAM GBU-54.

Three hundred (300) BLU-111 500-lb general purpose bombs.

One hundred (100) MXU-650 air foil groups (AFG) for Paveway II GBU-12.

One hundred (100) MAU-169 computer control groups (CCG) for Paveway II GBU-12.

Twenty-eight (28) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) (EGI) security devices with M-Code.

Twelve (12) EGI security devices with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Modules (SAASM).

Ten (10) Lynx AN/APY-8 Synthetic Aperture Radars (SAR).

Ten (10) L3 Rio Grande communications intelligence (COMINT) sensor suites.

One hundred ten (110) AGM-114R2 Hellfire II missiles.

Eight (8) M36E9 Hellfire Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: Honeywell TPE-331 turboprop engines; Certifiable Ground Control Stations (CGCS); FMU-139D/B fuze systems; DSU-38 laser illuminated target detectors for GBU-54; KY-100M narrowband/wideband terminals; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); Keying Identification Verification (KIV)-77 Mode 5 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) cryptographic appliques; Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)-250X High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptor (HAiPE) Type 1 cryptographic communications security (COMSEC) devices; Cryptographic Core Modernization (CCM)-700A Type 1 COMSEC chips; AN/DPX-7 IFF transponders; Link-16 KOR-24A Small Tactical Terminals (STTs); Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) Electronic Surveillance Measure systems; AE-4500 Electronic Support Measure; Compact Multi-band Data Link (CMDL); Remotely Operated Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER) 6Si compatible systems; Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming

Equipment (CMBRE) Plus Block II; Mayflower Multi-Platform Anti-Jam GPS Navigation Antennas (MAGNA)-I, AS-4841; imaging systems; Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) Multi-Spectrum Targeting System (MTS); Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars (SeaSpray 7500 maritime radars); Due Regard Radar (DRR); Automatic Information System (AIS) transponders; Rohde & Schwartz Ultra High Frequency (UHF)/Very High Frequency (VHF) radios; satellite communications (SATCOM) ground station antennas, modems, and terminals with Unifi Security Gateway (USG) encryption; Ku-Band SATCOM GA-ASI Transportable Earth Stations (GATES); secure SATCOM systems; DSU-33D/B bomb components; M299 Longbow Hellfire launchers; weapons loading equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; weapons integration; support and test equipment; facilities and construction support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; transportation and airlift support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (QA-D-SAA).

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

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 26, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Qatar—MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft

The Government of Qatar has requested to buy eight (8) MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA); two hundred (200) KMU-572 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) tail kits for Guided Bomb Unit (GBU)-38 or Laser JDAM GBU-54; three hundred (300) BLU-111 500-lb general purpose bombs; one hundred (100) MXU-650 air foil groups (AFG) for Paveway II GBU-12; one hundred (100) MAU-169 computer control groups (CCG) for Paveway II GBU-12; twenty eight (28) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) (EGI) security devices with M-Code; twelve (12) EGI security devices with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Modules (SAASM); ten (10) Lynx AN/APY-8 Synthetic Aperture Radars (SAR); ten (10) L3 Rio Grande communications intelligence (COMINT) sensor suites; one hundred ten (110) AGM-114R2 Hellfire II missiles; and eight (8) M36E9 Hellfire Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM). The following non-MDE items will also be included: Honeywell TPE-331 turboprop engines; Certifiable Ground Control Stations (CGCS); FMU-139D/B fuze systems; DSU-38 laser illuminated target detectors for GBU-54; KY-100M narrowband/wideband terminals; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); Keying Identification Verification (KIV)-77 Mode 5 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) cryptographic appliques; Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)-250X High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptor (HAiPE) Type 1 cryptographic communications security (COMSEC) devices; Cryptographic Core Modernization (CCM)-700A Type 1 COMSEC chips; AN/DPX-7 IFF transponders; Link-16 KOR-24A Small Tactical Terminals (STTs); Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) Electronic Surveillance Measure systems; AE-4500 Electronic Support Measure; Compact Multi-

band Data Link (CMDL); Remotely Operated Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER) 6Si compatible systems; Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) Plus Block II; Mayflower Multi-Platform Anti-Jam GPS Navigation Antennas (MAGNA)-I, AS-4841; imaging systems; Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) Multi-Spectrum Targeting System (MTS); Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars (SeaSpray 7500 maritime radars); Due Regard Radar (DRR); Automatic Information System (AIS) transponders; Rohde & Schwartz Ultra High Frequency (UHF)/Very High Frequency (VHF) radios; satellite communications (SATCOM) ground station antennas, modems, and terminals with Unifi Security Gateway (USG) encryption; Ku-Band SATCOM GA-ASI Transportable Earth Stations (GATES); secure SATCOM systems; DSU-33D/B bomb components; M299 Longbow Hellfire launchers; weapons loading equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; weapons integration; support and test equipment; facilities and construction support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; transportation and airlift support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.96 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Qatar's capability to meet current and future threats by providing timely intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, target acquisition, counter-land, and counter-surface sea capabilities for its security and defense. This capability is a deterrent to regional threats and will primarily be used to strengthen its homeland defense. Qatar will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

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

The principal contractors will be General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, located in Poway, CA; Lockheed Martin, located in Bethesda, MD; RTX Corporation, located in Waltham, MA; L3Harris, Inc., located in Melbourne, FL; Boeing Corporation, located in Arlington, VA; and Leonardo SpA, located in Rome, Italy. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

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

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-16

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) is a weapons-ready aircraft designed for Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), target acquisition, and strike missions. The MQ-9B RPA is not a USAF program of record but has close ties to, and

builds upon, the proven success of the MQ-9A Reaper. The MQ-9B is a highly modular, easily configurable aircraft that contains the necessary hard points, power, and data connections to accommodate a variety of payloads and munitions to meet multiple missions—including counter-land, counter-sea, and anti-submarine strike operations. The system is designed to be controlled by two operators within a Certifiable Ground Control Station (CGCS). The MQ-9B is able to operate using a direct line-of-sight (LoS) datalink or beyond line-of-sight (BLoS) through satellite communications (SATCOM). The MQ-9B system can be deployed from a single site that supports launch and recovery, mission control, and maintenance. The system also supports remote-split operations where launch, recovery, and maintenance occur at a forward operating base (FOB) and mission control is conducted from another location or main operating base (MOB).

2. Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) consist of a bomb body paired with a warhead-specific tail kit containing a Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) guidance capability that converts unguided free-fall bombs into accurate, adverse weather “smart” munitions. The JDAM weapon can be delivered from modest standoff ranges at high or low altitudes against a variety of land and surface targets during the day or night. The JDAM can receive target coordinates via preplanned mission data from the delivery aircraft, by on-board aircraft sensors during captive carry, or from a third-party source via manual or automated entry.

a. The Guided Bomb Unit (GBU)-38 is a 500-lb JDAM, consisting of a KMU-572 tail kit and Bomb Live Unit (BLU)-111 or MK-82 bomb body.

b. The GBU-54 Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition (LJDAM) is a 500-lb JDAM which incorporates all the capabilities of the JDAM guidance tail kit and adds a precision laser guidance set. The LJDAM gives the weapon system an optional semi-active laser guidance in addition to the GPS/INS guidance. This provides the optional capability to strike moving targets. The GBU-54 consists of a DSU-38 laser guidance set or a DSU-33D/B proximity sensor and bomb body with appropriate KMU-5XX tail kit.

3. The Paveway II (PWII) is a maneuverable, free-fall laser-guided bomb (LGB) that guides to laser energy reflected off the target. The LGB is delivered like a normal general purpose (GP) warhead, but the semi-active laser guidance corrects many of the normal errors inherent in any delivery system. Laser designation for the LGB can be provided by a variety of laser target markers or designators. The PWII consists of a non-warhead-specific MAU-209 or MAU-169 computer control group (CCG) and a warhead-specific air foil group (AFG) that attaches to the nose and tail of the GP bomb body.

a. The GBU-12 is a 500-lb GP bomb body fitted with the MAU-169 CCG and MXU-650 AFG to guide to its laser designated target.

4. The M-Code capable Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) (EGI), with an embedded GPS Precise Positioning Service (PPS) Receiver Application Module-Standard Electronic Module (GRAM-S/M), is a self-contained navigation system that provides acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates, time tags, and co-ordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. SAASM or M-Code enables the GPS receiver access to the encrypted P(Y) or M-Code signal, providing protection against active spoofing attacks.

a. Mayflower Multi-Platform Anti-Jam GPS Navigation Antenna (MAGNA)-I, AS-

4841 is a federated, GPS anti-jam solution. MAGNA-F can provide protected GPS signals to different receivers simultaneously. It protects critical mission systems on the platform and provides unwavering position, navigation, and timing (PNT). It can be used on multiple military and civilian GPS receivers. It is also compatible with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Modules (SAASM) and M-Code.

5. The EGI with SAASM—or M-Code receiver when available—and PPS is a self-contained navigation system that provides the following: acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates, time tags, and coordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. SAASM or M-Code enables the GPS receiver access to the encrypted P(Y) or M-Code signal, providing protection against active spoofing attacks.

6. The AN/APY-8 Lynx Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Ground Moving Target Indicator (GMTI) system provides all-weather surveillance, tracking, and targeting.

7. The L3 Rio Grande communications intelligence sensor suite's capabilities meet rigorous mission requirements for small, manned, and unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platforms. Rio Grande intercepts, locates, monitors, and records communications signals using a common set of software applications. Rio Grande operates on an open architecture design and supports third-party special signals applications, real-time audio recording and playback, and a three-dimensional display of the area of interest.

8. The AGM-114R2 Hellfire II is a missile equipped with a semi-active laser (SAL) seeker that homes in on the reflected light of a laser designator. The AGM-114R can be launched from higher altitudes than previous variants because of its enhanced guidance and navigation capabilities, which include a height-of-burst (HOB)/proximity sensor. The missile has a multipurpose warhead and can destroy hard, soft, and enclosed targets.

a. Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs) are used to simulate the AGM-114R2 Hellfire missiles and are carried and delivered in the same manner as the Hellfire with identical weight, center of gravity, and overall appearance.

9. The Honeywell TPE-331 is a turboprop engine with power output ranging from 429 to 1,230 kW.

10. The Certifiable Ground Control Station (CGCS) is designed to emulate a reconnaissance aircraft cockpit, giving users extensive means to operate both the aircraft and sensors. It can be fixed or mobile, with either version allowing operators to control and monitor the aircraft, as well as record and exploit downlinked payload data.

11. The FMU-139D/B Joint Programmable Fuze (JPF) is a multi-delay, multi-arm proximity sensor compatible with general purpose blast, frag, and hardened-target penetrator weapons. The JPF settings are cockpit selectable in flight when used with numerous precision-guided weapons.

12. The KY-100M is a cryptographic-modernized lightweight terminal for secure voice and data communications. The KY-100M provides wideband/narrowband half-duplex communication. Operating in tactical ground, marine, and airborne applications, the KY-100M enables secure communication with a broad range of radio and satellite equipment.

13. The AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader (SKL) is a handheld device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment.

14. The Keying Identification Verification (KIV)-77 is a cryptographic applique for Identification Friend or Foe (IFF). It can be loaded with Mode 5 classified elements.

15. The Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) 750 Electronic Surveillance Measures (ESM) System is a United Kingdom produced digital electronic intelligence (ELINT) sensor which analyzes the electromagnetic spectrum to map the source of active emissions. Using highly accurate direction finding (DF) antennas, SAGE builds target locations and provides situational awareness, advance warning of threats, and the ability to cue other sensors.

16. The SNC 4500 Auto Electronic Surveillance Measures (ESM) System is a digital electronic intelligence (ELINT) sensor which analyzes the electromagnetic spectrum to map the source of active emissions. Using highly accurate Direction Finding (DF) antennas, the SNC 4500 builds target locations and provides situational awareness, advance warning of threats, and the ability to cue other sensors.

17. The L3 Harris Compact Multi-band Data Link (CMDL) is a miniaturized, high-performance, wideband data link operating in Ku, C, L, or S-band, with both analog and digital waveforms. It is interoperable with military and commercial products including Tactical Common Data Link (TCDL) terminals, the complete line of Remotely Operated Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER) systems, and coded orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (COFDM) receivers.

18. The L3 Harris ROVER 6Si transceiver provides real-time, full-motion video and other network data for situational awareness, targeting, battle damage assessment, surveillance, relay, convoy over-watch operations, and other situations where eyes-on-target are required. It provides expanded frequencies and additional processing resources from previous ROVER versions, allowing increased levels of collaboration and interoperability with numerous manned and unmanned airborne platforms.

19. Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) is support equipment used to interface with weapon systems to initiate and report BIT results and upload/download flight software. CMBRE supports multiple munitions platforms with a range of applications that perform pre-flight checks, periodic maintenance checks, loading of operational flight program (OFP) data, loading of munitions mission planning data, loading of GPS cryptographic keys, and declassification of munitions memory.

20. The MX-20HD is a gyro-stabilized, multi-spectral, multi-field-of-view ElectroOptical/Infrared (EO/IR) targeting system. The system provides surveillance laser illumination and laser designation through use of an externally mounted turret sensor unit and internally mounted master control. Sensor video imagery is displayed in the aircraft real time and may be recorded for subsequent ground analysis.

21. The Selex Seaspray is an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) surveillance radar suitable for a range of capabilities from long range search to small target detection.

22. Due Regard Radar (DRR) is a collision avoidance air-to-air radar. DRR is a key component of GA-ASI's overall Airborne Detect and Avoid System (DAAS) architecture for MQ-9B. By tracking non-cooperative aircraft, DRR enables a collision avoidance capability onboard the RPA and allows the pilot to separate the aircraft from other air traffic in cooperation with air traffic control.

23. The Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponder provides maritime patrol and search and rescue (SAR) aircraft with the ability to track and identify AIS-equipped vessels over a dedicated very high frequency (VHF) data link. AIS is a key component of any maritime ISR network and offers maritime authorities with the ability to

better coordinate air and sea search, rescue, surveillance, and interdiction operations.

24. The Rohde & Schwartz Ultra High Frequency (UHF)/ VHF radio is a multi-band, portable, two-way communication radio.

25. The AN/DPX-7 is an IFF transponder used to identify and track aircraft, ships, and some ground forces to reduce friendly fire incidents.

26. The C-Band LoS Ground Data Terminals and Ku-Band SATCOM GA-ASI Transportable Earth Stations (GATES) provide command, control, and data acquisition for the MQ-9.

27. The M299 launcher provides mechanical and electrical interface between the Hellfire missile and aircraft.

28. The KOR-24A Small Tactical Terminal (STT) Link-16 is a command, control communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high-capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements.

29. The Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)-250X is a low-size, weight, and power (SWaP) National Security Agency (NSA)-certified high-speed Internet Protocol (IP) network encryptor.

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

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

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

33. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Government of Qatar.

REMEMBERING RAÚL GRIJALVA

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my colleague and friend Representative Raúl Grijalva. A devoted fighter for justice and working families, Raúl spent more than 50 years in public service, representing southern Arizona in Congress for more than two decades and serving as the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. His passing is a tremendous loss for Arizona and the country.

Raúl was a man of compassion and conviction, driven by his belief in doing the right thing. He spent his life fighting for the people of southern Arizona, and his leadership was rooted in a deep understanding of the challenges facing his constituents. As the son of immigrants, he knew firsthand what it meant to fight for better healthcare, labor protections, education, and economic opportunity for everyone. He was a champion to those who have been left out of the conversation, and he leaves a legacy of making sure everyone had a voice in the Halls of Congress.

Raúl was a mentor to my wife Gabby Giffords, when she was first elected to

Congress. Raúl and Gabby represented neighboring districts and were shaped by their upbringing in southern Arizona, a place that was special to both of them. As Gabby said after Raúl passed, he could and did talk to anyone, with empathy and genuine interest in the people he served.

Raúl's leadership on the House Natural Resources Committee was instrumental in advancing landmark legislation to combat climate change, preserve public lands, and safeguard water resources critical to Arizona and the Southwest. He led the charge to protect the Grand Canyon for future generations. His commitment to conservation, climate action, and Tribal sovereignty is a testament to his love for the State he called home.

Raúl's story is an American story—one of perseverance, service, and an unshakable belief in the promise of this country. Arizona is better, our Nation is better because of his service.

My thoughts are with Raúl's wife Ramona; their three daughters Adelita, Raquel, and Marisa; his grandchildren Adelina, Raúl and Joaquín Grijalva-Gómez, and Floyd IV and Belán Thompson; and his entire family, his team, and everyone who looked up to him. We honor Representative Raúl Grijalva's lifetime of service, and we celebrate his enduring impact.

REMEMBERING KEYSHA BROOKS-COLEY

Ms. ALSOBROOKS. Mr. President, the State of Maryland has lost a giant. Okeysha "Keysha" Yashica Brooks-Coley, a Baltimore native, made significant contributions to our State and our Nation. Attending high school in Severn, she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and political science from Towson University and a master's in political management from George Washington University.

She began her impactful career here on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant for Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR working on healthcare, aging, and education policy. She later served in a dual role as a professional staff member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Retirement Security and Aging and on the majority staff for Senator Barbara Mikulski. Her policy responsibilities spanned a wide range of issues, focusing on women's health, public health, biomedical research, health disparities, and Health and Human Services appropriations.

After leaving the Hill, Keysha served as vice president of Federal advocacy and strategic alliances at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. In that role, she led the organization's engagement with Congress and even championed implementing the landmark Affordable Care Act. She was committed to ensuring everyone had access to care and coverage. Keysha's career journey culminated in a leadership position at the Blue Cross Blue

Shield Association, where she served as vice president of advocacy.

Keysha's professional accolades are numerous, but what she was most proud of was her family, including her husband Derrick of more than 20 years and their four children Julia, Marshall, Henry, and Clairra. She was a woman of deep faith, who was committed to service, social justice, and civic issues.

I ask that you join me and the residents of Maryland in offering my sincerest condolences to Keysha's husband, children, parents, and extended family and friends. We are grateful for her lifelong commitment to service, and we are so honored she devoted her work to caring for each of us.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RICHARD WARNER CARLSON

• Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, Richard Warner Carlson died at 84 on March 24, 2025, at his home in Boca Grande, FL, after 6 weeks of illness. He refused all painkillers to the end and left this world with dignity and clarity, holding the hands of his children with his dogs at his feet.

He was born February 10, 1941, at Massachusetts General Hospital to a 15-year-old Swedish-speaking girl and placed in the Home for Little Wanderers in Boston, where he developed rickets from malnutrition. His legs were bent for the rest of his life. After years in foster homes, he was placed with the Carlson family in Norwood, MA. His adoptive father, a tannery manager, died when he was 12, and he stopped attending school regularly. At 17, he was jailed for car theft, thrown out of high school for the second time, and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.

In 1962, in search of adventure, he drove to California. He spent a year as a merchant seaman on the SS *Washington Bear*, transporting cargo to ports in the Orient, and then became a reporter. Over the next decade, he was a copy boy at the LA Times, a wire service reporter for UPI and an investigative reporter and anchor for ABC News, covering the upheaval of the period. He knew virtually every compelling figure of the time, including Jim Jones, Patty Hearst, Eric Hoffer, Jerry Garcia, as well as Mafia leaders and members of the Manson Family. In 1965, he was badly injured reporting from the Watts riots in Los Angeles.

By 1975, he was married with two small boys, when his wife departed for Europe and didn't return. He threw himself into raising his boys, whom he often brought with him on reporting trips. At home, he educated them during 3-hour dinners on topics that ranged from the French Revolution to Bolshevik Russia, PG Wodehouse, the history of the American Indian, and, always, the eternal and unchanging nature of people. He was a free thinker and a compulsive book reader, including at red lights. He left a library of

thousands of books, most dog-eared and filled with marginalia. His reading and life experiences convinced him that God is real. He had an outlaw spirit tempered by decency.

In 1979, he married the love of his life, Patricia Swanson. They were together for 44 years, all of them happy. She died 16 months before he did, and he mourned her every day.

In 1985, he moved to Washington to work for the Reagan administration. He spent 5 years as the director of the Voice of America and then moved to the Seychelles as the U.S. Ambassador. In 1992, he became the CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and later ran a division of King World television.

The last 25 years of his life were spent in work whose details were never completely clear to his family, but that was clearly interesting. He worked in dozens of countries and breakaway republics around the world and was involved in countless intrigues. He knew a number of colorful national leaders, including Rafic Hariri of Lebanon, Aslan Abashidze of Adjara, Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, and whoever runs Somaliland. He was a fundamentally nonjudgmental person who was impossible to shock, and he described them all with amused affection.

He spoke to his sons every day and had lunch with them once a week for 30 years at the Metropolitan Club in Washington, always prefaced by a dice game. Throughout his life, he fervently loved dogs.

Richard W. Carlson is survived by his sons Tucker and Buckley, his beloved daughter-in-law Susie, and five grandchildren. He was the toughest human being anyone in his family ever knew and also the kindest and most loyal. RIP.●

REMEMBERING DAISY KING

● Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last week, our Nation lost a fearless entrepreneur, beloved cook, and Tennessee institution: Miss Daisy King.

For more than five decades, Miss Daisy blessed our State with her incredible talent for southern cooking. From her successful catering business to her restaurants in Franklin, Miss Daisy's Tearoom and Miss Daisy's Kitchen, she served up dishes that were adored by Tennesseans and celebrated by the food industry: buttermilk pie, creamed chicken, chive potato salad, beef casserole, bourbon and chocolate pecan pie, and much, much more.

Through it all, Daisy took joy in sharing her passion for cooking with others. In 1978, she published "Recipes from Miss Daisy's," a treasure of wonderful southern recipes that would sell more than 1 million copies. She would go on to publish 13 more cookbooks and share her recipes on national and regional shows, including "Today Show," "CBS This Morning," and Nashville's WTVF-TV's "Talk of the Town."

Over many years of friendship, I was fortunate to see Daisy's generosity,

creativity, and delight in serving others. If you wanted to have a conversation about how to do something better, Daisy was there to help. Especially for younger women who were trying to find their way in the restaurant business, Daisy always offered help and paved the way for others to follow.

There is a reason Miss Daisy was known as the First Lady of Southern Cooking. While we have lost a truly special woman, her legacy—and recipes—will live on in Tennessee and across the country for many years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NATHAN MONELL

● Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and celebrate the remarkable leadership and dedication of Nathan Monell, who will retire as executive director of the National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) this year. Nathan's tenure at the PTA has been defined by his steadfast commitment to advocating for the educational success and well-being of our Nation's children. His vision, expertise, and passion for family engagement have made a lasting impact on the lives of millions of children and families across the United States and beyond.

Since Nathan's appointment as executive director in 2015, the National PTA has flourished under his leadership. With more than 20,000 local units and over 3 million members, PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the country. Nathan's leadership has been instrumental in advancing family engagement and public policy, and his work has reinforced the PTA's mission of uniting parents, teachers, schools, and communities to ensure every child's potential is realized.

His lifelong commitment to empowering families and fostering educational equity is evident in his contributions to a wide range of initiatives, including youth and family services, mental health, foster care, HIV and substance abuse prevention, and education. He has led public policy efforts at the local, State, and Federal levels, forging partnerships with foundations and corporations to improve outcomes and advance equity in communities nationwide. Whether advocating for school funding, digital safety, or mental health, Nathan's tenacity has driven the organization to take bold actions that support the needs and concerns of parents, teachers, and students alike.

As Nathan prepares for retirement, I join the National PTA, his colleagues, and countless individuals whose lives he has touched in expressing our gratitude for his years of service. I know that his legacy will continue to inspire the next generation of leaders committed to making a difference in the lives of children and families. I wish him and his family the very best in the next chapter of his life.●

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDS OF MT. TABOR PARK

● Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, today I commend the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP) for its 25 years of unwavering dedication to preserving and enhancing one of Portland's most treasured urban green spaces.

Mt. Tabor Park is not just a place of natural beauty; it is a community asset, a sanctuary for recreation, and a reflection of Oregon's deep commitment to environmental stewardship. Since its founding in 2000, FMTP and its dedicated volunteers have served as stewards, educators, and protectors of this cherished space, ensuring that the park continues to be a welcoming environment for all.

Over the years, FMTP has worked hand in hand with the Portland Parks & Recreation, complementing city services and mobilizing a near-constant presence of engaged volunteers. Its commitment has helped maintain public safety, beautify and protect our natural spaces, and sustain opportunities for community programming—even in the most challenging times, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its work is a model of civic engagement and a testament to what is possible when a community comes together with purpose and passion.

As FMTP celebrates 25 years of service, we honor its profound impact on Portland's livability and the countless individuals who have given their time and energy to preserve the urban oasis. I extend my deepest gratitude to the FMTP and look forward to its continued success in the next 25 years and beyond. Congratulations on this milestone anniversary and thank you for your tireless commitment to the people and natural spaces of Portland.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1534. An act to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American industry through the research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1 of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board Act (2 U.S.C. 154), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board for a five-year term: Mr. Steven L. Swig of San Francisco, California.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 206 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11116), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of

Representatives to the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for a two-year term: Mr. Julian Whittington of Benton, Louisiana.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 1534. An act to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American industry through the research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 18, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions", and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Tim Scott, Mike Lee, Tom Cotton, Rand Paul, Pete Ricketts, Cynthia M. Lummis, Bernie Moreno, Jim Banks, James E. Risch, Jerry Moran, Steve Daines, Rick Scott, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, Tommy Tuberville, John Kennedy, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Budd, Bill Hagerty, John R. Curtis, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Joni Ernst, James Lankford, Ron Johnson, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Eric Schmitt, Markwayne Mullin.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 18. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions".

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-602. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Under Secretary "Designated Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs", Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-603. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report rel-

ative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-604. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-605. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-606. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to nominations, vacancies, designation of service in acting roles, discontinuation of service in an acting role and an action on nomination for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-607. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of Executive Order 14232 of March 6, 2025, which adjusts the tariffs imposed on articles of Mexico in Executive Order 14194 of February 1, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-608. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of Executive Order 14231 of March 6, 2025, which adjusts the tariffs imposed on articles of Canada in Executive Order 14193 of February 1, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-609. A communication from the Acting Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-610. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 911(d)(4)—2024 Update" (Rev. Proc. 2025-17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-611. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Import Restrictions on Certain Archaeological Material of Jordan" (RIN1685-AA29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-612. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to two (2) vacancies in the Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-613. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Com-

missioner of Internal Revenue, Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-614. A communication from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "March 2025 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-615. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, a semi-annual report relative to telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba during the period from July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-616. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Kuwait in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-097) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-617. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-078) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-618. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to two (2) vacancies in the Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-619. A communication from the Chief of Legal, External Affairs, and Performance Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Office of Government Ethics, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-620. A communication from the Chief of Legal, External Affairs, and Performance Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Office of Government Ethics, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-621. A communication from the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-622. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's fiscal year 2024 annual report

relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-623. A communication from the Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Farm Credit Administration's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-624. A communication from the Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion Director, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-625. A communication from the Acting Associate Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Sunshine Act Report to Congress for calendar year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-626. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-22, "Secure DC Pretrial Detention Extension and Reporting Temporary Amendment Act of 2024"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-627. A communication from the Acting Associate Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Sunshine Act Report to Congress for calendar year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-628. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-23, "Youth Workforce Development Programs Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-629. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-21, "Association Meeting Flexibility Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-630. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-25, "Office of Juvenile Facilities Oversight Plan Temporary Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-631. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-26, "Virtual Open Meetings Authority Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-632. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to

nominations, vacancies, designation of service in acting roles, discontinuation of service in an acting role and an action on nomination for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-633. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Board's compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-634. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that Executive Order 14110 of October 30, 2023 was revoked by Executive Order 14148 of January 20, 2025; Executive Order 14110 amended Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, which declared a national emergency to deal with the threat of malicious cyber-enabled activities; and the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 remains in effect; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-635. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to nominations, vacancies, designation of service in acting roles, discontinuation of service in an acting role and an action on nomination for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-636. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Small Business Administration, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-637. A communication from the Acting Solicitor General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to restrictions on the removal of certain principal officers of the United States received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-638. A communication from the Acting Solicitor General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to multi-layer restrictions on the removal of Administrative Law Judges received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-639. A communication from the Acting Solicitor General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to restrictions on the removal of Members of the Federal Labor Relations Authority received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-640. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to nominations, vacancies, designation of service in acting roles, discontinuation of service in an acting role and an action on nomination for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-641. A communication from the Acting Solicitor General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to restrictions on the removal of Members of the Merit Systems Protection Board received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-642. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention 2022 Annual Report" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-643. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 7A of the Clayton Act" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-644. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 8 of the Clayton Act" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-645. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a compilation and summary of reports received from chief district judges detailing each public event conducted in accordance with the Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018's requirements during the previous fiscal year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-646. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, two reports entitled, "2024 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts" and "Judicial Business of the United States Courts"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-647. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pseudomonas Oryzihabitans Strain SYM23945; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 12664-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-648. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-649. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of fifteen (15) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-650. A communication from the Acting President and Chair, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Export-Import Bank of the United States, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-651. A communication from the Acting President and Chair, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-652. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department

of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-653. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14115 of February 1, 2024 with respect to the situation in the West Bank; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-654. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13536 with respect to Somalia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-655. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13848 with respect to the threat of foreign interference in or undermining public confidence in United States elections; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-656. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14046 with respect to Ethiopia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-657. A communication from the Chair, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Council's 2024 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-658. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to discretionary appropriations legislation within seven calendar days of enactment (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays); to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-659. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Final Determination to Stay and Defer Sanctions; California; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 12601-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-660. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine and Nonroad Engine Pollution Control Standards; the 'Omnibus' Low NOX Regulations; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision" (FRL No. 9902-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-661. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Advanced Clean Cars II; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision" (FRL No. 11010-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-662. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Engine Emission Warranty and Maintenance Provisions; Advanced Clean Trucks; Zero Emission Airport Shuttle; Zero-Emission Power Train Certification; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision" (FRL No. 9902-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-663. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-664. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-665. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act; Implementation at 45 CFR Part 5b" (RIN0925-AA69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-666. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nonprescription Drug Product With an Additional Condition for Nonprescription Use" (RIN0910-AH62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRAPO, from the Committee on Finance:

Special Report entitled "Report on the Activities of the Committee on Finance During the 118th Congress" (Rept. No. 119-6).

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. BUDD (for himself and Mr. LUJAN):

S. 1132. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include peer supports as a supportive service within the National Family Caregiver Support Program, to require States to consider the unique needs of caregivers whose families have been impacted by substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, in providing services under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1133. A bill to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1134. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Office of Patient Advocacy of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 1135. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bonneville Shoreline Trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 1136. A bill to authorize sentencing enhancements for certain criminal offenses directed by or coordinated with foreign governments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. RUSCH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 1137. A bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

S. 1138. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance capabilities for outbound inspections at the southern land border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 1139. A bill to amend the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 to modify and reauthorize the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 1140. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to lower barriers to increase patient access to health care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. KING, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 1141. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for certain casualty losses of uncut timber; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 1142. A bill to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include the Scarper Ridge property; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1143. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for penalties for the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information by officers or employees of the Supreme Court, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1144. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1145. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to include the provision of tree nuts under the seniors farmers' market nutrition program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1146. A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SHEEHY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 1147. A bill to establish clear and consistent biological definitions of male and female; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. MORENO):

S. 1148. A bill to terminate the Department of Education; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1149. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to further enhance anti-retaliation protections for whistleblowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1150. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve delivery of technical assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 1151. A bill to expand the use of E-Verify to hold employers accountable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1152. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 1153. A bill to prohibit allocations of Special Drawing Rights at the International Monetary Fund for perpetrators of genocide and state sponsors of terrorism without congressional authorization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1154. A bill to provide protections for employees of, former employees of, and applicants for employment with Federal agencies, contractors, and grantees whose right to petition or furnish information to Congress is interfered with or denied; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH:

S. 1155. A bill to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to make technical corrections; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr.

WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. GALLEGO, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 1156. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to ensure that striking workers and their households do not become ineligible for benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1157. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1158. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 1159. A bill to make aliens who are holders of a passport issued by the Palestinian Authority ineligible for visas, admission, or parole into the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1160. A bill to require adequate traceability for expenditures by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 1161. A bill to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site as the "Salem Maritime National Historical Park", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE:

S.J. Res. 39. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Section 45Y Clean Electricity Production Credit and Section 48E Clean Electricity Investment Credit"; 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 Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 139. A resolution expressing support for the designation of March 2025 as "Music in Our Schools Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. Res. 140. A resolution designating the first week of April 2025 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 141. A resolution recognizing the 204th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece

and the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 142. A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 143. A resolution supporting the designation of May 29, 2025, as "Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day" to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and workforce and to continue to reduce stigma associated with mental illness; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 94

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 94, a bill to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet ice hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

S. 106

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 106, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage for all physicians' services furnished by doctors of chiropractic within the scope of their license, and for other purposes.

S. 224

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 224, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow intangible drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing adjusted financial statement income.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 470

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to amend the CARES Act to remove a requirement on lessors to provide notice to vacate, and for other purposes.

S. 485

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 485, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 646

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) were added as cosponsors of S. 646, a bill to prohibit the use of funds to carry out Executive Order 14160.

S. 807

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 807, a bill to provide for the crediting of

funds received by the National Guard Bureau as reimbursement from States.

S. 860

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 860, a bill to modify the information about countries exporting methamphetamine that is included in the annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, to require a report to Congress on the seizure and production of certain illicit drugs, to impose sanctions with respect to the production and trafficking into the United States, of synthetic opioids, and for other purposes.

S. 890

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 890, a bill to increase the number of landlords participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 978, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1108

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1108, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude all military retirement and related benefits from Federal income tax.

S. 1122

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1122, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to increase the basic allowance for housing inside the United States for members of the uniformed services.

S. 1123

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1123, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit an institution of higher education that employs unauthorized aliens from receiving funds from Federal student assistance or Federal institutional aid and to require institutions of higher education to participate in the E-Verify Program in order to be eligible to participate in any program authorized under title IV of such Act.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky

(Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared to impose duties on articles imported from Canada.

S. RES. 86

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 86, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China's "One China Principle" and the United States' "One China Policy".

S. RES. 98

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 98, a resolution condemning Beijing's destruction of Hong Kong's democracy and rule of law.

S. RES. 136

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 136, a resolution affirming the rule of law and the legitimacy of judicial review.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 1142. A bill to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include the Scarper Ridge property; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Scarper Ridge Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act, a straightforward, uncontroversial bill to adjust the boundary of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

This bill would modify the boundary of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, GGNRA, to include the approximately 896-acre Scarper Ridge property. This land is currently owned by the Peninsula Open Space Trust, who would like to sell this land to the National Park Service to include within the GGNRA.

The GGNRA is one of the world's largest urban national parks, spanning three counties and more than 82,000 acres of coastal and urban lands. According to the National Park Service, the GGNRA is an assemblage of military, private, and public lands which altogether offer vast skylines, natural beauty, and diverse histories to locals and visitors alike. The GGNRA welcomes over 15 million visitors each year and strives to be an accessible recreational area for all people.

Thanks to continuing efforts by the Peninsula Open Space Trust, local partners, Congressman Liccardo, former Congresswoman Eshoo, and my predecessors in the Senate, Congress has previously awarded funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase additional land to be included within the GGNRA.

However, the lands included in my bill—known as the Scarper Ridge property—require a minor legislative boundary adjustment in order for the National Park Service to use future Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars to purchase this property and include it within the park.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this common-sense, straightforward boundary adjustment bill as soon as possible.

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

S. 1144. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care; to the Committee on Finance.

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

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

S. 1144

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Personal Health Investment Today Act of 2025” or the “PHIT Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to promote health and prevent disease, particularly diseases related to being overweight or obese, by—

- (1) encouraging healthier lifestyles;
- (2) providing financial incentives to ease the financial burden of engaging in healthy behavior; and
- (3) increasing the ability of individuals and families to participate in physical fitness activities.

SEC. 3. CERTAIN AMOUNTS PAID FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, FITNESS, AND EXERCISE TREATED AS AMOUNTS PAID FOR MEDICAL CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting “, or”, and by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

“(E) for qualified sports and fitness expenses.”.

(b) QUALIFIED SPORTS AND FITNESS EXPENSES.—Subsection (d) of section 213 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) QUALIFIED SPORTS AND FITNESS EXPENSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified sports and fitness expenses’ means amounts paid exclusively for the sole purpose of participating in a physical activity including—

- “(i) for membership at a fitness facility,
- “(ii) for participation or instruction in physical exercise or physical activity, or
- “(iii) for equipment used in a program (including a self-directed program) of physical exercise or physical activity.

“(B) OVERALL DOLLAR LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount treated as qualified sports and fitness expenses with respect to any taxpayer for any taxable year shall not exceed \$1,000 (\$2,000 in the case of a joint return or a head of household (as defined in section 2(b))).

“(C) FITNESS FACILITY.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i), the term ‘fitness facility’ means a facility—

- “(i) which provides instruction in a program of physical exercise, offers facilities for the preservation, maintenance, encouragement, or development of physical fitness, or serves as the site of such a program of a State or local government or an organization described in section 501(c)(3) and exempt from tax under section 501(a),
- “(ii) which is not a private club owned and operated by its members,
- “(iii) which does not offer golf, hunting, sailing, or riding facilities,
- “(iv) the health or fitness component of which is not incidental to its overall function and purpose, and
- “(v) which is fully compliant with the State of jurisdiction and Federal anti-discrimination laws.

“(D) TREATMENT OF EXERCISE VIDEOS, ETC.—Videos, books, and similar materials shall be treated as described in subparagraph (A)(ii) if the content of such materials constitutes instruction in a program of physical exercise or physical activity.

“(E) LIMITATIONS RELATED TO SPORTS AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT.—Amounts paid for equipment described in subparagraph (A)(iii) shall be treated as qualified sports and fitness expenses only—

- “(i) if such equipment is utilized exclusively for participation in fitness, exercise, sport, or other physical activity,
- “(ii) in the case of amounts paid for apparel or footwear, if such apparel or footwear is of a type that is necessary for, and is not used for any purpose other than, a specific physical activity, and
- “(iii) in the case of amounts paid for any single item of sports equipment (other than exercise equipment), to the extent such amounts do not exceed \$250.

“(F) PROGRAMS WHICH INCLUDE COMPONENTS OTHER THAN PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraph (6) shall apply in the case of any program that includes physical exercise or physical activity and also other components. For purposes of the preceding sentence, travel and accommodations shall be treated as a separate component.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1146. A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

S. 1146

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Cameras in the Courtroom Act”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 28.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“§ 678. Televising Supreme Court proceedings

“The Supreme Court shall permit television coverage of all open sessions of the Court unless the Court decides, by a vote of

the majority of justices, that allowing such coverage in a particular case would constitute a violation of the due process rights of 1 or more of the parties before the Court.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis for chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“678. Televising Supreme Court proceedings.”.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1152. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Rhode Island Fishermen's Fairness Act along with my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE. I am also pleased that my colleagues Representative MAGAZINER and Representative AMO will be introducing a companion measure in the House of Representatives.

Our legislation will give Rhode Island a voice and voting representation on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, MAFMC, which manages some of the most important fish stocks for our State's commercial fishing industry—chief among them squid. The National Marine Fisheries Service reported that Rhode Island led Atlantic States in the harvest of squid in 2023—the most recent year for which data is available. Fishermen landed more than 30.7 million pounds of squid in Rhode Island, helping make Point Judith one of the most productive and valuable commercial fishing ports in the United States. For years now, Rhode Island's landings of stocks managed by the MAFMC have outpaced the landings of those managed by the New England Fishery Management Council, where Rhode Island is represented. Moreover, Rhode Island has a larger stake in the mid-Atlantic fishery than many of the States that currently hold seats on the MAFMC.

Because so much is at stake for our State in every decision the MAFMC makes, our bill would expand the MAFMC by two seats in order to ensure that Rhode Island will have the minimum number of seats guaranteed to other States on the council. It will allow Rhode Island to continue to have representation on the New England Fishery Management Council, where it still has significant interests.

This proposal is not unprecedented. In fact, it is modeled on a provision of the 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act that added North Carolina to the MAFMC in 1996 while allowing it to retain its membership on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Moreover, it will join States like Florida and Washington which all have representation on more than one fisheries management council.

Mr. President, this is a commonsense proposal and one that my colleagues

and I will be working to advance either on its own or as part of the reauthorization the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 139—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2025 AS “MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH”

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 139

Whereas music has been present in every known human culture throughout history and modern times;

Whereas music is one of the most important manifestations of the cultural heritage of the United States, as music embodies our national identity and illustrates our shared history;

Whereas music education helps communities share ideas and values among cultures and generations, promoting a more cooperative and inclusive citizenry;

Whereas singing has existed in classrooms in the United States since before the signing of the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas, in 1838, music as its own curriculum was first adopted by public authority in the public schools of Boston, Massachusetts;

Whereas the development of a musical people has been and remains dependent on a public commitment to the teaching of music in all schools;

Whereas State legislatures and educational agencies have supported music as part of the regular school curriculum;

Whereas the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95; 129 Stat. 1802) identified music as part of a well-rounded education;

Whereas music is a means for exploring the emotional and aesthetic dimensions of the human experience;

Whereas music holds intrinsic value as an art form, providing opportunity for self-expression, fellowship, and spiritual fulfillment;

Whereas research has documented that participation in school music programs promotes student engagement, leading to improved social and academic outcomes, particularly for at-risk students;

Whereas research has documented that participation in school music programs also promotes cognitive, social, and emotional development, exercising skills valuable to the workforce such as motivation, attentiveness, self-discipline, teamwork, persistence, empathy, respect, and leadership; and

Whereas a disproportionate number of students without access to music education attend schools in urban or rural communities, public schools with a high percentage of students from low-income families, and public schools that are majority Black, Hispanic, or Native American: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of March 2025 as “Music in Our Schools Month”; and

(2) recognizes—

(A) the fundamental importance of music to the culture of the United States;

(B) the long history of music as an integral part of the schools in the United States;

(C) the disparate access to high-quality music education that exists across the United States; and

(D) the need to do more to support the teaching and learning of music in public schools.

SENATE RESOLUTION 140—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2025 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SCHIFF) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 140

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer, such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases might give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas, although the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States have died from asbestos-related diseases, and thousands more die every year from those diseases;

Whereas, although individuals continue to be exposed to asbestos, safety measures relating to, and the prevention of, asbestos exposure have significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas a significant percentage of all victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” for the 20th year will continue to raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2025 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”; and

(2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 141—RECOGNIZING THE 204TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 141

Whereas the people of ancient Greece developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the founding fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek language, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming the representative democracy of the United States;

Whereas Petros Mavromichalis, the former Commander-in-Chief of Greece and a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, “It is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you.”;

Whereas, in an October 21, 1823, letter to Greek scholar Adamantios Korais discussing the ongoing Greek struggle for independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote that “[n]o people sympathise more feelingly than ours with the sufferings of your countrymen, none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success”;

Whereas, on January 19, 1824, in a speech in support of his resolution to send an American envoy to Greece amid its struggle for independence, then-Congressman Daniel Webster recognized “the struggle of an interesting and gallant people . . . contending against fearful odds, for being, and for the common privilege of human nature”;

Whereas individual American Philhellenes, including future abolitionists Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe and Jonathan Peckham Miller, and George Jarvis, traveled to Greece to fight alongside and provide aid to the Greek people in their struggle for independence;

Whereas the people of the United States generously sent humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during their struggle for independence, often through philhellene committees;

Whereas Greece heroically resisted Axis forces at a crucial moment in World War II, forcing Adolf Hitler to change his timeline and delaying the attack on the Soviet Union;

Whereas Winston Churchill said that “if there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which the outcome of World War II would have been” and “no longer will we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks”;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Greeks were killed during World War II;

Whereas Greece consistently allied with the United States in major international conflicts throughout its history as a modern state and has been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 1952;

Whereas the United States has demonstrated its support for the trilateral partnership of Greece, Israel, and Cyprus by enacting into law the Eastern Mediterranean

Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (title II of division J of Public Law 116-94) and through joint engagement with Greece, Israel, and Cyprus in the “3+1” format;

Whereas this support was bolstered in the United States-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act of 2021 (sub-title B of title XIII of Public Law 117-81), establishing a 3+1 Interparliamentary Group to discuss the expansion of cooperation in areas of common concern;

Whereas the United States maintains close bilateral cooperation with Greece on security, energy, and other shared priorities, including the commitment to security cooperation that led to the conclusion of a Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement, which was updated in 2019 and 2021, in order to enhance defense ties between the two countries and promote stability in the broader region;

Whereas the ongoing United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue reflects Greece's importance to the United States as a geostrategic partner, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans, and as an important NATO ally;

Whereas, on November 13, 2023, the United States and Greece signed a memorandum of understanding to advance energy security and cooperation in the Western Balkans;

Whereas regular high-level engagement between the Governments of the United States and Greece continued through 2024 and into 2025, during which both governments reaffirmed the strategic importance of the United States-Greece relationship and pledged to continue and increase cooperation based on shared values and interests;

Whereas, in the framework of the fifth United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue, on February 9, 2024, Greece became the 35th country to sign onto the Artemis Accords, affirming its commitment to a peaceful, sustainable, and transparent cooperation in space;

Whereas the Government and people of Greece actively participate in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe;

Whereas Greece has shown a strong commitment to meeting NATO defense spending obligations, recognizing the need for a more robust European pillar within NATO;

Whereas Greece remains an integral part of the European Union and a current non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas the Greek-American community has greatly contributed to American society and has helped forge the strong ties between the United States and Greece;

Whereas the Governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the peoples of Greece and the United States; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate March 25, 2025, Greek Independence Day, with the people of Greece and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which those two great countries were founded: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) extends sincere congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 204th anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed;

(3) commends the Greek-American community for its contributions to the United

States and its role as a bridge between the two countries;

(4) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 204 years ago;

(5) appreciates the ever-stronger bilateral relationship, based on shared values and interests, including the important energy and security partnership that exists between the United States and Greece, and the important role that Greece plays in bolstering European energy security; and

(6) appreciates Greece as a valued NATO ally and its critical role in ensuring regional stability.

SENATE RESOLUTION 142—RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 142

Whereas the United States celebrates National Women's History Month every March to recognize and honor the achievements of women throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas approximately 5,300,000 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women, alone or in combination, live in the United States;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women—

(1) have helped shape the history of their communities, Tribes, and the United States;

(2) have fought to defend and protect the sovereign rights of Native Nations; and

(3) have demonstrated resilience and courage in the face of a history of threatened existence, constant removals, and relocations;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women contribute to their communities, Tribes, and the United States through military service, public service, and work in many industries, including business, education, science, medicine, literature, and fine arts, including Pablita “Tse Tsan” Velarde, a Santa Clara Pueblo artist and painter whose art work depicted traditional Pueblo life and preserved Pueblo stories and knowledge, and whose paintings were commissioned for display at Bandelier National Monument;

Whereas, as of 2025, more than 4,400 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are bravely serving as members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas, as of 2025, more than 43,000 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women, alone or in combination, are veterans who made lasting contributions to the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women broke down his-

torical gender barriers to enlistment in the military, including—

(1) Laura Beltz Wright, an Inupiat Eskimo sharpshooter of the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II;

(2) Minnie Spotted Wolf of the Blackfeet Tribe, the first Native American woman to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in 1943; and

(3) Marcella LeBeau of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, a decorated veteran who served as an Army combat nurse during World War II and received the French Legion of Honour for her bravery and service;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States, including Lori Ann Piestewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe who was the first Native American woman to be killed in action while serving on foreign soil and the first woman serving in the Armed Forces of the United States to be killed in the Iraq War in 2003;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to the economic development of Native Nations and the United States as a whole, including Elouise Cobell of the Blackfeet Tribe, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, who—

(1) served as the treasurer of the Blackfeet Tribe;

(2) founded the first Tribal-owned national bank; and

(3) led the fight against Federal mismanagement of funds held in trust for more than 500,000 Native Americans;

Whereas, as of 2024, more than 11,600 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women owned an employing business;

Whereas, as of 2024, Native women-owned businesses employed more than 72,000 workers and generated more than \$11,200,000,000 in revenue;

Whereas, as of 2019, American Indian and Alaska Native women have opened a net average of 30 new employing businesses per day;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made significant contributions to the fields of medicine and health, including—

(1) Susan La Flesche Picotte of the Omaha Tribe, who is widely acknowledged as the first Native American to earn a medical degree; and

(2) Annie Dodge Wauneka of the Navajo Nation, who—

(A) advocated for better public health, education, and living conditions on the Navajo Nation leading to her becoming 1 of the first female council members for the Navajo Nation in 1951; and

(B) was the first Native American to receive a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to important scientific advancements, including—

(1) Floy Agnes Lee of the Santa Clara Pueblo, who—

(A) worked on the Manhattan Project during World War II; and

(B) pioneered research on radiation biology and cancer;

(2) Native Hawaiian Isabella Kauakea Yau Yung Aiona Abbott, who—

(A) was the first woman on the biological sciences faculty at Stanford University; and

(B) in 1997, was awarded the Gilbert Morgan Smith medal, the highest award in marine botany from the National Academy of Sciences; and

(3) Mary Golda Ross of the Cherokee Nation, who—

(A) is considered the first Native American engineer of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(B) helped develop spacecrafts for the Gemini and Apollo space programs; and

(C) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2019 1 dollar coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions; Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have achieved distinctive honors in the art of dance, including Maria Tallchief or Wa-Xthe-Thon-ba of the Osage Nation, who—

(1) was the first major prima ballerina of the United States and was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kennedy Center; and

(2) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2023 1 dollar coin with her sister Marjorie Tallchief of the Osage Nation, Yvonne Chouteau of the Shawnee Tribe, Rosella Hightower of the Choctaw Nation, and Moscelyne Larkin of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, collectively known as the “Five Moons”, for the legacy they left on ballet;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have accomplished notable literary achievements, including Northern Paiute author Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, who wrote and published 1 of the first Native American autobiographies in United States history in 1883;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have regularly led efforts to protect their traditional ways of life and to revitalize and maintain Native cultures and languages, including—

(1) Esther Martinez, a Tewa linguist and teacher who developed a Tewa dictionary and was credited with revitalizing the Tewa language;

(2) Mary Kawena Pukui, a Native Hawaiian scholar who published more than 50 academic works and was considered the most noted Hawaiian translator of the 20th century;

(3) Katie John, an Ahtna Athabaskan of Mentasta Lake, who was the lead plaintiff in lawsuits that strengthened Native subsistence fishing rights in Alaska and who helped create the alphabet for the Ahtna language;

(4) Edith Kenao Kanaka’ole, a Native Hawaiian language and cultural practitioner who—

(A) founded her own hula school, Hālau o Kekuhi;

(B) helped develop some of the first courses in Hawaiian language and culture for public schools and colleges; and

(C) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2023 quarter honoring her significant contributions and accomplishments perpetuating Native Hawaiian culture and arts; and

(5) Dr. Gladys Iola Tantaquidgeon, a Mohegan medicine woman and anthropologist, who worked for 50 years at the Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum in Connecticut, the oldest Native American owned and operated museum in the United States, which she founded with her father and brother to preserve the culture and history of their Tribe, and which contributed to the Tribe’s Federal recognition in 1994;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have excelled in athletic competition and created opportunities for other female athletes within their sport, including Rell Kapoliokaehukai Sunn, who—

(1) was ranked as longboard surfing champion of the world; and

(2) co-founded the Women’s Professional Surfing Association in 1975, the first professional surfing tour for women;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have played a vital role in advancing civil rights, protecting human rights, advocating for land

rights, and safeguarding the environment, including—

(1) Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, Tlingit, a member of the Lukaax̂.ádi clan in the Raven moiety with the Tlingit name of K̂. aax̂. gal.aat, who—

(A) helped secure the passage of House Bill 14, commonly known as the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 (H.B. 14, Laws of Alaska, 17th Regular Session, Territorial Legislature, Feb. 16, 1945), in the Alaska Territorial Legislature, the first anti-discrimination law in the United States; and

(B) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2020 1 dollar coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions;

(2) Zitkala-Sa, a Yankton Dakota writer and advocate, whose work during the early 20th century helped advance the citizenship, voting, and land rights of Native Americans; and

(3) Mary Jane Fate, of the Koyukon Athabaskan village of Rampart, who—

(A) was the first woman to chair the Alaska Federation of Natives;

(B) was a founding member of the North American Indian Women’s Association; and

(C) was an advocate for settlement of Indigenous land claims in Alaska;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have succeeded as judges, attorneys, and legal advocates, including—

(1) Eliza “Lyda” Conley, a Wyandot-American lawyer and the first Native woman admitted to argue a case before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1909; and

(2) Emma Kailikapiolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina, a Native Hawaiian who served as the first female judge in Hawaii;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are dedicated public servants, holding important positions in the Federal judicial branch, the Federal executive branch, State governments, and local governments;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native women have served as remarkable Tribal councilwomen, Tribal court judges, and Tribal leaders, including Wilma Mankiller, who—

(1) was the first woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation;

(2) fought for Tribal self-determination and the improvement of the community infrastructure of her Tribe; and

(3) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2022 quarter honoring her legacy of leadership for Native people and women;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have also led Native peoples through notable acts of public service, including—

(1) Kaahumanu, who was the first Native Hawaiian woman to serve as regent of the Kingdom of Hawaii; and

(2) Polly Cooper, of the Oneida Indian Nation, who—

(A) walked from central New York to Valley Forge as part of a relief mission to provide food for the Army led by General George Washington during the American Revolutionary War; and

(B) was recognized for her courage and generosity by Martha Washington;

Whereas the United States should continue to invest in the future of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women to address the barriers those women face, including—

(1) access to justice;

(2) access to health care; and

(3) opportunities for educational and economic advancement; and

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are the life givers, the culture bearers, and the caretakers of Native peoples who have made pre-

cious contributions, enriching the lives of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates and honors the successes of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women and the contributions those women have made and continue to make to the United States; and

(2) recognizes the importance of providing for the safety and upholding the interests of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 29, 2025, AS “MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS IN AGRICULTURE DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS AROUND MENTAL HEALTH IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND WORKFORCE AND TO CONTINUE TO REDUCE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 143

Whereas, according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture, less than 2 percent of the population of the United States (3,370,000 producers) provide high-quality food, fuel, and fiber to the United States and abroad;

Whereas, according to the Economic Policy Institute, there are approximately 1,600,000 farmworkers in the United States;

Whereas, according to the National Rural Health Association, the rate of suicide among farmers is 3.5 times higher than among the general population;

Whereas, according to the Mortality-Linked National Health Interview Survey, the rate of suicide among farmworkers is 1.4 times higher than rates across all other occupations;

Whereas May is “National Mental Health Awareness Month”; and

Whereas the stigma surrounding mental and behavioral health persists and acknowledging this public health crisis and creating awareness is as important as ever: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 29, 2025, as “Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day” to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness;

(2) recognizes the important role of individuals in agriculture as providers of high-quality products to the United States and the world;

(3) seeks to create awareness for the unique challenges agricultural producers and workers face, such as weather unpredictability, labor intensity and shortages, farm succession, and fluctuating commodity and market prices;

(4) highlights the resources available through the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network of the Department of Agriculture in connecting agricultural producers and workers to stress assistance programs; and

(5) encourages all individuals to observe Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day

as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness for current and future agricultural producers and workers.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

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

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 2:30 p.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 Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during

the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Nathan Sansone today, my shadow intern.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 27; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; and notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to legislative session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 34, S.J. Res. 18; and that at 11:20 a.m., the Senate vote

on passage of the joint resolution; further, that following disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 43, Paul Lawrence, and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture; and if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. 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 9:12 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 26, 2025:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JAMES BISHOP, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AARON REITZ, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL VICE HAMPTON Y. DELLINGER.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

MICHAEL FAULKENDER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.