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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.

O mighty God, teach us the mystery of life. Help us not to be victims but victorious in the living of our days. Lord, lead us to a place of understanding in spite of sorrow, pain, and setbacks. Make us more than conquerors because You love us. Today, instruct our lawmakers as they seek to be guided by honesty. May they perform their daily tasks following Your priorities. Show them Your truth so that they will be instruments of Your purposes when their light of hope is threatened. Renew them with faith in Your providence and power. We pray in Your omniscient 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. MORENO). 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 pro-

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Fotouhi, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week, Secretary Noem ended a program that is called the Quiet Skies Program. It is a program that was well-intended when it was set up, but the Biden administration weaponized it to target its opposition, including the now-Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard.

Quiet Skies was supposed to track American airline travelers who had prior contact with known or suspected terrorists.

You can have no argument with that intent to make sure that air travel is safe, but instead it has been revealed that the Biden administration's Transportation Security Administration allegedly tracked U.S. citizens based upon nine nonsecurity-related considerations.

As just one example, whistleblowers told my office, some who were merely present at a rally on January 6, 2021, with President Trump were added to the Quiet Skies' list of targeting.

In another allegation, a woman was accused of invading the Capitol on January 6 and later added to the Quiet Skies. The woman was disabled and couldn't physically engage in those actions.

Now, fortunately, Secretary Noem shut down Quiet Skies to end this weaponization, and that should be music to everybody's ears.

In August 2024, I wrote to Biden's Transportation Security Administration questioning their abuse of this authority under this Quiet Skies Program. I did not get sufficient answers from the previous administration.

I will continue my oversight to learn the full truth about the Quiet Skies Program, and I appreciate Secretary Noem and Director Gabbard's leadership as my office works with them on the oversight request.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, I would like to discuss a long-running oversight project of mine. In particular, during the last two Congresses, my oversight showed many ways that the Biden administration failed to protect unaccompanied alien children.

We all know that the previous HHS and the Department of Homeland Security lost track of hundreds of thousands of these kids. This is a crisis of their own making. They rushed, as we saw on television almost every night over the last few years—rushed people across the border too quickly to deal with the resulting chaos.

My oversight has shown other failures. I released documents showing that the Biden Health and Human Services placed kids in a household tied to the violent MS-13 gang and punished the whistleblowers who reported it.

I have shown HHS failed to give information to law enforcement, placing kids at greater risk of labor and sex trafficking. This oversight was confirmed by a DHS inspector general report in March.

My oversight continues to reveal the previous administration's either deliberate indifference or downright incompetence.

Recently, I released records showing that the Biden HHS also failed to address a backlog of over 65,000 reports expressing concern for unaccompanied children.

This included 7,346 reports related to trafficking. At the same time as the Biden administration was busy targeting pro-life Americans, parents at school board meetings, and traditional Catholics, it failed to follow up on actual reporting of children in danger.

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



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The Trump administration is cleaning up this mess. Secretary of HHS Kennedy has already worked through about a third of this backlog. Three dozen cases have been accepted by the U.S. attorneys for prosecution, with 11 arrests and 3 convictions. Much more is needed, but this is a great first step.

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.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, work on reconciliation continues apace. We are getting very close to the final bill.

Since I spoke on the floor on this topic last week, two more committees have released their sections of the bill text, the Banking Committee under the leadership of Chairman TIM SCOTT and the Commerce Committee under the leadership of Chairman TED CRUZ.

The Commerce Committee text released on Thursday addresses multiple bill priorities, including border security, savings, and the economy. On the economy front, the Commerce section of the bill focuses on boosting growth and investment by renewing spectrum auction authority and freeing up spectrum currently held by Federal Agencies.

The United States has been a leader in the next-generation telecommunications services like 5G and advanced Wi-Fi, and we are on track to be a leader in 6G as well. That is going to require both an increase in the amount of spectrum available to the private sector and using that spectrum as efficiently as possible through AI and other technologies.

Our bill will help meet that need for spectrum and help produce thousands of new jobs and billions of investment as a result, to say nothing of faster and more affordable internet for Americans.

This has been a long time coming.

I am grateful to Chairman CRUZ and colleagues from the Armed Services and Intel Committees for their continued work to find a way to get this done that preserves key national security interests and delivers a win for the American people.

On the border and national security front, the Commerce text addresses a key aspect of our domestic security: a strong Coast Guard. The Coast Guard secures our ports and waterways, provides support to American vessels in need, and plays a crucial role in enforcing maritime and immigration law and conducting drug interdictions.

Our final bill will make a substantial and sorely needed investment in the Coast Guard, including funding for des-

perately needed new ships and aircraft and maintenance of Coast Guard facilities.

Along with promoting safety of the seas, the Commerce text focuses on safety in the skies with a significant investment in fixing and updating our air traffic control system. The Commerce text also eliminates wasteful and unnecessary spending, which is the key focus of our bill.

So that was Thursday.

On Friday, the Banking Committee released its portion of the bill text, and eliminating unnecessary spending took center stage. Chairman SCOTT and Banking Committee Republicans pored over Federal programs to identify waste, duplication, and inefficiency and identified billions in savings. That includes eliminating the duplicative Office of Financial Research, transferring the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's duties to the Securities and Exchange Commission to reduce duplication and lower costs, and postponing the implementation of duplicative small business lending data reporting requirements.

The Banking Committee's text also conserves taxpayer dollars by returning unused and unobligated funds to the Treasury. On the national security front, it authorizes \$1 billion for the Defense Production Act to boost domestic production of key national security needs.

I am grateful for the hard work of Chairman SCOTT, Chairman CRUZ, and for the hard work of all the members, both on and off the committees, who contributed to the Commerce and Banking text.

We have several more committees delivering texts this week, including border security language from the Judiciary Committee and energy language from the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Our final bill is rapidly taking shape. I am looking forward to considering it on the floor in the very near future. Republicans promised to build a stronger, safer, and more prosperous America, and we are going to deliver.

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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

LOS ANGELES PROTESTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, from the moment Donald Trump entered the public sphere, he has thrived on division and diversion. He fans the flames of chaos, then pretends to be the firefighter—always looking for someone else to blame for the infernos he helps ignite—all in an attempt to divert Americans away from his many failures.

Now Donald Trump, cornered by his own failures from pushing a heartless bill that would rip healthcare away from 16 million Americans and raise costs from his reckless tariffs war, to waging war with Elon Musk—Trump is desperately seeking a distraction. His order to deploy the National Guard and Marines—our own troops on Americans—is not just outrageous and provocative; it is a dangerous authoritarian overreach that threatens the very fabric of our democracy. This isn't leadership; it is provocation.

To be very clear, violent protest is not the answer for achieving the work of justice—full stop. Protests must remain peaceful, and law and order must be maintained, but let me emphasize: Deploying federalized troops without a State's consent hasn't happened in over 60 years, and when it did, it was to protect civil rights heroes who were marching for justice in Selma, AL. That moment was about progress. This one is about power and intimidation.

We must all stand up and say loud and clear: America will not be bullied into submission by a President who confuses strength with force and democracy with domination.

Americans don't deserve more fear, more division, more chaos. The President is using the military not to protect the people but to silence them. He is playing politics with the lives of our troops and the safety of our citizens. It is shameful. It is unlawful. It is deeply un-American. Once again, President Trump is choosing chaos over competence and division over democracy.

We must all stand up and say loud and clear: America will not be bullied into submission by a President who confuses strength with force and democracy with domination.

The only consequence of Donald Trump's order of sending troops to Los Angeles is chaos, and Americans don't like it. Instead of deescalating, Donald Trump is pouring fuel into a fire, hoping for an explosion to distract from what he is really doing. President Trump should call back the National Guard and the Marines immediately and leave the work of law enforcement to the Governor and the mayor who are more than capable of keeping order without escalation.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Finally, Mr. President, let me repeat: As Donald Trump orders troops to Los Angeles, he is working here in Washington to steal healthcare from tens of millions of Americans. He is pushing a billionaire tax cut that will explode the debt and sink America's economic future. He is letting DOGE run Social Security to the ground. He is spiking costs for everyday Americans through his reckless tariffs war, and Donald Trump hopes that nobody is paying attention.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. President, on reconciliation, Republicans continue their tortured effort to ram Donald Trump's "Big Ugly Betrayal" through Congress. In the

last few days, Senate Democrats have made the argument that the House Republican bill does not meet the requirements for privilege, and now Republicans have conceded that that is true. So the bill will have to be changed by House Republicans so it can meet privilege requirements.

This presents those Republicans who say they don't like parts of the bill with an unexpected opportunity. Now they have a chance to stand up and vote for their constituents. Speaker Johnson will try to rush a package of technical changes through the House to fix their mistakes. Every House Republican, though, now has a chance to reassert their leverage and force the bill back to the drawing board until they secure the changes they want. They say they don't like parts of the bill. Now is their opportunity to change it—no more ducking. They have their vote, and House Republicans, who claim loudly that they don't like parts of the bill, should use it to protect their constituents from the awful results of this horrible betrayal bill.

Now, Mr. President, let's talk about the costs of the so-called Big Beautiful Bill and why every American is going to pay a lot more. Trump ran by saying he was going to fight inflation. He is passing a bill that is going to increase American costs.

Last week, Senate Democrats zeroed in on the way Donald Trump's "Big Ugly Bill" will rip away healthcare from tens of millions of Americans, at least 16 million Americans in total—no healthcare.

This week, Senate Democrats will focus on how Donald Trump's bill will kill millions of jobs and send costs spiking for tens of millions of families. If Donald Trump's Big Beautiful Bill passes, Americans will pay thousands more out-of-pocket for everything from healthcare to energy to even their mortgages.

It is not just cutting Medicaid; Republicans are taking a meat cleaver at the ACA too. Under this bill, the average healthcare costs for people on the ACA will go up \$700 a year for over 20 million Americans. For New York families, it is much worse. New York couples covered through the ACA will pay \$2,700 more a year—that is about \$230 a month—\$2,700 extra for New Yorkers just to make life better for the billionaire class. And it is not just Americans who have ACA who will see costs go up. If you have private insurance—if you don't even have Federal insurance or ACA—you could be paying hundreds more a year too.

Just about everyone's healthcare costs are going to go up. People don't like paying that high cost to health insurance, but they are going to pay more because of Donald Trump and what he wants to do to help his billionaire buddies. All the while, while that is happening, hundreds of thousands of healthcare jobs will be lost, with some projections estimating 850,000 jobs will be lost in the healthcare economy while billionaires get more tax breaks.

Here is another fact: We are talking a lot about energy and clean energy and the cheapest way to produce new energy. Well, if the Big Beautiful Bill—so-called—becomes law, the average family's energy costs will go up \$400 in the upcoming years. Starting next year, average electricity prices will go up by 10 percent.

Hear that, America? You don't like it when your utility bill goes up? Well, Donald Trump and his rightwing ideologues are making it go up further because Donald Trump and the oil magnates he hangs around harbor a deranged hatred of clean energy, and they want to raise taxes on clean energy. Clean energy is the cheapest way to produce new energy. Solar is cheaper than any other way, and they are cutting it off, and that is going to raise your price on the cost of your energy bill, ladies and gentlemen, all Americans.

What is more, in addition to raising your energy prices, what they are doing is projected to cost our economy an additional 800,000 jobs. Between healthcare jobs and energy jobs—millions of good-paying jobs to be killed by the bill—some economists I have spoken to say the job losses could push us into a recession.

Even many Republicans know this would be destructive, but they need to speak up and use their leverage. Republicans who claim to fight for jobs and families back home should oppose any proposal that makes energy costs go up.

It is amazing. Here, even Trump and his people say we need a lot more new energy for AI, et cetera, and then they cut off the quickest, cheapest, easiest way to produce new energy. Why? Because the rightwing fossil fuel magnates in Trump's ear hate clean energy because they know it is the future. They know. They know that oil, gas, and coal are not the future, and, yet, they try to kill it.

Also, if the Republican bill becomes law, homeowners could see an extra \$600 to \$1,200 a year through higher interest rates on their home loans.

Last week, the CBO estimated that the Republican billionaire tax cuts would add \$2.4 trillion to the debt over the next decade. When you consider the cost of increased debt service, this rotten bill will add \$3 trillion to the debt over the next decade, and that is going to make it harder for Americans to buy a home, to buy a car, to start a business—dooming the middle class to a lifetime of higher rates.

And let's not forget the insurance prices as well. Insurance rates are going up for many people in many areas, particularly coastal areas, and now this Trump bill will make that worse because we are cutting off clean energy. It doesn't make much sense. Many people can't sell their houses or buy a house because flood and tornado insurance have raised the cost of insurance. And here we go again: cut off clean energy, make it worse, make people's insurance costs go up further.

So Elon Musk, as wrong as he is on so many things, says this bill is dangerous. Do you hear that, Republicans? Elon Musk, whom you guys are supposed to love, says the bill is dangerous.

So, when you step back and look at the big picture, there is nothing beautiful about the Republican bill. If Senate Republicans pass this heaping pile of legislative junk, it is not going to grow the economy; it is not going to help the middle class; it is not going to help working families climb the ladder. All it is going to do is make families pay more while billionaires pay less.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on Social Security, Elon Musk might have been run out of town, but his handiwork lives on at the Social Security Administration.

Do you remember he called Social Security a big Ponzi scheme? Well, he is gone, but the Social Security Administrator, newly put in despite vehement opposition from Democrats because he is known as "Mr. Slash and Burn," Frank Bisignano said that, Musk or not, DOGE will remain king at SSA—DOGE. Do you remember that, folks—the chain saw? Well, it is going to be alive and well at Social Security with Mr. Bisignano in charge, "Mr. Slash and Burn," "Mr. Cut, Cut, Cut." It is alarming that, even after Elon Musk became persona non grata amongst Trump's circles, the Social Security Administrator still wants to keep using his failed playbook to oversee seniors' Social Security checks.

Social Security is sacred in America. Even after Musk's departure, which occurred in part because of DOGE's failure, this administration is talking about applying DOGE's strategies to Social Security—probably the most popular and sacrosanct program passed in the last 100 years. It shows how the billionaires like Elon Musk and Howard Lutnick—remember what he said. He said his mom could afford to miss a payment or two. It shows that these billionaires are running the show, and they are callous and cruel. They have no understanding of how average senior citizens depend on that Social Security check. It is a disgrace, and Donald Trump and his political cohort will pay a political price for endangering this popular program.

It is nice to talk about efficiency, but by now, we know there is nothing efficient about DOGE. It led to closures, longer wait times on the phone, glitches online, and an immense anxiety for seniors. Bisignano should send DOGE staffers packing before they cause more trouble with seniors' Social Security benefits.

HHS VACCINE ADVISORY PANEL

Finally, Mr. President, on RFK, Jr., and the vaccine, well, this morning, the American people are waking up fundamentally less safe from deadly diseases than they were yesterday because, yesterday, in one reckless move, HHS Secretary Robert Kennedy, Jr., purged every—every—expert from the CDC's vaccine advisory panel.

Kennedy's action will make America a lot sicker. By doing so, it is clear he lied to the Senate when he promised he would do no such thing without advance notice. The decision by RFK, Jr., to wipe out an entire panel of vaccine experts is rooted in conspiracy and paranoia, not science. Our kids will be in greater danger to preventable disease because of this move.

Secretary Kennedy should immediately reverse his decision before he causes more grave damage to our children.

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

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

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I just heard the minority leader of the U.S. Senate come here to the floor to talk about energy—the cost of energy, the impact of what we are doing here legislatively with regard to energy. The minority leader's comments, I would say, were laughable, but if I had to describe them in one word, that word would be "rubbish," and let me explain why. It is because this week, Senate Republicans are going to continue to point out the benefits of our comprehensive economic plan, and Americans are going to be able to see for themselves how our growth agenda delivers for them what they want, what they need, what they voted for. And they voted for safety and prosperity.

This is a 180-degree turn from the past 4 years of high prices and open borders. The Biden administration caused the worst economic disaster in our Nation since the 1970s. Democrats went on a tax-and-spend binge, and they piled job-killing regulations on the economy to the tune of over \$1.8 trillion. The reckless spending and the regulatory rampage fueled the worst inflation in 40 years.

So I hear him talk about energy. Prices were up across the board by 21 percent from the day Joe Biden came into office until the day he left. Energy bills climbed 31 percent as a result of the Democrat policies.

Families saw their savings evaporate, families saw their credit card debt skyrocket, and families struggled to keep up. Young families were locked out of homeownership because mortgage rates continued to climb.

Over 10 million illegal immigrants flooded into our Nation. Millions of these illegal immigrants were given free food, free housing, free phones, free travel, and free healthcare.

The American people have had enough, and they spoke up about it, and they elected Republicans to clean up the mess. We are delivering, and under Republican leadership, America is getting back on track.

Inflation is down. Grocery prices are down. Gas prices are down. Wages are up. Jobs are coming back. And consumer confidence is rising.

For the first time in the history of polling, a majority of Americans say our country is headed in the right direction. That is in the history of polling. That is what the American public is saying because the state of our economy is strong.

Friday's job numbers just showed more new jobs were created last month than they even expected—than the experts expected. Republicans' comprehensive plan is going to make it even stronger.

Our plan cuts taxes. It targets waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption. Our plan unleashes American energy, which will continue to bring down prices.

At the heart of our plan, of course, is tax relief. Republicans are going to stop a crushing \$4 trillion tax increase. This is a tax increase that every Democrat wants and has promised to vote for. That would be the biggest tax increase in American history.

Additionally, we are going to eliminate taxes on tips, on overtime, and on Social Security. Now, that is going to be a pay raise for hard-working Americans and for seniors.

The Republican plan puts more money in Americans' wallets, pockets, and purses. Families will have more money for gas, for groceries, and for emergencies. Families will have more money to pay the rent, to pay a mortgage, and to save for their kids' education.

Remember, it was Democrats who vowed to vote for a \$4 trillion tax increase. They actually said they are going to fight with everything they have to stop us from passing our bill. Our bill prevents that tax increase. How can they look at waiters, seniors, bartenders, police officers, and firefighters and admit that they voted to raise the taxes on all these hard-working Americans?

And let's not forget why Democrats want to raise taxes. They want to pay for healthcare for illegal immigrants. That is what they have been doing. Over a million illegal immigrants have had healthcare paid for because of what the Democrats have been doing.

Oh, and they want to subsidize electric vehicles that most people don't want, don't need, and can't afford.

The question is simple: Are you for stopping a \$4 trillion tax increase that will hit every working family in America—for the average middle-income family, \$3,000 of increased taxes—or are you not for stopping that and letting it go through?

While Republicans are standing with Americans families, Democrats are opposing them.

But, specifically, on what the minority leader addressed this morning, which was affordable energy, let's talk about that, because Americans want, need, and voted for affordable American energy, and Americans are starting to feel that relief.

Now, the Republicans are in the House, the Senate, and the White House. This Memorial Day, just a week or so ago, gas prices were 50 cents a gallon lower than they were a year ago. You know, you go fill up a vehicle in Wyoming, and you are going to save about 10 bucks.

Why? Why is it better? Because Joe Biden's war on American energy is over.

I will never forget when Joe Biden told members of his Cabinet to prioritize climate over energy that is affordable, available, and reliable—climate over affordable energy, the mantra of the Democrats.

President Trump has taken more than 50 bold actions to unleash and unlock American energy. He has done it onshore, offshore, and in Alaska. He overturned crushing regulations on available and affordable American energy. He took the handcuffs off of our energy workers and our energy producers.

I spent Friday in Laramie, WY, at the Wyoming Mining Association meeting. People from all around the State and country come together to that annual meeting. The hard-working men and women of Wyoming are celebrating the actions of President Trump.

The Republicans' comprehensive economic plan unleashes American energy like never before. It opens up new Federal land and Federal waters leases to all-of-the-above energy production. That means oil and natural gas, coal, geothermal, and critical mineral production. It also refills our Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Remember when Joe Biden drained the Strategic Petroleum Reserve? Why? Because gas prices were so high under his punitive administration. It was the era of massive Democrat inflation. He drained our Strategic Petroleum Reserve rather than allow us to produce more American energy here at home. He drained it to a dangerously low level. It was the lowest level in over 40 years. He actually sold some of our reserves to China. That is the Democrats' approach to energy.

Well, Republicans are reversing all of this. Congress is returning to fiscal sanity and energy reality. Both of those were sorely missed the last 4 years.

Joe Biden's energy policies were defined by waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption. I investigated Joe Biden's Department of Energy. It was a disgrace.

The Department of Energy's loan office funneled billions of dollars in taxpayer money to politically connected wind and solar projects. Specifically, one of them is a company known as Sunnova.

I describe them as a very shady solar company. Sunnova was called on the carpet for scamming seniors. They targeted seniors and pressured them into signing leases that were impossible to make. Joe Biden rewarded this malicious behavior by giving them a \$3 billion loan, guaranteed by the taxpayers

of our country, guaranteed by each and every one of us—a \$3 billion loan.

Thankfully, President Trump was able to pull back part of that loan. Sunnova spent \$371 million of taxpayer dollars.

Well, guess what. Just yesterday, Sunnova filed for bankruptcy. Here is the article. I plan to put this into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the article from the Wall Street Journal this morning, Tuesday, June 10: “Solar Installer Sunnova Seeks Bankruptcy.”

The handwriting was already on the wall, but the arrogant, condescending, and elitist personnel of Joe Biden’s Department of Energy refused to read it.

Republicans need to keep investigating, and we will. We need to finish the job we have started.

Today, Republicans in the Senate are unleashing affordable, reliable American energy. It will fuel our prosperity. It will benefit the entire Nation. Families will pay lower energy bills. Small businesses will be able to afford to invest and to expand. Our country will no longer depend on dictators for energy and critical minerals.

America is an energy superpower. Under Republican leadership, we are acting like it. That is why I started my comments by referring to the minority leader’s speech this morning about energy as “rubbish.”

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the article that I referred to in my speech, “Solar Installer Sunnova Seeks Bankruptcy,” be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 10, 2025]

SOLAR INSTALLER SUNNOVA SEEKS
BANKRUPTCY

(By Jodi Xu Klein and Alicia McElhaney)

One of America’s largest rooftop-solar installation businesses filed for chapter 11 on Monday, a stark illustration of the strains haunting the U.S. clean-energy sector as shifting federal policies shake investor confidence.

Sunnova Energy International, once a poster child for America’s residential renewable energy boom with a market value above \$5 billion and more than 400,000 customers at its peak, plans to sell or wind down its assets in bankruptcy. Now a penny stock with \$8.9 billion debt, Sunnova in recent months struggled to take on new business providing solar-panel installations, energy storage and financing for residential customers.

Privately held Solar Mosaic, which makes loans to homeowners for solar installations, also filed bankruptcy on Friday. Both companies blamed political uncertainty around the future of solar-related tax credits, which hurt their ability to refinance debt or attract new investment, according to their filings with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Houston.

Debt defaults were building among solar companies before Sunnova and Solar Mosaic ran low on cash. Residential installers SunPower and Lumio also filed for bankruptcy last year, while Titan Solar unwound its business, leaving many residential customers with little support.

Weak demand, rising interest rates and shifting government tone toward renewables

have pummeled the solar energy sector, especially in recent months as Congressional leaders have moved to curtail incentives.

President Trump’s tax-and-spending package passed by the House sunsets certain tax credits for rooftop solar and battery storage, viewed by some analysts as a potential death knell for the solar industry. Further changes to the president’s “Big, Beautiful Bill” are likely in the Senate, where Republicans hold a 53-47 Majority.

Some senators from states benefiting from clean-energy job growth are pushing to preserve certain tax incentives, but investors have lost patience baking businesses like Sunnova with the continuing uncertainty.

Sunnova started out in 2012 in Texas to provide affordable residential solar products across the U.S. by offering financing options for homeowners that couldn’t afford the hefty upfront costs for installation. Customers can also lease the panels and pay monthly fees for the energy they use.

After going public in 2019, the company continued to leverage a residential solar boom driven by dropping panel costs and government incentives, expanding to be a nationwide provider. Trouble in its business, which relies on borrowed capital, began to escalate in late 2023 after rising interest rates made homeowners hesitant to install new solar systems.

The company reported a net loss of \$448 million for 2024, and its liquidity dried up. By April 2024, its shares lost more than 93% in value from their peak in 2021.

In March, Sunnova warned that even after securing a fresh \$185 million loan from asset manager KKR, the company might not generate enough cash to remain operational due to weakness in the residential solar market. The loan from KKR provided a temporary life-line, but at a steep cost of 15% interest.

Creditors holding roughly \$2 billion in junior debt hired advisers and began restructuring talks with the company. In the following weeks, Oaktree Capital acquired more than \$400 million of Sunnova’s debt and has since been driving the debt negotiations, said people familiar with the matter.

In an effort to quell creditor concerns, Sunnova replaced its founder and Chief Executive William J. Berger, promoting its chief operating officer Paul Mathews, who joined in 2023, to the top job. In April, Ryan Omohundro was appointed chief restructuring officer. On Friday, the company said it laid off more than half of its workforce, some 718 employees, in May.

While larger solar and wind projects now face an earlier expiration of federal credits in 2028, three years ahead of schedule, the impact was far more severe for battery storage and residential solar installers like Sunnova. The company recently exited a \$3 billion partial loan guarantee program it had secured from the federal government in 2023, citing falling demand for solar loans.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Vaden and Hughes nominations.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 called the roll.

Mr. PADILLA. 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.

LOS ANGELES PROTESTS

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to reiterate my objection to Donald Trump’s EPA nominations and Republicans’ unprecedented attacks not only on California’s climate leadership but on the rules and procedures of this body. But before I do that, I want first to address what has unfolded in my hometown of Los Angeles over the last several days.

Now, in my opinion, it is not a coincidence, after one of the most embarrassing weeks, to be sure, of the Trump Presidency and as the public has continued to learn the truth about the budget reconciliation bill that would cut healthcare for so many working families across the country in order to pay for further tax breaks for the most wealthy in America—I am sure he didn’t appreciate us shining a light on that—and as we continue to see the impact of his failed tariff wars and the increasing costs on those same working families and, of course, the attention that his breakup with Elon Musk got—it was not a good week for the President.

So, just as he has done so many times before, when things are going bad, when all else fails, what does he do? Classic Trump playbook: He turns to scapegoating immigrants. And he decided that this was the time to launch indiscriminate ICE raids throughout the Los Angeles region, clearly not just targeting criminals but so many others—ICE raids in workplaces—in an attempt to manufacture a crisis.

Colleagues, for the first time since 1965, the President federalized the National Guard without the Governor’s approval, without the request of the Governor, in order to create chaos, in order to escalate tensions in the region and to create a pretext for more extreme actions in the future.

So let’s be clear. What you are all seeing on the news about the Los Angeles region right now is a crisis that Donald Trump has created, and he is doing it to distract from his failed agenda.

To those back in California who are watching, I have a couple of messages. No. 1, please peacefully protest. You have a right to peacefully protest. No. 2, let’s not give the President what he wants. There are two things he wants. He either wants us to be quiet and go away and let him continue to overreach and abuse his power—we will not stand for that. We have First Amendment rights. So let’s peacefully protest.

Second, for those who think this is an opportunity to exploit and to turn violent, to vandalize, that is exactly what Donald Trump wants—any excuse, large or small, to continue to escalate his use of force. Let’s not give him that.

To the rest of the country, I urge you to see this for what it is, because when the headline turns on Donald Trump, Donald Trump turns on the American

people. And the truth is, California is no stranger to Trump's playbook. We have seen it before—which brings me back to the point I have today about the EPA nomination.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

Just a few weeks ago, in this very Chamber, the Senate majority—Republicans—decided to overrule the Parliamentarian in order to undermine California's clean air authority—authority that has existed since the original Clean Air Act was adopted decades ago. So I don't want to let our Republican colleagues off the hook, and as the ranking member of the Senate Rules Committee, I want to make sure the record is clear on what happened.

This was the very first time in the history of this Senate that the majority decided to go nuclear to take up joint resolutions that were subject to the filibuster one minute and eliminate the legislative filibuster for them the next. They can deny it all they want, but it is written there in the RECORD for all of us to see, and it was sparked by the Trump administration's EPA abusing the Congressional Review Act and twisting it into something it was never intended to be. But I know they are not too worried because they are betting that, through all the smoke and mirrors of procedural language, the American people won't be able to discern what truly happened.

So part of the reason I rise today is to continue to sound the alarm for the American people because the consequences, folks, are not just the change in the rules or the change in procedure or the change in how the Senate does its business; the consequences will be physical, impacting the health—not just the lungs but the broader health—of the people of my home State of California.

So I rise to remind my Republican colleagues and the EPA's current leadership that these actions will have consequences. And as long as my Republican colleagues continue to try to pull the wool over the eyes of the American people, I am going to continue to speak up and fight back.

Earlier this month, I announced my intent to place a blanket hold on nominees for the EPA, and I didn't do so lightly. I recognize how important it is for Federal Agencies to have qualified leadership regardless of which party is in charge. I respect that. And already, in several cases, I have voted in favor of reporting the current administration's nominees out of committee. I have even voted to confirm some of them on the Senate floor notwithstanding the political and policy differences I may have with some of them.

But the Senate's constitutional role to advise and consent is an important check on the abuse and overreach of the executive branch, and abuse and overreach is exactly what Trump's EPA did in this particular situation. So my objection not only to this nomi-

nation but to future EPA nominees is part of my duty on behalf of my constituents in the State of California.

So, yes, I am objecting to expedited consideration of EPA nominees in response to the Trump EPA's abuse of the Congressional Review Act. The EPA knew that these waivers did not qualify as rules under the CRA. They have never qualified as rules under the CRA. The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, the GAO, as well as the nonpartisan Senate Parliamentarian even affirmed that they were not subject to the CRA earlier this year. But the EPA chose to ignore that and submitted them as rules anyway, launching this unprecedented power grab.

In May, I stated that I would continue to hold up EPA nominees unless the Trump administration's EPA withdrew the waivers or the majority leader committed to not overturning the Senate Parliamentarian on this issue. Unfortunately, the Trump administration and the Republican majority plowed ahead, at the expense of the health of millions of children and families in California—and many other States, for that matter.

They took advantage of the EPA's clear abuse of the CRA to go nuclear, first overriding the procedural limits in the text of the CRA itself and then, second, by overturning the Parliamentarian's decision—all in a quest to do away with California's clear, longstanding authority under the Clean Air Act.

That is unacceptable because, thanks to the Clean Air Act and California's authority in it, for 50 years, California has exercised its authority and leadership to set its own emissions standards to protect the health of our residents. It was granted by Congress on a bipartisan basis in recognition of California's unique air quality challenges.

In the time since, California has done nearly all it can do to reduce emissions from stationary sources of air pollution, which is what is under its jurisdiction. California has invested in R&D into cleaner locomotives, because mobile sources are not within its jurisdiction, but maybe there is an indirect way we can try to impact and reduce pollution in those sectors. California has invested in port electrification—again, trying to push the envelope in areas that are not quite within its jurisdiction because it is in the Federal jurisdiction—and making breakthroughs in hydrogen technologies, like the first hydrogen fuel cell ferry in the country.

Despite all of this, California still can't meet its Federal clean air standards because the biggest sources of continued air pollution are mobile sources—not the stationary sources under the State's jurisdiction but the mobile sources that are in the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. So California has done everything it can, and now the Federal Government needs to step up and do its part—do its part

or get out of the way and let California continue to lead.

That is why these waivers are so important—because absent the Federal Government doing its part, California needs the Federal waivers to fill the gap, to reduce pollution further, to reach attainment to protect the lungs and the health of Californians. But now, as a result of the Trump EPA and the Senate Republicans' abuse of the CRA, the people of California will be forced to breathe more toxic air pollution than they should have to and suffer the devastating impacts.

So to hold the Agency's leadership accountable for their actions, I am objecting to the Senate proceeding to all nominations for the EPA except for the vacancy of the inspector general. Let me be clear about that. I will maintain these objections unless acceptable accommodations are reached for the State of California to protect the health of our people.

To my Republican colleagues who may express frustration with this process, how many times have we heard you talk about “cooperative federalism”? Yet it seems to me that the rhetoric about cooperative federalism apparently only applies to some States, not California, because the second it touches California's ability to regulate the air we breathe, then their “States' rights” claims disappear.

But it is not a surprise, what is going on here. From the minute Donald Trump came back into office, we knew California was a target. The President decided to not just attack California on climate but with ICE raids, with attacks on Federal funding and research grants, with threats to withhold disaster aid, and more.

So to President Trump and to all those who choose to target California for a political agenda, you will soon see what California is capable of, and you will learn that it is far better to bet on California than against California.

In the meantime, I will continue to oppose these EPA nominees until the EPA reverses course and works with California—not just for California's interest but our Nation's interest. California is the most populous State in the Nation, with the largest economy of any State in the Nation. California's success drives America's success. If you rein in California's ability to lead, you restrain our country's success.

So I hope we can reach an agreement in the near future, but if not, we will continue to raise objections. And I will always stand up and defend California.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN VADEN

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Judge Stephen Vaden's nomination to be the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Judge Vaden is no stranger to public service. He served as USDA general

counsel during President Trump's administration and now sits on the U.S. Court of International Trade, both roles confirmed by this body.

He brings a deep understanding of rural America because he has lived it. His family has farmed in Tennessee and Kentucky for generations. That firsthand knowledge, combined with his experience in ag policy, makes him uniquely qualified to serve.

USDA needs proven leaders to support Secretary Rollins to carry out the administration's mission in rural communities. Judge Vaden is ready to serve again, and I urge my colleagues to confirm him.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON FOTOUHI NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 299 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—41

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schiff
Booker	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Duckworth	Luján	Smith
Durbin	Markley	Van Hollen
Fetterman	Merkley	Warnock
Gallago	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—6

Bennet	Ossoff	Warner
Coons	Reed	Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to re-

consider 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 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. 112, Stephen Vaden, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Jim Justice, Dan Sullivan, Pete Ricketts, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Jon A. Husted, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott of Florida, Josh Hawley, John Hoeven, Mike Crapo, Ashley B. Moody, Marsha Blackburn.

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 Stephen Vaden, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "yea", the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "yea", and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea".

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 300 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—7

Boozman	Marshall	Tillis
Budd	Ossoff	
Hoeven	Reed	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Vaden, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:56 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON VADEN NOMINATION

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

Ms. CANTWELL. 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 301 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—5

Budd	Ossoff	Tillis
Gallego	Reed	

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 117, Andrew Hughes, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Jim Justice, Dan Sullivan, Pete Ricketts, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Jon A. Husted, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott of Florida, John Hoeven, Mike Crapo, Ashley B. Moody, Marsha Blackburn, Katie Boyd Britt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Andrew Hughes, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 302 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—5

Budd	Ossoff	Tillis
Gallego	Reed	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 44. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Andrew Hughes, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was over 20 years ago that our office was contacted in Chicago. It was a young woman named Tereza Lee. She had been born in Korea and as an infant was taken to Brazil. And then her father, who was a Protestant minister, brought her and her mother to Chicago.

She contacted our office because she had a problem when it came to her citizenship.

It seems that the decision to move her around as an infant, made by her parents, left her undocumented.

Her family didn't have a lot of money. She grew up with her father who was a Protestant minister, trying to find the proper church. And she went from church to church as her father preached sermons and made a few dollars to keep the family together.

While her father was practicing his sermons at the church, she was in the back room banging away at the piano. As a student in public schools in Chicago, she got her first opportunity for real lessons through something called the Merit Music Program. She was great—extraordinary.

By the time she finished high school, people recognized in her an extraordinary musical genius. They encouraged her to apply to the best—Juilliard and Manhattan Conservatory of Music. As she filled out the application to go to these great schools, she would run across that question: What is your nationality? What is your citizenship?

She never thought to ask. Turns out she was undocumented. She didn't know what that meant in terms of her future, and a friend of hers contacted our office to see what we could do.

The law is very clear for Tereza Lee. Although it was her parents and others who made decisions in her life that resulted in an undocumented status, the law of the United States said that she had to leave the United States for 10 years and apply to come back in.

Didn't sound right to me. She didn't make any of those decisions; her parents did. She had done everything she was supposed to do: go to school, get good grades, develop her talent. And yet, we were rejecting her and sending her out of the country.

It is at that point that I introduced a bill called the DREAM Act. If you talked about Dreamers before that bill was introduced, most people would refer you to the British rock group Freddie and the Dreamers, which very few people remember.

But since then, the word "Dreamers" has come to characterize these young people who, by decisions of their parents, are in the United States undocumented.

Today, we mark the 13th anniversary of the program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA. It is a program which affects these Dreamers and their future.

I first introduced the DREAM Act with Republican Senator Orrin Hatch in 2001—24 years ago. I have included it in many forms of legislation that comes to the Senate floor, repeatedly introduced it as an amendment over the years. I have never quite been able to reach the point where I can meet the 60-vote requirement to waive the filibuster or to pass it in the House the same year.

After years of congressional action, in 2010, I wrote a letter to a man who is my former colleague from Illinois who had been elected President of the

United States, Barrack Obama. And I asked him—and Senator Richard Lugar, a Republican from Indiana, joined me in asking President Obama if he could do something to stop the deportation of these young Dreamers.

Two years later, President Obama announced the DACA Program. The DACA Program has protected nearly 835,000 Dreamers, many of whom who have gone on to pursue higher education, purchase homes, start businesses, and make America a better country to live in.

These young people who grew up in this country alongside my own kids, went to school, stood up in the morning before class and pledged allegiance to that flag and believed that they were real Americans from the start—but not in the eyes of the law.

DACA recipients have started families; 37 percent have U.S. citizen children; and 935,000 U.S. citizens live with DACA holders. It is a large chunk of our population, and they have done dramatic things to make this a better country.

DACA recipients greatly contribute to our labor force. They are teachers, nurses, workers, doctors, and more. They boost our economy, providing nearly \$16 billion to the U.S. economy each year.

I have been coming to the Senate floor for 20 years telling the stories of Dreamers and DACA recipients. I don't think there is any better way to describe who they are and what they go through to try to become American citizens and be part of the future of this country.

I would like to highlight one of them today.

This is the 149th story of a Dreamer that I have shared on the floor of the Senate. Alondra O. was born in Mexico and moved to the St. Louis metropolitan area when she was 5 years old. She was a great student.

She became a member of the National Honor Society. She was certified as a nurse assistant, a patient care technician, and phlebotomist all by the time she graduated from high school. Her dream was to become a full-time registered nurse. Do we need more nurses? Absolutely.

Despite the national nursing shortage and her excellent qualifications, Alondra was unable to get a nursing license in her home State of Missouri because State law there prohibits DACA recipients from becoming nurses.

But she didn't give up.

Missouri's loss became my home State of Illinois's gain. And today, Alondra serves as an emergency department registered nurse in Alton, IL, just across the river from Missouri.

Sadly, Alondra still lives in fear today every day that all of her hard work would mean nothing if DACA is eliminated. She has lived in this country since she was 5 years old. She should not be forced to leave the only home she has ever known simply because Congress has failed to do its job to fix our broken immigration system.

Alondra should be able to work in this critical field where we desperately need nurses, wherever her services are most needed, and do so without fear of deportation.

I have heard a lot said in political campaigns about murderers, rapists, terrorists, and mentally deranged people who were seeking to make a future in the United States. What about Alondra? Does she fit any of those categories? Of course not.

She, against the odds, built a great reputation and a great resume, with her education, training, and work experience. She is doing work in her field in a part of our State where we desperately need nurses. She is no threat to anyone. She is not a danger. She is, in fact, a beacon of hope for those people who are sick and need a good nurse.

Unfortunately, there has been a relentless campaign to eliminate DACA and deport Dreamers, so the future for Alondra and other DACA recipients remains legally uncertain.

Basic question: Is America better off to have Alondra the nurse in Alton, IL, here or to deport her from the United States to a country she hasn't seen since she was 5 years old?

More than 100,000 Dreamers have initial DACA applications that are still pending. They are in limbo because for years we haven't allowed those who qualified to apply to join the ranks of DACA. DACA was always intended to be a temporary program to give Congress time to pass a permanent solution. We are not very good at passing anything in Congress.

Now in their 13th year, it is time for us to honor the Dreamers' patience, act on our promises, and provide them with a pathway to citizenship.

My mother was an immigrant to this country. I am proud of immigrants. Our family came here with nothing, not even speaking the language, worked hard, and established themselves.

My mother—eighth grade education, no experience in high school or college—raised three boys to serve this country. My two brothers were in the U.S. Navy, and I serve here in the U.S. Senate. Is immigration important for this country? The Durbin family believes that it is.

I am going to continue to fight for the Dreamers, continue to fight for DACA.

I urge my Republican colleagues, be thoughtful on the issue of immigration. Don't penalize Alondra, this wonderful young woman who has worked so hard to become a registered nurse in my State of Illinois. Give her a chance to make America and my State a better place.

We remember this anniversary of the DACA Program and thank President Obama for his vision to realize these young people could make this a better country and realize we have to be thoughtful when it comes to immigration.

If you are a danger to this country, we don't want you here, we don't want

you coming here, but if you are going to make this a better place to live, we not only want you, we desperately need you. The DACA Program represents hundreds of thousands of young people who prove that every single day of their lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, first of all, let me thank the Democratic whip from Illinois. He has been steadfast and persistent in his fight for Dreamers in this country and has not given up and has been a critical and crucial voice not only for Dreamers but for the fight for passage of comprehensive immigration reform that puts Dreamers on a pathway to citizenship, and their families, and I thank him for that.

In 5 days, we will celebrate 13 years since President Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, Program, which so many have been referring to. DACA has proven to be an overwhelming success, allowing Dreamers who have only ever known the United States as their home to continue contributing to our economy and our communities.

DACA protects immigrants who came to the United States as children from deportation, and it authorizes them to legally work.

Nevada and every State in the country has benefited from DACA. We are a better, stronger country because of this program.

In my State, in Nevada, nearly 136,000 U.S. citizens live with at least 1 family member who is undocumented. In Nevada, 10,730 people are DACA recipients. And we know, no matter what President Trump and others say, that our immigrant communities are a critical part of what makes our country great. I know that.

My grandfather is from Chihuahua, across the border, served in our military, and became a U.S. citizen.

The Dreamers I know in my community have gone to college, they have become a part of our workforce, they pay millions of dollars in taxes, and they are woven into the fabric of every community in Nevada and, I will say, across this country. Dreamers contribute \$810 million each year to our economy in Nevada alone.

They love this country, and it is their home.

As we celebrate the 13th anniversary of DACA, we must remember that the young people who became the first DACA recipients are now in their thirties and forties. They have the responsibilities that all American adults have: maintaining their careers, caring for elderly relatives, paying bills and mortgages, and, yes, putting food on the table for their families. But their ability to remain in the only home they have ever known is in jeopardy thanks to this administration's threats to end DACA.

President Trump tried to terminate DACA entirely in his first term, but he

was stopped by the courts. Now immigrant families across the country are once again bracing for their lives to be turned upside down on any given day because of the threats of mass deportation and further attacks on the program.

I can't even imagine how exhausting it must be to spend so many years in fear and limbo—especially for Dreamers who have done everything right, who know this country as their only home, who want to be the future leaders, who want to be part of our communities, who want to be our doctors and our teachers, and to know that they are always concerned about that opportunity for their future.

They have, for the last 13 years, been met with endless delays and politics and people playing with their lives for some sort of political gain. Not only that, but immigrant communities, as you have heard the minority whip say, are being demonized, and they are facing threats because of politicians stoking hate and division in our communities. People who have lived here their whole lives and contribute to our country are now being told by those politicians that they do not belong.

Here is the other thing: I know that in my State, they are being demonized and called out by these politicians as criminals and drug traffickers and rapists. Well, I invite any of those politicians to come into my State and meet with my Dreamers.

I challenge anyone in this country who knows these families and knows these Dreamers to stand by them because right now, they are under attack. And it is something that is not happening out of sight or behind closed doors; it is happening in our neighborhoods every single day.

These Dreamers have families who are a crucial part of our communities. You know them. We know them. They have families. Many of them have spouses and children who are U.S. citizens. They just want to be able to live normal lives and contribute and continue to pay taxes and be a part of our jobs and our economy and expanding this economy and this country.

I will tell you, over the years, my office has received stacks of letters from Nevadans who have been impacted by DACA about the importance of the program for them and their families. I want to share just a couple of those stories and those letters with you.

I received a letter from a 10-year-old girl who was born in North Las Vegas. Her father is a Dreamer who has lived in the United States since he was 7 years old.

Her father always dreamed of becoming a doctor, but for much of his career, he was denied opportunity after opportunity. But that changed when he became a recipient of DACA. He was able to get a good job, buy a home for his family, and give his kids a better life.

But every day, his daughter lives in fear that her father, who has worked

hard in America all his life, could get deported back to Mexico and that she and her siblings would have to live in a country whose language they don't even speak.

She said:

I would love for the government to see that my daddy and all Dreamers like him only want to be good citizens and have a better future.

She hopes to be a pediatrician one day and serve her community just like her dad always dreamed.

The second letter I want to share with you I received from a young woman whose parents brought her to Nevada when she was just 2 years old. When she turned 18, she was excited to start working so that she could earn a living for herself, but as an undocumented Dreamer without a Social Security number, she couldn't apply for the jobs her peers were getting.

She said:

I am as much a citizen as them. I can do all that they are able to do. I have witnessed several individuals around my age waste their potential. They have everything they could possibly receive and choose not to take advantage [of it].

I will tell you Dreamers jump at every opportunity to create a better life for themselves than their parents had. I will tell you these Dreamers do not run afoul of the law. I will tell you these Dreamers do everything they possibly can to prove why they want to live here and be a crucial part of our communities, but all the while, they live in fear that their families could be torn apart by our broken immigration system that we have an obligation to fix.

DACA has been an essential way to provide stability for the Dreamers and their families, but right now in my State and across the country, Dreamers haven't been able to apply for new DACA protections. Nearly half of Nevada's Dreamers are eligible for DACA, but unfortunately thousands of Dreamers in my State are currently vulnerable because this administration is refusing to accept their DACA applications.

Now it is in direct defiance of a court order. As of March of this year, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Trump administration must start accepting new DACA applications because that is the law, but months have gone by, and we have not seen any progress.

Yesterday—yesterday—my staff learned for the first time that one single new application had been processed and accepted—just one. Well, while one is better than zero, I will say this administration has a lot of work to do to follow the law and accept more applicants into the DACA Program.

I am so pleased my colleagues and I are here today to keep the pressure on, to make sure this administration follows the law but also to appeal to our Republican colleagues. It is time we come together and work together to put Dreamers and their families on a

pathway to citizenship. These Dreamers are as American in their hearts as you and I. Our country is better with them in it. As we celebrate the 13th anniversary of DACA, I remain committed to working with anyone—anyone—who is willing to protect them and do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I so appreciate the comments of my colleague from Nevada. So many of us are so frustrated with the failure of this legislature to address this fundamental injustice to our Dreamers.

Certainly immigration has been a part of the American spirit for a very long time. In 1752, three Merkle brothers—a name that was later converted to Merkley—arrived from Germany to be the first three of four settlers of the town of New Durlach.

More than a century later, we had those powerful words written by Emma Lazarus carved into the base of the Statue of liberty:

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

Generations of immigrant families that were brought in through the Statue of Liberty island immigration center read those words as they arrived and were inspired as they began their American dream. But those who didn't come through that immigration center were also inspired by that vision of people coming from around the world to build this land, this land in which we have government of, by, and for the people.

Among those who have been inspired are those who arrived in more recent times. And our Dreamers, those who were less than 16, arriving before 2007, they were being given the chance, through the decision of President Obama, to grant them status in 2012 to have their American dream. And their success as a group shows it was the right policy and that it is long past time for Congress to pass a Dream Act to give them a path to citizenship.

Our good colleague from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, has been fighting for these young people for passage of the Dream Act time and time again. And it is the Senate's 40-vote veto that has stopped us from ever having a vote on that policy, a final vote on that policy.

You know, the Dream Act didn't simply come from one side of the aisle. It was Senator Orrin Hatch, a Republican, who first introduced it in 2001. But the bill for the Dreamers has languished in Congress year after year after year. In 2012, President Obama, therefore, took action and announced a deferred action for childhood arrivals, the DACA policy, to protect those children who were brought here as youth, knew, often, no other country, often spoke no other language. This is their home.

And he noted at the time that this was to be “a temporary stopgap measure” for Congress to be able to debate and vote on a permanent legislation, the Dream Act. But Congress hasn’t voted—that is, the Senate has never voted on final passage—despite decades, despite bipartisan support. And even now, in December, President Trump said on “Meet the Press”—so we are talking just months ago, after he won reelection: “We have to do something about the Dreamers.”

So let’s do something here as we note the 13th anniversary of DACA. More than 825,000 young men and women—approximately 8,000 in my home State of Oregon—are caught in legal limbo yet “yearning to breathe free.” Won’t they be able to breathe a lot freer if we were able to resolve their legal status?

In 2022, the Department of Homeland Security codified DACA. But due to litigation, more than 100,000 applications are still pending from people seeking DACA protections. The Trump administration has been quite aggressive about deporting undocumented immigrants. And it could, in fact, rescind DACA’s protections. So let’s act. Let’s resolve this situation.

Here is what we understand. In 2012, President Obama described recipients as “young people who study in our schools, who play in our neighborhoods, who are friends with our children, who pledge allegiance to the flag.” But while Congress waited to act all these years, those young people have grown up. DACA’s protections allowed them to graduate from school, to apply for jobs, to become pillars in our communities. Over the last 13 years, they contributed more than \$140 billion to the U.S. economy and more than \$40 billion in Federal payroll, State, and local taxes.

They enrich our country in so many ways, serving as teachers, as nurses, as police officers, in addition to being our colleagues, our neighbors, and our friends.

We are a nation of immigrants. Unless you are part of the Tribal communities that have been on this land from time immemorial, unless you just arrived as a new immigrant, you are descended from immigrants, immigrants who arrived here often with welcoming arms, as mentioned in Emma Lazarus’s poem engraved in the foundation of the Statue of Liberty.

We should not be slamming that door shut on the Dreamers who were brought here as children, who already contributed so much to our country.

Let’s not just give speeches about the 13th anniversary, let’s get those 100,000 pending DACA applications processed. Let’s get the Dream Act to the floor to give DACA recipients a legal path to citizenship, and let’s finish the work that Senator DURBIN and so many others have been carrying forward for so many years to ensure that the American dream is open to all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, colleagues, time and time again, we have seen one of the most frequently called plays out of the Trump playbook. When everything else is going wrong, shift the narrative, scapegoat immigrants, blame immigrants for whatever your failure is at the moment.

Well, today, between his failing trade wars that are raising the cost of living on working families across the country to his losses in Federal court and delays in the Congress on the efforts to give billionaires even bigger tax breaks, and even the embarrassing breakup recently with his former BBFF—billionaire best friend forever—Elon Musk, it is safe to say that Donald Trump is grasping for anything he can do to change the narrative, to distract us from the damage that his political agenda has going on.

The smart thing would be to actually change course, rectify things, do things in the interest of our Nation and our economy. But what has he chosen to do instead? To double down. In order to distract the country from his failures and his efforts to “flood the zone,” Donald Trump is expanding his deportation agenda far beyond the focus and targeting of violent and dangerous criminals that he claimed would be the strategy.

He is so desperate to show quick results that he is even throwing due process rights out the window for so many; the due process rights, by the way, that I know most of you, if not all of you, should agree are paramount, foundational to our democracy.

As you continue to see this week, Trump is launching indiscriminate ICE raids in the Los Angeles region followed by a chaotic escalation federalizing California’s National Guard and even mobilizing the Marines.

It is personal for me, not just because Los Angeles is home—I was born and raised in Los Angeles—but as a proud son of immigrants. I know the true story of the vast majority of immigrants and immigrant families in Los Angeles, throughout California, and throughout the country.

But instead of honoring those contributions—there is no disagreement with the prioritization and targeting of violent criminals—but the vast majority of folks, their contributions deserve to be honored. Instead, Donald Trump is manufacturing a crisis to, once again, not just distract us but divide us. Just as he has always done, he is using immigrants to do it.

I can’t help but speak up and remind us, immigrants are not political pawns for his agenda, just as servicemembers—women and men—are not political pawns for his agenda.

So, yes, as we should be celebrating the 13th anniversary of DACA this week, hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients and Dreamers are actually now worried that they are at risk—at further risk—that they could be next as President Trump struggles to find enough violent criminals to detain and

deport to meet a campaign promise. Since he can’t get his numbers there, he will look elsewhere.

I want to take this moment to make very clear: Dreamers are our neighbors. Dreamers are our loved ones. These are young people who are Americans in every sense of the word except for one important piece of paperwork, including over 160,000 DACA recipients in the State of California, alone.

Yet because of Congressional Republicans’ refusal to act, Dreamers live, at a minimum, in a constant state of uncertainty but oftentimes in a constant state of fear. They deserve better.

They deserve permanent protections. This isn’t just a moral issue, as righteous and compelling as those moral arguments should be. Colleagues, if that doesn’t get you, you should be moved by the economic issues that this represents because if, through the President or through Republicans’ actions in Congress, you were to take away work authorization for hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients, that is reducing our workforce at a time when we are trying to grow the workforce and grow the economy. If DACA were to come to an end, it could strip our workforce of over 400,000 workers and cost our country nearly \$650 billion.

Yes, they, too, are productive. I am talking about Dreamers who work as teachers, as caregivers, as nurses and doctors, as construction workers, as food service workers, and so many other key industries for our economy. And they are hard-working community members who pay taxes just like the rest of us and just want a chance to work hard and raise a family in the country that they love.

They deserve peace of mind, the peace of mind to know that they are safe here at home. And that is why I am proud to support the Dream Act, a bill to provide permanent protections for Dreamers who contribute so much to our country. It is the least that we can do for Dreamers who have spent decades contributing to the Nation.

And for my Republican colleagues who may be caught up in the heat of the moment and trapped in this anti-immigrant rhetoric in our current political climate on the right, I will say this: Dreamers make our communities better; Dreamers make our economy stronger; and Dreamers make our Nation stronger.

The Dream Act is a commonsense bill that has enjoyed bipartisan support. So I urge you to join me in supporting the Dream Act now and in giving these young people the certainty and the protections that they deserve and strengthen our Nation in the process.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, as we approach the 13th anniversary of DACA, I rise today in support of this program and the thousands of Nevadans who rely on it.

My State of Nevada is home to more than 12,000 DACA beneficiaries who

know of no other country as their own. They grew up in our communities and contribute to our Nation and to our economy. They are our neighbors, our friends, our family members. Many of them are now even raising their own families here—sending their kids to school, taking them to soccer practice, and going to the park on weekends.

But Washington has failed them. What started out as a temporary program meant to protect Dreamers, while Congress worked to pass a more permanent solution, has turned into a decades-long lifeline for so many. Washington's gridlock and its inability to pass comprehensive immigration reform, with a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, has left them to depend on DACA. It has also opened the doors to attacks from the Trump administration and rightwing extremists.

During his first term, Donald Trump rescinded DACA and threw this critical program into a tailspin, leaving the future of Dreamers and their families to depend on court case after court case.

Can anyone in this Chamber imagine the stress, the fear, the uncertainty that they have had to endure all of these years, not knowing if they would be separated from their families or not?

In his second term, Trump has been relentless—relentless—in attacking and separating hard-working, law-abiding immigrant families, increasing fear and worry in our immigrant communities, including DACA recipients.

If DACA were to end, millions of Dreamers across our Nation would be at risk of having to leave the only country they have ever known, the only place they have ever called home. Parents would face separation from their children, leaving families forever traumatized. And our economy and communities would greatly suffer.

And just imagine—just imagine—the message we would be sending. Nevadans who have done everything right since they arrived in our State, Nevadans who were brought here as kids through no fault of their own and who followed the rules when government asked them to—who followed the rules—Nevadans who have graduated college, Nevadans who have served in the military, Nevadans who have started businesses in our communities, Nevadans who are currently protected could now lose the only life they have ever known.

So it is past time that politicians in Washington stopped using Dreamers as a political football and finally passed a law that permanently protects them. These hard-working Americans deserve to have peace of mind, and they deserve a life without fear.

I want Dreamers to know they have allies in their corner. As Nevada's Senator, I will do everything in my power to protect all of our communities and keep families—keep families—together. Since day one in the Senate, I have been pushing my colleagues to come together, in a bipartisan way, to pass a

permanent solution, one that gives Dreamers permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship—a pathway to citizenship now, now—while we continue to work on comprehensive immigration reform that this country so surely needs—surely needs. It shouldn't be a partisan issue.

As long as I am in the Senate, I won't stop fighting for it. I want everyone to know that, in the meantime, I will continue to do everything in my power to protect DACA and the thousands of Nevadans who rely on it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

RESCISSIONS

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, last week, President Trump sent to Congress a request to rescind \$9.4 billion in fiscal year 2025 and 2024 funds that a majority of Republicans and Democrats had debated and had voted for. Those appropriations were signed into law by President Trump.

I want to briefly discuss the impact these rescissions would have because of the consequences for Americans, for our relationships with other governments, and for millions of people around the world. Also, I want to speak about what this does to the appropriations power and authority and responsibility of Congress.

We are seeing, from my view, an abdication of article I authority that belongs under the Constitution to Congress and delegating that to the Chief Executive. It is a violation of our separation of powers, which is a pillar of the checks and balances that is essential to the well-being of our democracy.

First, talking about the rescissions: The White House—as it says about everything that we do appropriate money for—the White House claims it is waste, fraud, and abuse and also claims that it contributes to the ballooning deficit.

There is a contradiction here because according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the so-called Big Beautiful Bill that the President is determined to pass will add \$2.4 trillion to the deficit—\$2.4 trillion. And that is before we add the increased debt service that will be required to pay it.

In this country, taxpayers are now on the verge of paying a trillion dollars annually in interest payments, and that is dead money. It doesn't support our military. It doesn't support our schools. It doesn't support scientific research. It is paid to bondholders, many of whom are in China.

Most of the funds that the President is proposing to cancel were approved 2½ months ago for fiscal year 2025. And there has been absolutely no showing that any of these funds—not a single dollar—cannot or should not be used for the purposes for which they were appropriated by a bipartisan majority in Congress. There has been absolutely no showing—none—of any waste, fraud, and abuse. These funds were deemed worthy of funding 2 months ago, and

the President himself agreed. He signed it.

This is an end run around the article I authority of Congress: We pass a budget, and then the Executive rescinds what it is we appropriated our funds for—an enormous erosion of the responsibility of Congress under article I.

But let me just mention a few specific examples of the funds that are on the chopping block: the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In the case of Vermont, it is called Vermont Public. It is our public radio station, and it is our public broadcasting. Every State has the Public Broadcasting System.

In Vermont—and I know we are not unique—it is essential programming that knits together our community and provided information that was crucial, constantly, when we had floods in July of 2023 and July of 2024. Federal funding is about 10 percent of our budget, but in many States it is about 40, 50 percent.

The administration is proposing to get rid of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting altogether. I totally and completely oppose that. It is the equivalent of \$1.60 for each American annually. It provides a source of local news at a time when we have news deserts all around the country. The pressure on our local newspapers, on our local broadcasters, on our local radio stations is enormous. We need public broadcasting.

I saw it in Vermont, as I mentioned, when we had the enormous benefit of the information we needed desperately to deal with the floods.

My Republican colleagues in North Carolina had a similar experience. It was local public media markets and outlets that provided lifesaving emergency alert information to ensure that victims knew which roads they could travel, which food distribution centers were open. The elimination of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting puts all of this at risk.

Another program said to be eliminated is PEPFAR. PEPFAR is a flagship HIV/AIDS prevention program. It was started by President George W. Bush. It has saved millions of lives. It has created enormous goodwill for the United States around the entire world.

The chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee has strongly opposed any rescission of PEPFAR funds, and I agree with Senator COLLINS and cannot, for the life of me, understand how anyone would support rescinding those funds that provide so much to so many for so little.

Here are some other programs: Global Health—\$500 million would be cut. These activities on Global Health protect child and maternal health. They combat HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases. We would be rescinding funds that fight malaria, Ebola, polio, HIV and AIDS, and other diseases that have been kept under control and out of the United States—in many cases, thanks to these programs—but could easily explode into full-blown epidemics.

There is \$800 million being cut for refugees, like those who are fleeing genocide in Darfur and Burma. Should we turn our back on the Afghan refugee folks who served our men and women in uniform during the course of the Afghan war?

Another cut is \$83 million for programs that have supported democracy through organizations like the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute, and Freedom House. These have all historically received bipartisan support and strong support. This rescission would put them out of business, even though we kept them in business by a bipartisan vote just 2½ months ago.

There is a cut of \$1.65 billion for the Economic Support Fund. It may not necessarily be apparent on its face, but that fund account funds our economic assistance for Jordan, which has been an incredibly important ally to kind of release pressure in the Middle East, Egypt, Indonesia, Lebanon, and other programs that combat corruption, transnational money laundering, terrorist financing, human trafficking, and wildlife trafficking. These programs also, by the way, expand and build markets for U.S. exports, creating good, high-paying jobs in the United States of America.

There is a cut of \$460 million for assistance for Georgia, Armenia, Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and other former Soviet Republics. We want them to be our friend. We are in a contest with Russia. Walking away from these on-the-edge countries, fragile countries, would send the message that Putin wants, even while he is seeking to overtake Ukraine.

There is a cut of \$496 million for international disaster assistance. That, by the way, provides lifesaving aid for victims of natural and manmade disasters, from earthquakes and hurricanes to armed conflicts. This is the United States doing its share as the major power in the world to help those who have been impacted by these extreme events that cause immense harm and suffering to people, through no cause of their own.

Also, it would cut \$202 million for some specialized Agencies, including UNICEF that has traditionally been led by an American. And the Chinese love this because where we leave, they have made it no secret that they want to replace us.

These are just a few of the examples of the irreparable harm these rescissions could cause to programs and organizations that have had longstanding bipartisan support. They serve our interests, and they promote U.S. global leadership.

I understand the White House is looking everywhere it can—except the defense budget—to find revenue, and they need that revenue to offset the tax breaks that will go, by and large, to the richest Americans. But these rescissions are thoughtless, and they are reckless.

Leadership of the United States is not solely a function of military power. Soft power really makes a difference, and it is a function and a power that we have to use our resources to act as a full force multiplier for democratic principles for free markets and for building alliances.

If these rescissions are approved, we will be asked to explain why Congress did an about-face literally in a matter of 2½ months and ceded U.S. global engagement influence to China. None of us want that; all of us will get that.

The President likes to talk about his historic mandate. He did win. It was 2 million votes out of 152 million cast. It was a small margin of victory—the smallest by a Republican Presidential candidate since the 1900s. My point here is not so much the size of the mandate. Whatever the mandate, a President should embrace the responsibility that he or she has to the entire country, and that includes folks who didn't vote for him.

I do not believe even those who did were voting to risk the lives and their children's lives by cutting funds to stop the spread of Ebola or measles or West Nile virus. This wasn't a mandate to shut down programs to defend democracy where it is under assault. This was not a vote to withdraw from UNICEF. This was not a vote, necessarily, to turn our back on the world's refugees, including, in particular, Afghan refugees who saved the lives of our men and women in uniform.

In the talk about wasteful spending, we are with everybody. I have yet to meet a Member of the U.S. Senate who is in favor of waste, fraud, and abuse. But we have got to identify it and then attack it, not assert the deficit justification for ending a program like PEPFAR that has proven to be efficient and effective in saving lives at very little cost.

The final point I think all of us have to consider is the one I made at the beginning, and that is about the article I responsibility of Congress.

Alexander Hamilton warned about the excessive power that could reside in any one branch of government and that for the well-being of our democracy, we had to maintain that competition between the branches, which required them to exercise and assert the authority that was given to each branch in the Constitution.

Of course, article I gives to the Congress the power to tax and the power to spend, and it is absolutely essential that we do that carefully and wisely because our constituents are the ones who are going to pay the bill through taxes we assess, and they are the ones who are going to receive the benefits through appropriations we make.

To abdicate that power, which is essentially what rescission would accommodate for the Executive, is to turn over that power to the President. And it is not just a matter of being this President; it is any President.

In order for us to meet our responsibilities, we have to adhere to our constitutional responsibility under article I that we are the ones who are subject to the will of the people—in the House, every 2 years; in the Senate, every 6 years—to account for how we tax and how we spend. Let's not dodge by delegating that power to the Executive.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

DACA

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here to join my colleagues—with thanks to them, most especially to Senator DURBIN—to highlight the impact of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, which for the last 13 years has benefited countless young people who have come to this country as infants or young children, brought by their parents before they could even speak any language, some of them, and many of them here knowing only English, only the neighborhoods where they live now, only this country as their home.

DACA has offered safety, security, and hope to thousands of people, including 3,000 active DACA recipients living in Connecticut alone. They are our friends and neighbors. They are students, nurses. They have all kinds of jobs that are important to our community and our State in Connecticut. They are key members of communities, having lived in the United States for an average of 26 years—that is right, 26 years on average. Ninety-one percent of DACA recipients in Connecticut participate in the Connecticut labor force.

Mr. President, 92 percent of DACA recipients have a high school diploma, and 81 percent have some college education. In Connecticut, 30 percent of DACA recipients are married, 17 percent have children, and there are 6,000 U.S. citizens living with DACA recipients.

Let me tell you the stories of two DACA recipients in Connecticut.

Agnes was brought to Connecticut when she was 9 years old. She worked hard in school and qualified for a Rotary Club scholarship to attend Western Connecticut State University. Because of DACA, she was able to obtain work authorization and get a job upon graduating college.

She says DACA eliminated the uncertainty she felt as a child and allowed her to pursue opportunities she otherwise would not have. She is now a U.S. citizen, married, with two beautiful boys. She owns a home. She manages a global team at a commodity trading company in Connecticut.

Another DACA recipient who also came to the United States when she was 9 years old said DACA was “monumental.” It gave her a sense of independence. It allowed her to build a future for herself that she wanted and aspired to have. She can't imagine what her life would have been like without it.

In 2009, before she graduated from college, she learned about the DREAM

Act and was inspired to pursue advocacy work. She is now part of an organization in Connecticut called Connecticut Students for a Dream, working to help other Dreamers like her. Through her advocacy, she pushed for the passage of legislation in Connecticut that provided in-state tuition access, institutional financial aid, and a college access program for undocumented students. Finally, after receiving DACA, she obtained her work authorization. She got a job overseeing a leadership program for Connecticut high school students.

These two remarkable stories are just two examples of the extraordinary impact that DACA recipients have on our community.

Last December, President Trump said:

We have to do something about the Dreamers.

He said:

We have to do something about the Dreamers. Republicans are very open to Dreamers.

I call on the administration to resume processing initial DACA applications outside of Texas, in line with the ruling from the Fifth Circuit. I call on this administration to do the right thing, to do what is legally open, what history encourages us to do. The history of this program shows the human potential of DACA recipients.

I encourage my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to come together with more permanent legislation for Dreamers. They give back. They contribute to our communities. They work tirelessly to do better. We owe them better. These Dreamers deserve to build a future in this country with the security and safety of permanent status and a path to citizenship.

I yield the floor.

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

REMEMBERING RALPH VIGIL

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, in New Mexico, we practice *querencia*. *Querencia* is a deep, even spiritual, connection to the land—a love of place that demands that we care for what has been passed down to us and protect it so we can pass it along to future generations.

Today, I stand on the Senate floor to pay tribute to a man who literally embodied this idea. His name was Ralph Vigil. And Ralph grew up along the Pecos River, at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, in Northern New Mexico.

With family roots extending hundreds of years, Ralph often called himself “a twelfth-generation Hispano in a state of Nuevomexicanos.” He took pride in his Hispanic and indigenous heritage, and every aspect of Ralph’s life was really a testament to his commitment and connection to our State and its people.

A *parciante* of his local *acequia*, Ralph often brought people in to share *acequia* traditions, and this included

Mark Allison, the executive director of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

One year, Ralph and his family invited Mark for an annual *acequia* spring cleaning. So all day, they shoveled and raked and cleared the way for the water to be able to nourish the fields.

Once they were done, they went up and opened up the headgate. Ralph’s dad moved a few rocks, and Mark and Ralph stood and watched the water come down to water the fields.

As *mayordomo* of the *Acequia del Molino*, Ralph determined the allocation of water for each family like he did everything else, with the resounding belief that in the *acequia*, as in life, everyone is equal, bound together by water, by land, by tradition.

So Ralph carried these principles of equality and justice and interconnectivity to literally everything he did. As chairman of the New Mexico *Acequia* Commission for 19 years, Ralph fought to protect the water and the needs of local communities.

In the words of Juan Sanchez, who worked alongside Ralph at the commission, “Ralph . . . helped communities who didn’t really have a voice, keep a voice.”

And when extensive mining proposals threatened the traditional way of life along the Pecos River, Ralph stepped into action, helping to form the Stop Terrero Mine Coalition.

This is where I really got to know Ralph, as we worked together to craft and introduce legislation, the Pecos Watershed Protection Act—legislation to defend our watersheds and designate over 11,000 acres of national forestland as the Thompson Peak Wilderness Area.

At the Federal and State level, Ralph was a community leader in every sense of the phrase, committed to protecting and nurturing the people and places of New Mexico. He was also a farmer, a father, a skateboarder, a mariachi, and a friend—one who let others know how much they meant to him.

As described by one of his close friends and colleague he worked with, Garrett VeneKlasen, “Ralph was an old soul and a sage” who “radiated goodness and grace.”

His friend Robert Apodaca put it similarly:

Ralph . . . loved with his whole heart and soul. . . . [And his] legacy lives on in every life he touched and every cause he stood for.

Julie and I extend our heartfelt condolences to Ralph’s family, friends, colleagues, and community. And I know that we will all think of Ralph every time we see the Pecos River.

May we all honor Ralph’s memory by carrying on our own *querencia* for the places and waters that have sustained our way of life, traditions, and forged our communities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. ROUNDS. I would ask unanimous consent to begin the rollcall vote immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON HUGHES NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 303 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—6

Budd	Ossoff	Sanders
Gallego	Reed	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

GAZA

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I have witnessed starvation up close.

Many years ago, I was visiting Mother Teresa’s Home for the Dying in Calcutta. The room had a series of cots,

filled with men. There was a men's side and a women's side, and I was on the men's side.

Many of the men, the priest told me, had come after they had reached a point of malnutrition on the streets to which they had then collapsed.

I was asked to tend to one young man, and his eyes were very bright, and I asked the priest: It appears like he is really focused.

He said: No, no, no. This young man has been starving to death. His body has started to damage its own organs, and there is no recovery. All we can do is minister to his comfort.

That involved taking sections of grapefruit and wiping them across his lips.

I also visited a refugee center in Juba, in South Sudan, where the children's level of malnutrition was measured by an armband. It is one way of getting a quick sense of how little food they have had. It is called a mid-upper arm circumference. It is color coded, green to yellow to red, so aid workers can quickly see the severity of the malnutrition—the extent, if you will, of the impact of starvation.

And I visited refugee camps in Somalia and in Kenya and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where families were fleeing conflict and, quite frankly, fleeing starvation.

Starvation is sometimes the result of the chaos of war, sometimes the result of natural disasters, sometimes agricultural disasters. But what we are seeing now in the Middle East is a different form of disaster. It is a failure of political will to provide food. There is starvation in Gaza today because the Netanyahu government, which controls the amount of food flowing in, has chosen to use access to food as a weapon of war.

I have come to the floor tonight to say that this is immoral, that this use of food as a weapon of war is wrong under any structure of religion or moral code. I have come to the floor to say that it violates human rights and to say that it violates international law, and that all of us should join together and call for our government—the U.S. Government—to use every leverage of influence we have with our close ally Israel to have the Netanyahu government end this strategy.

Over the last few months, public attention has turned away from the ongoing war in Gaza because there is so much else going on here in the United States and so much else going on around the world. Our newspapers and news feeds are full of stories about the Trump administration, about new tariffs, new Executive orders, new events across the country, and, also, quite frankly, about heartbreaking events of anti-Semitic violence against our American Jewish community.

Before I turn to deliberate further on the horrific use of food as a weapon of war, I want to really note the importance of never allowing criticism of the practices of another government or,

certainly, criticism of the Government of Israel—the Netanyahu government—to blur into discrimination or persecution of anyone based on their faith identity.

I abhor discrimination, abhor persecution. I abhor anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitic acts, including assault and harassment and vandalism, have increased dramatically here in the United States. Across the country, in 2024 and on into 2025, the highest level has been recorded since the Anti-Defamation League started tracking the data in 1979.

On the first night of Passover, an arsonist set fire to the Pennsylvania Governor's mansion, while the Governor, Josh Shapiro, and his family were asleep inside.

Sarah Milgrim and Yaron Lischinsky, who met working at the Israeli Embassy, were murdered here in Washington, DC, outside the Jewish Museum.

And 12 people marching in support of the release of the hostages being held in Gaza were attacked and injured in Boulder, CO, just a week ago Sunday.

I condemn these acts of anti-Semitism and violence. We must root out prejudice and discrimination. We must root it out of our hearts. We must root it out of the public acts. We must stand arm in arm with our Jewish community members whenever they are threatened.

With that emphasis, let me be clear. As we stand arm in arm with our fellow Jewish citizens who are threatened by assault and harassment and vandalism and discrimination, we should also be standing arm in arm together against the use of the denial of food as a weapon of war, including by the Netanyahu government using that strategy in Gaza.

We need an immediate cease-fire in Gaza, and I hope and pray every day that we will have such a cease-fire, and with that cease-fire will come the swift and safe return of all the remaining hostages.

We also need an immediate massive influx of humanitarian aid, including water and medicine and, certainly, food.

But under the relevant rules of international humanitarian law, the provision of food can never be tied to some other act like a cease-fire. Every nation has the responsibility in conflict to make sure they are not denying food in kind of a mass punishment of the other side. And, therefore, food should not be contingent upon the cease-fire. It needs to be provided under moral code, under religious code, under humanitarian law, under international law—cease-fire or no cease-fire.

I have spoken previously about my concerns for the indiscriminate bombing that has killed tens of thousands of innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza, including women and children and the elderly. Those individuals are victims, as well, of the Netanyahu government's use of food as a weapon of war.

I oppose and condemn this strategy, and I oppose and condemn the failure of the United States to use our resources and our influence to strive in every way possible to persuade the Netanyahu government to abandon the strategy of starvation.

Following the horrific attacks of October 7, 2023, Israel had every right to go after Hamas. But how you do so does matter, and starving the civilian population of Gaza is morally reprehensible. Yet that is the strategy the Netanyahu government has employed, with only a periodic exemption, since the start of the war.

Two days after the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas, then-Israeli Defense Minister Gallant laid out this strategy, saying:

I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed.

From the start of the war through the first 15 months, until the cease-fire of January 2025, the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations have warned of the growing crisis over food in Gaza.

Before the war began, an average of 500 trucks entered Gaza each day to provide the basic food needed to feed 2.1 million people. That food was supplemented by food that people in Gaza were growing.

When Senator VAN HOLLEN and I visited the Rafah gate crossing, in January of 2024, an average of only 150 trucks per day were getting into Gaza to provide medicine, equipment, and food. While we were at that gate, a doctor came out. He had just left through the Rafah gate crossing, after treating patients for about—I believe he told me—3 weeks at the European hospital. So this was, essentially, 3 months into the Gaza war.

He said: We are already seeing major changes in patients' ability to recover because, he said, they are not getting enough nutrition. If you don't have enough food, your body doesn't have the energy to recover from a wound.

This was just months into that war.

For the following year, the number of trucks entering Gaza fell even lower, to an average of 100 trucks a day, just a fraction of the amount of food needed to provide civilians with sufficient nutrition. And the ability to grow food in Gaza essentially evaporated under the bombardment and the conditions of war.

Then there was a moment of hope that this atrocity was ending, the discussion of the possibility of a lengthy cease-fire. But even as those discussions progressed, the information was flowing about, already, of the devastating effects of malnutrition. The Netanyahu government's strategy of food deprivation had inflicted massive malnutrition and health problems on the 2 million Palestinians in Gaza.

Malnutrition is devastating on the body. Malnutrition prevents the body from recovering from bombing-induced injuries. Malnutrition increases the

risk of miscarriage. Malnutrition prevents mothers from being able to breastfeed their babies because their milk dries up. Malnutrition creates the possibility that babies will die because mothers who do not have breast milk may not be able to get clean water or formula, both being necessary for a baby to survive.

Adults, as well as babies and children, suffer from the collateral effects of bodies weakened from malnutrition. And for those who do survive, the long-term health injuries are vast. Children who endure long-term hunger and malnutrition will have lifelong health damage, including stunted growth and impaired cognitive development.

But then we had that break. Finally, after 15 months—January 2025—the parties agreed to a cease-fire, including the return of 33 hostages and a surge in humanitarian aid, including food. During that cease-fire, 600 trucks a day on average entered Gaza with food and supplies. This delivery showed that it is entirely possible to efficiently get trucks into Gaza.

When Senator VAN HOLLEN and I were at the Rafah gate in January of the previous year, 2024, we witnessed a miles-long backup of trucks parked along the road to Rafah gate. We kept hearing from the Israeli Government: We just can't process these trucks and get them into Gaza.

And they blamed the international organizations for the challenge.

But it is clear: Once the Netanyahu government made a decision to get the trucks in, they could get them in. We saw it during the cease-fire. We knew it was possible all along. We knew it was an issue of political decision making to keep those trucks out, to inflict this hunger, to inflict this starvation on the population of Palestinians.

But that food that came in, those 600 trucks, for that limited time period—a time period of 58 days—wasn't sufficient to make up for the malnutrition of the previous 15 months. It didn't erase the ravages that had been inflicted on the population. It certainly meant that enough food was getting in for kind of a daily consumption at that point, but it certainly wasn't long enough and didn't reverse the impacts of those first 15 months.

And then, the interlude ended. On March 2, the cease-fire ended, and the Netanyahu government resumed using food as a weapon of war, blockading all humanitarian aid, including food and water and medicine, from reaching civilians in Gaza.

The Netanyahu government's claims that not enough aid was delivered during the cease-fire to compensate for the blockade to come simply was false.

Repeated public reports from the United Nations, from credible news sources, and from international humanitarian aid organizations all raised the alarm, month after month, that widespread hunger, malnutrition, and starvation had been growing as aid supplies ran out.

One way to determine if there is a shortage is to look at food prices. When there is no shortage in food, prices are stable.

There is a tool that governments use and nongovernmental organizations use called the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification System—fancy words for a tool to evaluate prices and how they reflect shortages. That tool provides reports from that, and it reported that a 55-pound sack of flour, which sold for \$17 in Gaza in February 2025, in May 2025, after the blockade was reimposed, sold for \$520—not \$17 but \$520. Here at home in the United States, restaurant all-purpose flour can be found on the internet for \$18.69, a 50-pound sack, with free home delivery.

In other words, the shortage of food resulted in flour being about 27 times more expensive than it had been previously in Gaza a few months before and about 27 times more expensive than what a pound of flour costs here in the United States of America.

Those staggering prices tell you several things: first, that the humanitarian feeding operations, after the blockade was reimposed, were absolutely unable to meet the need for food. People who have their food needs met don't pay that type of price—\$520—for a sack of flour. Second, it means that food was a luxury that only the affluent in Gaza could afford, the few who had the ability to get funds from outside of Gaza; and finally, that folks who did not have that money weren't going to be able to buy flour to cook anything.

Then, on March 25, just 3 weeks into the blockade, the World Food Programme reported that due to the Netanyahu government's blockade, all 25 of their bakeries had run out of flour and fuel.

So realize: March 2, the reimposition of the blockade, and within a couple weeks, by March 25, the bakeries under the World Food Programme had run out of flour and fuel.

According to the New York Times, those bakeries had produced “enough bread to supply about 70 percent of Gaza's population,” but those bakeries were shut down weeks after the blockade was reimposed.

The IPC also reports that Gaza's 177 hot-meal kitchens, run by various aid organizations, exhausted their supplies at the beginning of April, 1 month into the reimposition of the blockade. One of these aid organizations was World Central Kitchen. World Central Kitchen is known around the world for stepping into situations and helping out where there are humanitarian disasters of all kinds and in this case, the disaster of the restriction of food by the Netanyahu government.

World Central Kitchen's emergency meal services provide an estimated 400,000 to 500,000 meals per day, but on May 7, World Central Kitchen announced:

After serving more than 130 million total meals and 26 million loaves of bread over the

past 18 months, World Central Kitchen no longer has the supplies to cook meals or bake bread in Gaza.

Within weeks of the blockade being reestablished, the markets were empty, the bakeries were shut down, and hot-meal kitchens were closed. The effect on the people in Gaza, the Palestinians of Gaza, the 2.1 million Palestinians living there: devastating. Palestinian civilians had been suffering from malnutrition from early on—as the doctor told me, 3 months after the war had begun—and it just got worse and worse over time with the deprivation of food.

UNICEF reports that the number of children suffering from acute malnutrition increased 80 percent just from February of this year to March of this year—80 percent increase. That is because children have no food.

Parents have watched helplessly as they see clothes that once fit their toddlers hang off their brittle bodies, their kids' bony ribcages and shockingly thin limbs. Increased malnutrition means it is even harder to recover from bombing-induced injuries, a higher risk of miscarriages, a higher risk of mothers not being able to breastfeed their babies. It means babies are weaker. It means adults are weaker, children are weaker.

Often, it is not malnutrition—that is, starvation—that kills someone; it is the weakened body dying from other diseases. And as noted before, the impacts on the development of the brain and the development of the body of the children can last a lifetime.

World Health Organization representative Rik Peeperkorn warned that “without enough nutritious food, clean water and access to healthcare, an entire generation will be permanently affected.”

I might add, the effects are not just those of malnutrition but also the trauma of being under constant bombardment over the course of this war, often without a home, often without electricity, often without clean water, often without access to medicine, often watching your family members die.

So these children—at a minimum, we should make sure they have food, at a minimum—at a very minimum. We probably can't reverse many of the traumatic effects that will affect their lives. Just like we know trauma affects those who go to war, these are children and civilians living through the effects of war.

The World Health Organization reports as of May 13 that almost 5 dozen children had starved to death in Gaza. If dozens of children have died from starvation, how many thousands of children more are on the verge of a devastating level of malnutrition and potential death from starvation?

The headlines tell the escalating and devastating story to the world. On March 2, the day the blockade began, the Washington Post headline read:

Israel halts all aid to Gaza as ceasefire falters.

On April 1, 1 month into the blockade, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation said:

Fear of famine looms after all Gaza bakeries run out of flour amid month-long Israeli blockade.

May 4, 2 months into the blockade, NBC News:

Starvation looms as Israel's total blockade on Gaza enters its third month.

You start seeing the word "starvation" appear in story after story, headline after headline.

If you or I could travel to Gaza right now, we would be absolutely shocked to see the bodies of the adults and the bodies of the children, but we can't travel there because it is closed to all of us. But reports from credible news organizations have been alerting us to this horrific disaster coming from using food as a weapon.

Starvation looms as . . . blockade enters its third month.

In mid-May, the New York Times had a headline:

In Private, Some Israeli Officers Admit That Gaza Is on the Brink of Starvation.

So we have heard time and again from the Netanyahu government: Don't believe international organizations—even though they are experts. Don't believe because we are telling you there is no problem.

But even the Israelis are telling the world there is a problem, that Gaza is on the brink of starvation.

Then, on May 16, President Trump, our President, "acknowledges starvation in Gaza as Israeli airstrikes kill more than 100." The President said the United States will take care of the situation in Gaza on the final day of the Gulf tour in Abu Dhabi.

Why don't we join together, Democrats and Republicans, and support President Trump in having the United States take care of the situation, address the starvation in Gaza? That is the moral thing to do. That is the right thing to do under any religious code.

We have this incredibly close relationship with the Israeli Government. We are their primary source of economic support. We have close technological support. We have a close security relationship. We share intelligence. We have many connections between members of our government and our military and our intelligence community and theirs. Why not support President Trump in using these connections to end the starvation in Gaza?

You know, starvation happens many places in the world where we don't have a close relationship with the government and it may seem very distant, but here, we are complicit because we are so closely tied and so supportive of the Israeli Government. So we have a special responsibility to address this and use every leverage at our power to end it.

Facing week after week of these horrifying headlines, world leaders pressed Prime Minister Netanyahu to end this strategy and implement a new plan.

Only after, it was reported, "Israel's closest friends," meaning U.S. leaders, warned the Israeli Government that it would lose international support because allies could not handle pictures of mass starvation did Prime Minister Netanyahu consider changing course.

On May 19—so now we are talking just about 3 weeks ago—after more than 11 weeks of an all-out blockade, Prime Minister Netanyahu announced that—and he used the word "minimal"—a "minimal" amount of food would be allowed into Gaza.

But that plan is hardly satisfactory. The new U.S.- and Israeli-backed organization, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which has taken over aid distribution, working in partnership with the Israeli military and private U.S. security contractors—they are distributing aid from just four sites—one in central Gaza near the Netzarim Corridor and three in southern Gaza in the Rafah area. Civilians have to get to one of those four sites to obtain a box of food.

If you have visited Israel, you know that Gaza is about 40 miles long from north to south. It is a thin wafer along the Mediterranean coast. How do four sites, with three of them at the very southern end of that 40 miles, possibly get food to 2.1 million people? It needed hundreds of kitchens before to get food distributed throughout the country.

So what you have is a formula that says millions of people are going to descend on these four sites to acquire a box of food. The logistics of that are impossible, and they are meant to be impossible. It is deliberately designed not to work because there is no way that four sites can handle handing out food to 2.1 million people. So it has produced chaotic scenes, with desperate crowds—crowds of men, women, and children—rushing toward boxes of aid to try to get one of those boxes and then warning shots being fired—and not just warning shots, shots that killed Palestinians. Warning shots don't kill people.

On Sunday, June 1, ABC News reported that 31 people were killed and 200 injured when the Israeli troops opened fire.

On Tuesday June 3, the BBC reported 27 civilians were killed by military gunfire for "deviating from the designated access routes" while desperately trying to collect food.

On Wednesday, June 4, less than a week ago, the BBC called Gaza "worse than hell on Earth," as the Israeli military closed its aid distribution sites for the day, warning that roads leading to the sites are "combat zones."

How do 2.1 million people get to the aid sites if the roads leading to the sites are combat zones and if each time the food distributions are open, people end up dying because they are shot?

On Sunday, June 8, the New York Times reports that about a half mile from a distribution site, shots were fired and "five people were killed and 123 were wounded."

Yesterday, morning—here we are on Tuesday—Monday, yesterday, June 9, the Associated Press reports "14 people were killed" on their way to a food distribution center.

This is not a plan designed to address the hunger, to end the malnutrition, to end the starvation. This is a plan to make it virtually impossible for the Palestinians to get food while telling the world: Don't worry, we have a distribution plan.

Everyone understands this is not a plan designed to provide food. It is a plan designed to make sure that very little food gets just to a small number of people so that the starvation continues and gets worse, the malnutrition continues and gets worse, the impact on the ravaged bodies of children and babies and women and seniors and all kinds of folks who had nothing ever to do with Hamas continue to decline.

The New York Times interviewed many Gazans who said they go to the distribution sites when they are closed despite the warnings of the Israeli military because they "are desperate for food . . . and seeking to get ahead of large crowds."

If there is only a few boxes and the site is only open for a few minutes, you are willing to wait all night because your family is starving. You want your kids to survive. You want your spouse to survive. You want to survive yourself. Of course, you are going to try to beat the crowd there, but you know it is impossible the food will be sufficient for everyone to walk away with a box of food.

Yesterday, June 9, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation announced the opening of an aid distribution center in a post on its Facebook page, only to post again the center had completed distributions less than 20 minutes later and closed.

It was open for 20 minutes. Of course, you are going to try to beat the crowds. It is only going to be open for a few minutes. There is only going to be a modest number of boxes—nothing that could possibly serve thousands of people, let alone hundreds of thousands, let alone 2.1 million people. Of course, you are going to try to go early.

And the foundation closed a second center "because of the chaos of the surrounding crowds."

Whenever you have starvation, you are going to have chaos around food distribution centers.

Early in this conflict, when I went to Rafah gate in January of 2024, the International Aid Organization said we are pushing to make the point that if there isn't sufficient food, eventually, the trucks carrying food will be raided because people will be desperate. That always happens when people are desperate—not as a particular condition of the situation in Gaza, but wherever people are starving, they are going to raid the trucks to get food.

They won't wait for a warehouse that has very little food in it to open up in

an orderly fashion because there isn't enough food for everyone, so they are going to make that effort to get that food for their families.

So this chaos—this was understood that this would be this way. It is not something that is, if you will, incidental to the plan. It is the plan—not enough food, not enough distribution centers, not open long enough—deliberate effort to make hundreds of thousands of people compete with each other for a few boxes. That is chaos.

Aid groups say the Netanyahu government system will be ineffective in reversing the widespread hunger because not nearly enough food is being allowed in. The United Nations has called the food that is being let in “a drop in the ocean.”

Food is being distributed far from where it is needed most, especially for the elderly and people with disabilities.

How are they going to travel? It is a 40-mile-long strip of land. How are they going to travel if they are disabled, if you are elderly, to compete with hundreds of thousands of people trying to get to just four distributions centers? It is impossible.

Dangerous and deadly chaos at food distribution sites is being fueled not through some clever plan by Hamas, but by the deprivation of starving civilians who hope to keep their families and their children alive. And that desperation is the direct and inevitable result of Netanyahu government's strategy of deliberately imposed starvation.

Even if civilians could make that dangerous journey safely, the amount of aid in this new system is wholly insufficient. During the cease-fire in the winter, 600 trucks a day entered Gaza. Only a few hundred trucks have been allowed into Gaza over the last week, and the World Food Programme reports only one-third of their trucks reached their destination.

A handful of World Food Programme bakeries actually did resume bread production on May 22, but the supplies were so limited that World Food Programme Country Director Antoine Renard warned:

This is just a drop in the bucket of what is needed to reverse the catastrophic levels of hunger.

We are in a race against time to prevent widespread starvation.

The World Food Programme reports that:

Over 140,000 metric tons of food—enough to feed the entire population for two months—is pre-positioned at aid corridors and ready to be brought into Gaza at scale.

Just as I saw in January of 2024—trucks piled up for miles waiting to try to get in. Here we have a World Food Programme reporting that now, again, food is ready to move in, but the Netanyahu government is blocking them.

On June 8, 2 days ago, Janti Soeripto, the CEO of Save the Children told Face the Nation:

When we had the pause in fighting from January 'til March, as you will recall, we got

trucks and trucks of supplies in at scale, [and] we were able to deliver, [and] we treated children with malnutrition, [and] we did vaccinations, [and] we did medical care, [and] hospitals were operating . . .

So this current new mechanism doesn't seem to work. The failings seem to play out exactly the way that we warned against. It is also the militarization of aid—

I am continuing this long quote—

It is the militarization of aid—if you put men with guns near a distribution point and you ask a desperate, desperate, starving population to come and walk for miles to get boxes of food . . . you're going to create crowd control issues and increased risk of harm to an already incredibly desperate population.

That is the end of the quote. And that is exactly what we are seeing happen.

As CNN reported yesterday, June 9:

Aid to Gaza hangs by a thread amid looting and starvation.

Let's be clear: That trickle of aid is not about Prime Minister Netanyahu ending food deprivation as a weapon of war. It is continuing food deprivation as a weapon of war while deflecting just enough international pressure to keep himself in power.

Jonathan Whittall, lead of the U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Palestinian Territories, said May 28:

The newly developed distribution scheme is more than just the control of aid. It is engineered scarcity. The new distribution model cannot possibly meet Gaza's needs.

The same day, Riyadh Mansour, the Palestinian Authority's representative to United Nations, told the Security Council:

Children are dying of starvation. The images of mothers embracing their motionless bodies, caressing their hair, talking to them, apologizing to them—it's unbearable.

And on May 30, the New York Times reporting led with the headline:

In Emaciated Children, Gaza's Hunger Is Laid Bare.

Every moral and religious code says this is wrong—wrong to withhold food, wrong to induce starvation. And under international law, it is a crime.

Rule 53 of Customary Humanitarian Law states:

The use of starvation of the civilian population as a method of warfare is prohibited.

It isn't prohibited because it was some bureaucratic decision. It is prohibited because it is completely wrong under every religious and moral code—people who had no role—no role—being punished collectively; being punished the way that kills children, kills babies, kills adults.

Other countries are speaking out in opposition to Netanyahu's government's use of food as a weapon.

On May 19, the Governments of the United Kingdom and France and Canada issued a joint statement saying that the amount of food the Netanyahu government is allowing into Gaza is “wholly inadequate.”

Even Israel's leaders from across the political spectrum are speaking out that this is wrong.

Amit Halevi, from Prime Minister Netanyahu's Likud party, said:

This war is a deception [and it] is not succeeding in destroying Hamas.

Yair Golan, the leader of Israel's Democrats party, said in a radio interview:

Israel is on the way to becoming a pariah state, like South Africa was, if we don't return to acting like a sane country. A sane country [that] does not fight against civilians.

Even former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert wrote in the newspaper on May 27:

What we are doing in Gaza now is . . . indiscriminate, limitless, cruel and criminal killing of civilians.

He continued.

. . . Yes, Israel is committing war crimes.

Mr. President and colleagues, this use of food as a weapon of war should never have happened, and it has to end. We know that the United States has such a close relationship with Israel that we can apply multiple levels to push the Netanyahu government to end it.

We have a moral responsibility that is heightened by our close relationship between our two nations. We should have acted long ago to end this strategy—the strategy of malnutrition and starvation. But that provides no excuse for not acting now.

I pressed the Biden administration to act, and I will press the Trump administration to act.

There was that moment of hope in December when Trump said we will address this situation. Colleagues, I have witnessed the horror of starvation in multiple countries around the world.

I believe that if the Netanyahu government would let us as Senators go and witness firsthand, a bipartisan delegation going to Gaza, we would come back and speak from the depths of our hearts, the ferocity of our understanding of right and wrong, that we have to press for this strategy of starvation to end. But we are not allowed in, so we have to depend on the press reports that have come from international organizations who have people on the ground in Gaza, from news reporting, from competent international sources.

We have a profound responsibility to pressure the Netanyahu government to end its strategy of starvation through food deprivation and deliver a massive influx of aid immediately.

It is tempting to look away. There is a lot more going on in the world. But it is wrong to look away. We must carry that responsibility on our consciousness. We must speak and act forcefully to end the Netanyahu government's strategy of deliberately starving 2 million men, women, and children in Gaza.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-0P. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 23-72 of September 15, 2023.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0P

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C) AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Canada.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 23-72; Date: September 15, 2023; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On September 15, 2023, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 23-72 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of munitions and other systems to be integrated into MQ-9Bs purchased through Direct Commercial Sales, to include: twelve (12) AN/APY-8 Lynx Synthetic Aperture radars; two hundred nineteen (219) AGM-114R2 Hellfire II missiles; eighteen (18) KMU-572 tail kits for the GBU-38 Joint Direct-Attack Munition (JDAM) and GBU-54 Laser JDAM (LJDAM); twelve (12)

Mk82 500-lb General Purpose (GP) bombs; and six (6) Mk82 Filled Inert bombs. Also included were Due Regard Radars; SAGE 750 and SNC 4500 Electronic Surveillance Measures Systems; AN/ARC-210 radios; Compact Multi-Band Data Link (CMDL); KY-100M Narrowband/Wideband Terminals; KOR-24A Small Tactical Terminals; High-Bandwidth Compact Telemetry Modules (HCTM); KIV-77 cryptographic appliques and other Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; AN/PYQ-10C Simple Key Loaders (SKL); Common Munitions Built-In-Test/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); FMU-139 Joint Programmable Fuses (JPF); M299 Hellfire launchers and training missiles; DSU-38 Precision Laser Guidance Sets; classified publications and technical documentation; munitions support and support equipment; secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; unclassified software delivery and support; testing and integration support and equipment; maps and charts; personnel training and training equipment; transportation support; warranties; studies and surveys; Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$313.4 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$75.2 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: sixteen (16) Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) KMU-572 tail kits for GBU-38 or Laser JDAM GBU-54; eighteen (18) inert filled Mk-82 bombs; four (4) AN/APY-8 Lynx synthetic aperture radars; and eight (8) Hellfire Captive Air Training Missiles. The following non-MDE items will also be included: M34 Hellfire training missiles; Hellfire support equipment; AN/ALQ-230 Radar Warning Receiver/Electronic Support Measures (RWR/ESM) system; Computer Program Identification Numbers (CPIN); minor and major modifications and kits; aircraft and engine support equipment; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$149 million. The estimated MDE value will increase by \$27 million. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$122 million to a revised \$360.2 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$149 million to a revised \$462.4 million. MDE constitutes \$101.2 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided because the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the military capability of Canada, a NATO Ally that is an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress, and a contributor to military, peacekeeping, and humanitarian operations around the world.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 10, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 25-0T. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 15-62 of November 19, 2015.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-0T

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 15-62. Date: November 19, 2015, Military Department: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On November 19, 2015, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 15-62 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of three (3) RQ-4 Block 30 (I) Global Hawk Remotely Piloted Aircraft with Integrated Sensor Suite (EISS); eight (8) Kearfott Inertial Navigation System/Global Positioning System (INS/GPS) units (2 per aircraft with 2 spares); and eight (8) LN-251 INS/GPS units (2 per aircraft with 2 spares). Also included were operational-level sensor and aircraft test equipment, ground support equipment, operational flight test support, communications equipment, spare and repair parts, personnel training, publications and technical data, U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support. The total estimated case value was \$1.2 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$689 million of this total.

On April 4, 2016, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 0J-16 of the inclusion of two Ground Control Elements (GCE). The GCEs were not enumerated as MDE in the original notification of the Global Hawk RPA system. The total cost of the new MDE items was \$31 million, increasing the total estimated MDE value to \$720 million. The total estimated case value remained \$1.2 billion.

On April 4, 2022, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 0C-22 of the inclusion of the following additional MDE items: five (5) Kearfott INS/GPS; and two (2) LN-251 INS/GPS. Also included was hardware and software integration support. The total estimated MDE value remained \$720 million. The total estimated case value remained \$1.2 billion.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of the following non-MDE items: Contractor Logistics Support (CLS) services; the Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS); classified and unclassified software delivery and support; maps, publications, and technical documentation; transportation support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total value of the new items is \$1.61 billion. The estimated non-MDE value will increase by \$1.61 billion to \$2.09 billion. The estimated MDE value will remain at \$720 million. The total case value will increase by \$1.61 billion, resulting in a revised estimated total case value of \$2.81 billion.

(iv) Significance: This proposed sale will significantly enhance Japan's intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities and help ensure Japan is able to continue to monitor and deter regional threats.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to other items reported here.

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 6, 2025.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 299, confirmation of the nomination of David Fotouhi to be Deputy Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted no. Mr. Fotouhi has demonstrated an alarming record as a partner in the D.C. law firm Gibson, Dunn, and Crutcher LLP, where he has represented an industry challenge to the Biden ban on asbestos, challenged EPA's water quality standards related to legacy PCB contamination, represented tire companies that released a chemical known to kill salmon, and represented International Paper in lawsuits accusing the firm of contamination from PFASs. During the first Trump administration, he served as the EPA's deputy general counsel and acting general counsel. In these roles, he played a central part in revising the Waters of the U.S. rule that stripped Federal protections from wetlands and streams, and also led the EPA's effort to oppose bonding requirements on mining companies. Because of this poor environmental record, I would have voted no on his confirmation.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was absent on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, for

rollcall vote no. 299. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 49, David Fotouhi, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from rollcall vote No. 297, confirmation of Brett Shumate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General. Had I been present for the vote I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent from rollcall vote No. 298, the motion to invoke cloture on David Fotouhi to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Had I been present for the vote I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent from rollcall vote No. 299, confirmation of David Fotouhi to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Had I been present for the vote I would have voted nay.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, on June 9, 2025, the Senate voted on rollcall vote No. 297, the confirmation of the nomination of Brett Shumate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General. Due to travel delays, I missed this vote. However, I oppose confirming this nominee, and I would have voted nay if I were present.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I was absent for one rollcall vote on June 9, 2025.

On June 9, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the Nomination of Brett Shumate, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, rollcall vote No. 297.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 293, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 144, James O'Neill to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 294, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 120, John Andrew Eisenberg to be an Assistant Attorney General.

I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 295, confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 120, John Andrew Eisenberg to be an Assistant Attorney General.

I was absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 296, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 111, Brett Shumate to be an Assistant Attorney General.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JIM AND RACHEL CHAMBERS

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, on June 18, 2025, Jim and Rachel Chambers commence their 50th year of marriage.

Jim and Rachel met at Cedarville College, both in preparation for ministry. Little did they know, this common calling would lead them to the joint venture of a lifetime.

After getting married in 1976, the Chambers began their journey together as many newlyweds do: humble beginnings, a can-do attitude, and constant reliance on God and each other. This has characterized their lives ever since. They built their own home from the ground up, raised a family in it, followed God's calling to serve the people of Zambia, Africa, as missionaries, and have now returned home to where they started together.

No matter the location, Jim and Rachel's home has exemplified love and hospitality. They both come from humble circumstances, surrounded by loving parents who pinched every penny and worked whatever job was necessary to give them opportunity. This sacrificial generosity has been emulated by Jim and Rachel ever since. They have welcomed foster children, provided shelter to widows and orphans, given respite to fellow missionaries and pastors, and always been available when family came knocking. From tea parties and pillow forts for their kids and grandkids to giving a glimmer of hope to the hopeless, their home has always been full of heart.

Family has never been in short supply for the Chambers. Jim comes from a family of 12 children, Rachel from a family of four. They have been blessed with six children—Nathan, Anne, Megan, Micah, Mary, and Rebecca—five children and one grandchild by marriage—Nathan, Michelle, David, Jake, Brandon, and Jake—19 grandchildren—Abigail, Caleb, Joanna, Hannah, Andrew, Karis, Adrianna, Timothy, Ethan, Kaeden, Jamin, Selah, Elisabeth, Julia, Levi, Asher, Leo, Claire, and Sophia—and a great-grandchild—Heinrich. From Ohio to Zambia, Indiana, Honduras, Pennsylvania, Florida, and right here in the Halls of Congress, the fingerprints of their legacy are everywhere.

Isaiah 40:31 says, "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

June 18 starts Jim and Rachel's 50th year of waiting on the Lord together, soaring together, running together, and relying on the strength that never fails together.

Congratulations on 50 years and many more to come.●

RECOGNIZING NORTHWOOD FOODS

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Northwood Foods as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1998, Brian Burkard founded Northwood Foods in Northwood, IA, with a vision to provide high-quality, custom pork processing services. The company began with a focus on boning and fabrication, quickly gaining traction in the industry. Within just 2 years, it expanded to serve clients not only across the United States but internationally. The rapid growth prompted major facility expansions in 2001 and 2006 to support increased demand for its products and services.

Today, Northwood Foods operates a 40,000-square-foot facility and employs more than 180 community employees. Renowned for its quality products and reliable service, the company now processes more than 600,000 pounds of fresh pork daily. Northwood Foods then ships the pork products directly to many of the Nation's premier pork processors for further production and distribution. Northwood Foods offers a wide range of pork processing services, including both standardized and custom-cut products tailored to client needs. Its versatile capabilities allow for pork ham boning, loin boning, rib cutting, and specialty fabrication. The company produces a broad selection of cuts, from semi-boneless and skinless shanks to various bone-in and boneless options. With a strong emphasis on food safety, consistency, and customer service, Northwood Foods upholds rigorous quality control standards and operates a production schedule 5 days a week to meet domestic and international demand.

In addition to its industry leadership, Northwood Foods is deeply committed to giving back to the Northwood community and the surrounding area. As a proud Purple Ribbon Partner of the Worth County Fair, the company plays a vital role in supporting this annual event. Their sponsorship helps ensure the fair remains a vibrant celebration of the area's farming heritage and community spirit. Northwood Foods is also a member of the Northwood Chamber of Commerce and supports national industry organizations, including the U.S. Meat Export Federation and the American Association of Meat Processors. In February, Northwood Foods celebrated its 27th anniversary.

I want to congratulate Brian Burkard and the entire team at Northwood Foods for their dedication and continued leadership in the pork processing industry, alongside their long-standing commitment to quality, innovation, and community support. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

RECOGNIZING THE DENISON MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

• Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, today I would like to offer my congratulations to the Denison Men's Swimming and Diving Team on capturing their sixth National Championship. This incredible accomplishment reflects the tradition of excellence that has become synonymous with the Denison swim program. Led by Coach Gregg Parini, a pillar of Denison's athletic community for decades, the team upholds a standard of sportsmanship and discipline that sets them apart on the national stage. Their success this season was defined not only by dominant performances and individual accolades, but also by a strong sense of camaraderie and accountability. This championship adds to a rich legacy and points toward even greater accomplishments in the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING THE DENISON MEN'S TENNIS TEAM

• Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, today I would like to congratulate the Denison Men's Tennis Team on winning their first-ever National Championship. This remarkable achievement represents a historic milestone for the program and reflects the dedication, hard work, and determination of the players, coaches, and staff. Throughout the season, the team exemplified the values of perseverance, sportsmanship, and unity—qualities that reflect the broader Denison community. Their journey to the national title was not only a display of athletic excellence, but also a testament to the culture of integrity and resilience that has been built within the program over many years. I am proud to recognize this achievement and look forward to seeing what the future holds for this outstanding team.●

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the legacy and mission of the New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, as they celebrate 100 years of fellowship and service to the greater Pontiac community.

The New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church was founded in Pontiac, MI, in 1925. Established with the mission of empowering its members and the wider community, since its earliest days, it has served as a beacon, bringing together its congregants, local leaders, and other key community stakeholders to strengthen the spiritual fabric and build the resilience of Pontiac. A century later, its mark on the greater Pontiac area is indelible and most acutely felt in the countless residents whose lives have been lifted up by its endeavors.

In 1992, the church opened the New Bethel Outreach Shelter, providing a safe, welcoming environment to vul-

nerable women and children. Since its opening, the shelter has stood as a barrier against housing insecurity for thousands in the Pontiac area. The church has also worked to combat food insecurity, establishing a food pantry in 1985 that serves low-income families within the greater Pontiac area. And this year, the church intends to continue its social ministry by opening a community garden for the benefit of its congregation and the wider public.

New Bethel's own Rev. Keyon Payton established the Institute for Trauma and Economic Justice, a nonprofit which aims "to create a supply and demand economy of positive experiences" by combating cycles of trauma in the underserved communities. His example has since inspired other churches across Michigan to institute similar initiatives.

While serving the Pontiac community, New Bethel has also continued its spiritual mission to spread the gospel across generations and has focused on bringing young people of faith into its congregation. Every summer, the church's Camp Hosanna provides a welcoming space for elementary school-aged children to learn and grow, offering a forum where they can pursue their spiritual growth and academic excellence in tandem. New Bethel is also investing in Pontiac's future through the creation of an education scholarship fund. These efforts are making education more accessible to future generations, which is the key to our community's enduring prosperity.

The impact of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church on the Pontiac community and Oakland County as a whole is immeasurable and readily apparent in the lives of those who have benefited from both the fellowship of its congregation and the breadth of its charitable works. Throughout its century-long history, the leadership and congregation of New Bethel have demonstrated their faith through compassion, stewardship, and grace which has strengthened the fabric of our community. I ask you to join me in recognizing the New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church as they celebrate their centennial anniversary.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION
OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY
THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DE-
CLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER
13405 OF JUNE 16, 2006, WITH RE-
SPECT TO BELARUS—PM 31

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202 (d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622 (d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Belarus that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14038 of August 9, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2025.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons, and the Belarusian regime's harmful activities and long-standing abuses, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 9, 2025.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:27 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 bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 248. An act to require Amtrak to install baby changing tables in bathrooms on passenger rail cars.

H.R. 252. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to prohibit certain contracts for port operations and management, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1182. An act to require the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate regulations relating to the approval of foreign manufacturers of cylinders, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1373. An act to require certain meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority to be transparent and open to the public, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1948. An act to authorize the International Boundary and Water Commission to accept funds for activities relating to wastewater treatment and flood control works, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2035. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to ensure that all cargoes procured, furnished, or financed by the Department of Transportation are transported on privately-owned commercial vessels of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2351. An act to direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to update the policy of the Coast Guard regarding the use of medication to treat drug overdose, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2390. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to clarify that port infrastructure development program funds may be used to replace Chinese port crane hardware or software, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 248. An act to require Amtrak to install baby changing tables in bathrooms on passenger rail cars; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 252. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to prohibit certain contracts for port operations and management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1182. An act to require the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate regulations relating to the approval of foreign manufacturers of cylinders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1373. An act to require certain meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority to be transparent and open to the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1948. An act to authorize the International Boundary and Water Commission to accept funds for activities relating to wastewater treatment and flood control works, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 2035. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to ensure that all cargoes procured, furnished, or financed by the Department of Transportation are transported on privately-owned commercial vessels of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2351. An act to direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to update the policy of the Coast Guard regarding the use of medication to treat drug overdose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 2390. An act to amend title 46, United States Code, to clarify that port infrastructure development program funds may be used to replace Chinese port crane hardware or software, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT
RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 10, 2025, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill and joint resolutions:

S. 160. An act to amend the Wildfire Suppression Aircraft Transfer Act of 1996 to reauthorize the sale by the Department of Defense of aircraft and parts for wildfire suppression purposes, and for other purposes.

S.J. Res. 13. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency of the Department of the Treasury relating to the review of applications under the Bank Merger Act.

S.J. Res. 31. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act".

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of June 10, 2025, the following reports of committees were submitted on June 10, 2025:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Special Report entitled "Legislative Activities Report of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the United States Senate During the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress" (Rept. No. 119-29).

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. COTTON:

S. 2000. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the penalty for rioting; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. BANKS):

S. 2001. A bill to subject aliens convicted of certain crimes to expedited removal from the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 2002. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax on remittance transfers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 2003. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit certain excess plan assets to be used for benefits for active employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 2004. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on best practices for screening and treatment of congenital syphilis under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2005. A bill to improve the Institutional Development Award program of the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KIM, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2006. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination in

the Armed Forces on the basis of gender identity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 2007. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the private business use requirements for bonds issued for lead service line replacement projects; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 2008. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Medicaid and CHIP funding for gender transition procedures; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2009. A bill to award posthumously a congressional gold medal to Charles B. Rangel, an American trailblazer and public servant, in recognition of his remarkable life and career in which he elevated the voices and interests of underserved communities, bolstered the reputation of the United States on the global stage, and cofounded the Congressional Black Caucus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 2010. A bill to require online service providers to disclose their acceptable use policies, provide users with written notice before the termination of a user's account, and publish an annual report detailing actions taken to enforce their acceptable use policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 2011. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure coverage of mental and behavioral health services furnished through telehealth; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2012. A bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2013. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for increases in the minimum wage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORENO, and Mr. GALLEGOS):

S. 2014. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance to agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local government for the purpose of Federal financial assistance determinations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 2015. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to encourage and expand the use of prescribed fire on land managed by the Department of the Interior or the Forest Service, with an emphasis on units of the National Forest System in the western and southeastern United States, to acknowledge and support the long-standing use of cultural burning by Indian Tribes and Indigenous practitioners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 2016. A bill to exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for

certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2017. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for S corporation reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2018. A bill to modify certain limitations and exclusions regarding defense articles and requirements regarding security assistance and sales with respect to the Republic of Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 2019. A bill to establish a Task Force for Recognizing and Averting Payment Scams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 267. A resolution honoring the deep and enduring friendship between the Kingdom of Denmark and the United States on the occasion of Danish Constitution Day celebrations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 268. A resolution condemning James B. Comey, former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for inciting violence against President Donald J. Trump; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCHMITT, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 269. A resolution recognizing the 250th birthday of the United States Army; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JUSTICE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KING, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 270. A resolution designating June 6, 2025, as National Naloxone Awareness Day; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 44

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 44, a bill to direct the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the United States Capitol.

S. 219

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 219, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot

program to improve the ability of veterans to access medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community by providing veterans the ability to choose health care providers.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 475

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 475, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure appropriate access to non-opioid pain management drugs under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) 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 Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) 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. 599

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, and for other purposes.

S. 736

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 736, a bill to increase the penalty for prohibited provision of a phone in a correctional facility, and for other purposes.

S. 911

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 911, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include certain retired law enforcement officers in the public safety officers' death benefits program.

S. 985

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 985, a bill to prohibit entities

integral to the national interests of the United States from participating in any foreign sustainability due diligence regulation, including the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive of the European Union, and for other purposes.

S. 1009

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1009, a bill to establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Baltic countries, and for other purposes.

S. 1017

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1017, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify a provision relating to criminal penalties for damaging or destroying pipeline facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1162

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1162, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and certain other weapons from the definition of firearms for purposes of the National Firearms Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to require group health plans and health insurance issuers offering group or individual health insurance coverage to permit enrollees to obtain a 365-day supply of contraceptives.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1375, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the exception for de minimis payments by third party settlement organizations with respect to returns relating to payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, as in effect prior to the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to ensure consumers have access to data relating to their motor vehicles, critical repair information, and tools, and to provide them choices for the maintenance, service, and repair of their motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 1515

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from North Da-

kota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1696

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1696, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration from issuing a rule or promulgating a regulation requiring certain commercial motor vehicles to be equipped with speed limiting devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1744

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1744, a bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to include Taiwan among the list of recipient countries with respect to which shorter certification and reporting periods apply and to expedite licensing for allies transferring military equipment to Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 1809

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1809, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking or transmitting video of defense information, and for other purposes.

S. 1821

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1821, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax on income from litigation which is received by third-party entities that provided financing for such litigation.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1829, a bill to combat the sexual exploitation of children by supporting victims and promoting accountability and transparency by the tech industry.

S. 1845

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1845, a bill to amend the public service loan forgiveness program under the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure qualifying public service excludes employment with organizations that engage in activities that have a substantial illegal purpose.

S. 1858

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1858, a bill to require that national cemeteries be open to visitors on legal public holidays.

S. 1894

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr.

KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1894, a bill to amend MAP-21 to modify provisions relating to a categorical exclusion for projects of limited Federal assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1912

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1912, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand access to the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include certain veterans seeking mental health or substance-use services, and for other purposes.

S. 1948

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reinstate the authority of the Secretary of Education to make Federal Direct Stafford Loans to graduate and professional students.

S. 1952

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1952, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal prohibition on the public release of the name of a Federal law enforcement officer with the intent to obstruct a criminal investigation or immigration enforcement operation.

S.J. RES. 53

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 53, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Qatar of certain defense articles and services.

S.J. RES. 54

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services.

S.J. RES. 56

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 56, a joint resolution designating the month of June as "Life Month".

S. RES. 231

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 231, a resolution recognizing the roles and contributions of the teachers of the United States in building and enhancing the civic, cultural, and economic well-being of the United States.

S. RES. 236

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

WYDEN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 236, a resolution calling for the return of abducted Ukrainian children before finalizing any peace agreement to end the war against Ukraine.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2009. A bill to award posthumously a congressional gold medal to Charles B. Rangel, an American trailblazer and public servant, in recognition of his remarkable life and career in which he elevated the voices and interests of underserved communities, bolstered the reputation of the United States on the global stage, and cofounded the Congressional Black Caucus; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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:

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 “Charles B. Rangel Congressional Gold Medal Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Charles Bernard Rangel, born on June 11, 1930, in Harlem, New York City, was raised largely by his mother Blanche Mary Wharton Rangel and grandfather Charles Wharton alongside his older brother Ralph, Jr., and younger sister Frances.

(2) After dropping out of high school at age 16, Rangel enlisted in the United States Army and served as an artillery operations specialist in the all-Black 503rd Field Artillery Battalion in the 2nd Infantry Division from 1948 to 1952 during the Korean War.

(3) During the Battle of Kunu-ri near the Yalu River on the border of China and North Korea, Rangel and his fellow soldiers were encircled by Chinese military forces and were subsequently ordered to withdraw by their command.

(4) Upon receiving the withdrawal order, then-Private First Class Rangel was injured by shrapnel from a barrage of Chinese shells, which struck his back and triggered disarray amongst his comrades.

(5) Despite his serious injuries, rank, and an encircled position behind enemy lines, in the middle of the night Rangel led his unit of an estimated 40 men through a mountain pass to safety.

(6) For his bravery and sacrifice, Rangel was bestowed the Bronze Star with Valor and Purple Heart, as well as receiving overwhelming admiration, appreciation and lasting respect from his comrades. When asked to reflect on the harrowing episode, Rangel often noted that he had “not had a bad day since”, a phrase that he adopted as the title of his autobiography.

(7) Upon his honorable discharge from the Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant, Rangel returned to Harlem, finished high school, and used his benefits under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (commonly known as the “G.I. Bill”; 58 Stat. 284, chapter 268) to obtain a Bachelor of Science from New York University where he made the Dean's List. He subsequently received a full scholarship

to attend St. John's University School of Law, from which he graduated in 1960.

(8) After a tenure in private practice, Rangel was appointed Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. After leaving the role, Rangel served as Associate Counsel to the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, a law clerk to Judge James L. Watson on the United States Court of International Trade, and as General Counsel to the National Advisory Commission on Selective Service.

(9) The positions he took early in his career ensured that Rangel would always remain in close proximity to his roots in Harlem, where he met his wife Alma Carter, a social worker, in the mid-1950s, at the Savoy Ballroom. Their loving marriage stretched more than 60 years and included 2 children, Steven and Alicia, daughter-in-law Adelina, son-in-law Howard, and 3 grandsons, Howard R. Haughton, Joshua R. Haughton, and Charles R. Haughton.

(10) Rangel's early political marks can be found on matters and missions of profound significance. He participated in the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March, was elected to replace his mentor Percy Sutton in the New York State Assembly, and was one of the pillars in New York's generational political powerhouse, “The Gang of Four”, which included New York State Senator Basil Paterson, Manhattan Borough President and Civil Rights Leader Percy Sutton, and David Dinkins, the first black mayor of New York City.

(11) Following his election to the House of Representatives in 1970, Rangel quickly rose through the ranks of the Congressional Democrats and was ultimately reelected 23 times.

(12) Shortly after his induction to the House in early 1971, Rangel, along with 12 other Black Members of Congress founded the Congressional Black Caucus. He was elected by his colleagues to lead the Caucus as Chairman in 1974.

(13) Rangel energized the national discussion around drug trafficking, later becoming Chairman of the Select Committee on Narcotics, and was a prominent contributor to the work of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on the Watergate Scandal.

(14) Due to his growing influence, Rangel was granted a position on the coveted Ways and Means Committee and was elevated to serve as Deputy Majority Whip under Speaker Tip O'Neill.

(15) Rangel used his newfound power in Congress to secure Federal support for programs that benefitted his congressional district and other constituencies.

(16) He authored and supported legislation and programs that uplifted vulnerable populations like Child Care and Development Block Grants, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Empowerment Zones, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

(17) He introduced measures to ensure that human rights and democratic principles were reflected in international business activity, including an amendment rescinding tax credits for companies doing business in apartheid South Africa.

(18) To ensure that the diplomatic corps reflected the diversity of the United States, Rangel established the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship Program in partnership with Howard University, which now has more than 200 alumni serving in posts around the world.

(19) Rangel was also the primary force behind the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), the first Act to

provide incentives for United States trade with sub-Saharan Africa, which he authored and advanced despite significant political headwinds. He subsequently worked with President George W. Bush, to pass the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 (19 U.S.C. 3701 note), which synergized and expanded on his earlier efforts that instituted the trade program.

(20) Rangel similarly forged a sequence of trade agreements and programs pertaining to Latin America and the Caribbean, including trade preferences for countries in the Caribbean under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (19 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), as expanded by the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (19 U.S.C. 2701 note) and the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act of 2008 (19 U.S.C. 2701 note), and the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement.

(21) Rangel was a lifelong champion for veterans, particularly service members who historically faced discrimination both in uniform and upon returning home. As a decorated Korean War veteran himself, Rangel often leaned on his personal experience and legislative authority to spotlight the needs of underserved veterans and ensure they received the benefits, respect, and opportunities they earned through their service. Rangel spearheaded legislation to close systemic gaps in Federal veterans programs, establish the Office of Minority Veterans, expand access to services of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and strengthen the G.I. Bill, veterans housing programs, and small business opportunities.

(22) As one of the few Korean War veterans serving in Congress, Rangel sponsored and secured enactment of legislation establishing National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day on July 27th in the section 127 of title 36, United States Code, to honor his fellow veterans. He also deepened United States-Korea relations through founding the Congressional Caucus on Korea, facilitating passage of the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement, and passing resolutions that strengthen the bilateral strategic alliance, promote peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, and support Korean American family reunification efforts.

(23) As Dean of the New York Congressional Delegation, he led his colleagues in the wake of the 9/11 attacks to pass measures that provided funding to recovery efforts and relief to families that were impacted, such as the extension of unemployment benefits and provided health benefits to 9/11 first responders and survivors.

(24) In 2007, Rangel became Chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. In that role, he was instrumental in the development and passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119), which has provided coverage to an estimated 20,000,000 uninsured or underinsured people of the United States. He also ensured that United States territories like Puerto Rico were not left out of this landmark law.

(25) Rangel's exceptional life was heavily marked by his extraordinary accomplishments in the military, various government roles, and elected office, which led to economic and social advancements for his fellow servicemembers, constituents of his district, underserved communities across the country, and people around the globe.

(26) During his congressional career, Rangel crafted and passed numerous measures of significance, including several that remain foundational to our military, diplomatic corps, healthcare system, international trade relationships, and tax code.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) **PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.**—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to Charles B. Rangel, in recognition of his contribution to the United States and his achievements of paving the way for equality and for people of all backgrounds, regardless of demographic or economic class.

(b) **DESIGN AND STRIKING.**—For purposes of the presentation described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary. The design shall bear an image of, and inscription of the name of, Charles B. Rangel.

(c) **DISPOSITION OF MEDAL.**—Following the presentation described in subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the children of Charles B. Rangel, Steven Rangel and Alicia Rangel.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) **NATIONAL MEDALS.**—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) **NUMISMATIC ITEMS.**—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) **AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.**—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

By Ms. COLLINS (For herself, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2012. A bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague, the senior Senator from Illinois and ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator DURBIN, to introduce the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2025. This bill would update and reauthorize Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs, which have provided lifesaving services and housing for America's homeless youth for nearly half a century.

Homelessness is affecting youth in truly staggering numbers. According to the National Network for Youth, an estimated 4.2 million young people experience homelessness at some point each

year. Some of these youth may be away from home for a few nights, while others have been living on the streets for years. No area of this country is immune from the scourge of homelessness, as it affects rural and urban communities alike.

Tragically, runaway and homeless youth are at high risk of victimization, abuse, criminal activity, and even death. This population is at greater risk of suicide, unintended pregnancy, and substance abuse. Many are unable to continue with school and are more likely to enter our juvenile criminal justice system. The reality is that available data likely underestimate the scale and consequences of this problem.

I have met with teachers, social workers, and others from Maine who work directly with young people experiencing homelessness. We talked about the pressure that student homelessness places on teachers, school administrators and their already strapped resources, and, most important, the homeless students themselves. I have also visited New Beginnings in Lewiston, where I saw firsthand how Runaway and Homeless Youth Act resources are providing essential safety nets for young people in need. The staff at New Beginnings helps young people with case management, provides referrals to State and local agencies, assists with housing needs and access to shelter, and connects individuals to local educational and employment programs.

Several years ago, as the chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, I held a hearing that featured testimony from Brittany Dixon, a former homeless youth from Auburn, ME, who gave powerful testimony on her personal experience with homelessness. After becoming homeless, Brittany was connected with New Beginnings. In her testimony, she said, “New Beginnings provided many resources I could use to succeed, including assistance with college applications and financial aid . . . New Beginnings has helped me to develop critical life skills and to become self-sufficient.” “Programs that support homeless youth are important to so many young people like me,” she added. “It gives young people the chance to have a safe place to stay while they get their footing and figure out what they want to do in their lives.”

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs helped make Brittany's success story possible. Sadly, however, there are still many homeless youth who do not have the support they need. We must build on our past efforts because homeless youth should have the same opportunities to succeed as their peers.

The three existing Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs—the Basic Center Program, the Street Outreach Program, and the Transitional Living Program—help community-

based organizations reach young people when they need support the most. These programs help runaway and homeless youth avoid the juvenile justice system, and early intervention can help them escape victimization and trafficking.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act would reauthorize and strengthen these programs that help homeless youth meet their immediate needs, and it would help secure long-term residential services for those who cannot be safely reunited with their families. Our legislation would also create a new program—the Prevention Services Program—designed to help prevent youth from running away and becoming homeless in the first instance. Moreover, our bill supports wrap-around services for victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Mr. President, the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act will support those young people who run away, are forced out of their homes, or are disconnected from their families. A caring and safe place to sleep, eat, grow, study, and develop is critical for all young people. The programs reauthorized and modernized through this legislation help extend those basic services to the most vulnerable youth in our communities.

I thank Senator DURBIN for his partnership on this bill and urge my colleagues to support it.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**SENATE RESOLUTION 267—HONORING THE DEEP AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK AND THE UNITED STATES ON THE OCCASION OF DANISH CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATIONS**

Mr. WELCH (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 267

Whereas Denmark and the United States have enjoyed peaceful, mutually beneficial relations since establishing diplomatic relations in 1801;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 people in the United States claim Danish ancestry;

Whereas Denmark has bravely stood with the United States in nearly every conflict of the last 3 decades, sending troops and forces to fight alongside United States Armed Forces in the 1991 Gulf War, the Balkans conflicts, and in Afghanistan, while dedicating military forces to stabilization and peacekeeping missions in Africa, the Middle East, and around the world;

Whereas Denmark and the United States are bound by a treaty of mutual defense and enjoy intense cooperation on intelligence-sharing, weapons sales, military exercises, and joint basing;

Whereas Denmark is a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)—the backbone of peace and prosperity in North America and Europe for more than 75 years;

Whereas Denmark spends more on national defense than the target objective required by NATO for defense spending as a percentage of gross domestic product;

Whereas Denmark is the seventh largest source of foreign direct investment in the United States, contributing to the creation of approximately 200,000 jobs; and

Whereas Denmark was 1 of 8 founding partner-nations of the multinational F-35 Lightning II program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges Danish Constitution Day in a spirit of friendship and respect toward the people of Denmark;

(2) recognizes the deep commitment of the Danish people and government to the friendship and cooperation between Denmark and the United States;

(3) expresses gratitude for the sacrifices borne in battle by Danish heroes in securing the shared interests of Denmark and the United States; and

(4) looks toward many more decades of shared prosperity, peace, cooperation, and friendship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 268—CONDEMNING JAMES B. COMEY, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, FOR INCITING VIOLENCE AGAINST PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 268

Whereas James B. Comey, former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (in this preamble, referred to as the “FBI”), on May 15, 2025, posted an image on Instagram depicting the numbers “86 47” with the cryptic caption “cool shell formation”;

Whereas this message promotes violence against the sitting President of the United States, Donald J. Trump;

Whereas Mr. Comey posted this to his public Instagram account during President Trump’s first overseas trip to the Middle East, jeopardizing his security and invigorating the enemies of the United States abroad;

Whereas it is indefensible and inexcusable to issue a call for violence against the President of the United States;

Whereas Mr. Comey exhibits a clear desire to undermine President Trump;

Whereas there have been multiple assassination attempts against President Trump;

Whereas former public officials owe a special duty of care not to use their past positions and influence accrued through public service to threaten the lives of their political opponents; and

Whereas Congress must hold Mr. Comey accountable for his violations of the public trust and preserve the rule of law to protect our institutions from those that seek to sow discord and promote violence against their political opponents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) unequivocally condemns James Comey’s apparent incitement of political violence against President Trump;

(2) urges the relevant authorities to take every relevant action to ensure that Mr. Comey is never again permitted to serve as an employee of the Federal Government; and

(3) requests that the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security conduct a full and comprehensive investigation

of Mr. Comey’s attempts to incite violence against the President, and release the findings to the relevant committees of Congress and the public.

SENATE RESOLUTION 269—RECOGNIZING THE 250TH BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KING, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCHMITT, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 269

Whereas on June 14, 1775, the Second Continental Congress, representing the citizens and patriots of the Thirteen American Colonies, authorized the establishment of the Continental Army;

Whereas the collective expression of the pursuit of personal freedom that created the United States Army also led to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and the realization of the fundamental principles and values of the United States in the Constitution;

Whereas, for the past 250 years, the Army’s central mission has been to fight and win the wars of the United States;

Whereas the 190 campaign streamers carried on the United States Army flag are a testament to the valor, commitment, and professionalism of the brave soldiers who have served “to build the Nation’s might”;

Whereas the battles of Yorktown, Gettysburg, Cantigny, Normandy, the Bulge, Okinawa, Inchon, Ia Drang, 73 Easting, Fallujah, and Kamdesh are but a few of the notable battles soldiers of the United States Army have fought with extraordinary courage and distinction;

Whereas “loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage” are the values by which the United States soldier lives and serves;

Whereas the United States Army of today is the world’s most capable and lethal ground force that “always places the mission first” and “will never accept defeat”;

Whereas Army forces are “ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat”;

Whereas no matter what the cause, location, or magnitude of future conflicts, the United States can rely on its Army to produce well-trained, well-led, and highly motivated soldiers to carry out the missions entrusted to them;

Whereas the United States Army’s motto, as carried on its flag is “This We’ll Defend.”; and

Whereas, whatever the mission, the United States turns to its Army for decisive victories as “the guardians of freedom and the American way of life”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, recognizing the historic significance of the 250th anniversary of the United States Army—

(1) expresses the appreciation of the people of the United States to the Army and the soldiers who have served in it with dedication for 250 years;

(2) honors the valor, commitment, and professionalism that United States soldiers have displayed throughout the history of the Army; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States to observe that anniversary with honorific programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 270—DESIGNATING JUNE 6, 2025, AS NATIONAL NALOXONE AWARENESS DAY

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JUSTICE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KING, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 270

Whereas the opioid epidemic continues to devastate communities across the United States, leading to a significant loss of life and widespread societal impact;

Whereas opioid overdoses during the 12 months preceding December of 2024 claimed a reported 54,101 lives in the United States;

Whereas fatal overdoses are often witnessed by a bystander;

Whereas, in 2024 alone, the Drug Enforcement Administration seized more than 380,000,000 doses of potentially deadly fentanyl, enough to kill every individual in the United States;

Whereas, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fentanyl-related poisonings are a leading cause of death for individuals in the United States between 18 and 44 years of age;

Whereas naloxone is a safe and effective medication that can reverse opioid overdoses and save lives when administered promptly by rapidly reversing the effects of opioids;

Whereas naloxone plays a vital role in preventing long-term brain damage and reducing the risk of fatality associated with opioid overdoses;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared naloxone to be a key tool in preventing opioid overdose deaths;

Whereas it is imperative to educate individuals, families, healthcare professionals, and first responders about—

(1) the benefits of naloxone, including the potential naloxone has to reduce opioid-related fatalities; and

(2) how to safely administer naloxone;

Whereas it is imperative to identify current or potential barriers, including cost, for individuals, organizations, and Federal, State, and local governments to obtain and distribute naloxone;

Whereas increasing access to naloxone can ensure that individuals struggling with opioid use disorder have a chance at recovery and a future free from the grip of opioid use disorder;

Whereas the Food and Drug Administration acted to authorize the over-the-counter sale of 4 milligram and 3 milligram doses of naloxone in 2023; and

Whereas recognizing National Naloxone Awareness Day will contribute to the ongoing efforts to educate the public, reduce the stigma associated with substance use disorder, and promote access to lifesaving naloxone: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 6, 2025, as National Naloxone Awareness Day;

(2) recognizes the life-saving benefits of naloxone in reversing opioid overdoses and preventing unnecessary deaths;

(3) acknowledges that increased access to naloxone empowers individuals, families, healthcare professionals, and first responders to intervene in emergency situations and provide immediate assistance to those experiencing an opioid overdose;

(4) recognizes that National Naloxone Awareness Day serves as an opportunity to

educate the public about the importance of recognizing the signs of opioid overdose and equipping themselves with naloxone to save lives;

(5) encourages Federal, State, and local governments, as well as private and non-profit organizations, to collaborate and allocate resources towards increasing naloxone access, education, and distribution efforts; and

(6) calls upon Federal agencies, including the Substances Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and all others engaged in the National Drug Control Strategy to continue supporting public awareness of naloxone, harm reduction, and overdose and poisoning prevention.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2348. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2307 proposed by Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2349. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KELLY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2350. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2307 proposed by Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2351. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2352. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2353. Mr. KIM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2348. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2307 proposed by Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 2, add at the end the following:
(34) SENIOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICIAL.—The term “senior executive branch official” includes the President and the Vice President.

SA 2349. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. KELLY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes;

which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 4(i) and insert the following:

(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as expanding the authority of the Board with respect to the services the Board can make directly available to the public.

(j) PREVENTING PAYMENT STABLECOIN CORRUPTION.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “covered former special Government employee” means an individual who—

(i) served as a special Government employee associated with the Executive Office of the President on or after January 1, 2024; and

(ii) ceased to serve as a special Government employee associated with the Executive Office of the President during the period beginning on January 2, 2024 and ending on the day before the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) the term “covered individual” means—

(i) the President;

(ii) the Vice President;

(iii) a Member of Congress;

(iv) an individual appointed to a Senate-confirmed position;

(v) a special Government employee associated with the Executive Office of the President; or

(vi) a covered former special Government employee;

(C) the term “directly” means by virtue of the ownership or beneficial interest of a covered individual, or the spouse or child of a covered individual, in a payment stablecoin issuer;

(D) the term “indirectly” means by virtue of the financial interest of a covered individual, or the spouse or child of a covered individual, in a business entity, partnership interest, company, investment fund, trust, or other third party in which the covered individual, or the spouse or child of a covered individual, has an ownership or beneficial interest;

(E) the term “Member of Congress” has the meaning given that term in section 13101 of title 5, United States Code;

(F) the term “promote” includes the use of the name and likeness of a covered individual in any marketing materials, including in the title of the payment stablecoin; and

(G) the term “special Government employee” has the meaning given the term in section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code.

(2) PROHIBITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any covered individual described in clauses (i) through (v) of paragraph (1)(B), or any spouse or child of such a covered individual, to directly or indirectly own, control, promote in exchange for anything of value, or affiliate with any payment stablecoin issuer or any entity that provides custodial or safekeeping services for payment stablecoins.

(B) COVERED FORMER SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—It shall be unlawful for any covered former special Government employee, or any spouse or child of a covered special Government employee, to directly or indirectly own, control, promote in exchange for anything of value, or affiliate with any payment stablecoin issuer or any entity that provides custodial or safekeeping services for payment stablecoins during the 1-year period beginning on the last day of service of the covered former special Government employee as a special Government employee associated with the Executive Office of the President.

(3) TRANSITION.—Any individual in violation of subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) on the date of enactment of this Act

shall, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, come into compliance with the applicable prohibition under that paragraph.

(4) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a violation of subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) shall be punishable by not more than 5 years in prison and fines of not more than 3 times the monetary value of any earnings related to the violation.

(B) NOT AN OFFICIAL ACT.—A violation of paragraph (2)(A) shall not be deemed an official act if committed by any covered individual described in clauses (i) through (v) of paragraph (1)(B) who is in office at the time of the violation.

(C) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any offense under this subsection unless the indictment for such offense is found, or the information for such offense is instituted, not later than 15 years after the date on which the offense was committed.

(k) FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS.—Section 13104(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) DISCLOSURE RELATING TO PAYMENT STABLECOIN INVOLVEMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) DIRECTLY.—The term ‘directly’ means by virtue of the ownership or beneficial interest of a reporting individual, or the spouse or child of a reporting individual, in a payment stablecoin issuer.

“(ii) INDIRECTLY.—The term ‘indirectly’ means by virtue of the financial interest of a reporting individual, or the spouse or child of a reporting individual, in a business entity, partnership interest, company, investment fund, trust, or other third party in which the reporting individual, or the spouse or child of a reporting individual, has an ownership or beneficial interest.

“(iii) PAYMENT STABLECOIN.—The term ‘payment stablecoin’ has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the GENIUS Act.

“(iv) PROMOTE.—The term ‘promote’ includes the use of the name and likeness of a reporting individual in any marketing materials, including in the title of the payment stablecoin.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—Each report filed pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of section 13103 shall include a statement of whether the reporting individual, or the spouse or child of the reporting individual, as of the filing date, directly or indirectly owns, controls, promotes in exchange for anything of value, or affiliates with any payment stablecoin issuer or any entity that provides custodial or safekeeping services for payment stablecoins.”.

SA 2350. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2307 proposed by Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 4(i) and insert the following:

(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed as expanding the authority of the Board with respect to the services the Board can make directly available to the public.

(j) PREVENTING CRYPTOCURRENCY CORRUPTION.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “covered cryptocurrency” means any cryptocurrency, meme coin, token, non-fungible token, payment stablecoin, or other digital asset that is sold for remuneration;

(B) the term “covered former special Government employee” means an individual who—

(i) served as a special Government employee associated with the Executive Office of the President on or after January 1, 2024; and

(ii) ceased to serve as a special Government employee associated with the Executive Office of the President during the period beginning on January 2, 2024 and ending on the day before the date of enactment of this Act;

(C) the term “covered individual” means—

(i) the President;

(ii) the Vice President;

(iii) a Member of Congress;

(iv) an individual appointed to a Senate-confirmed position;

(v) a special Government employee associated with the Executive Office of the President; or

(vi) a covered former special Government employee;

(D) the term “directly” means by virtue of the ownership or beneficial interest of a covered individual, or the spouse or child of a covered individual, in an issuer of a covered cryptocurrency;

(E) the term “indirectly” means by virtue of the financial interest of a covered individual, or the spouse or child of a covered individual, in a business entity, partnership interest, company, investment fund, trust, or other third party in which the covered individual, or the spouse or child of a covered individual, has an ownership or beneficial interest;

(F) the term “Member of Congress” has the meaning given that term in section 13101 of title 5, United States Code;

(G) the term “promote” includes the use of the name and likeness of a covered individual in any marketing materials, including in the title of the covered cryptocurrency; and

(H) the term “special Government employee” has the meaning given the term in section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code.

(2) PROHIBITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any covered individual described in clauses (i) through (v) of paragraph (1)(C), or any spouse or child of any such covered individual, to directly or indirectly own, control, promote in exchange for anything of value, or affiliate with any issuer of a covered cryptocurrency or any entity that provides custodial or safekeeping services for covered cryptocurrencies.

(B) COVERED FORMER SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—It shall be unlawful for any covered former special Government employee, or any spouse or child of a covered special Government employee, to directly or indirectly own, control, promote in exchange for anything of value, or affiliate with any issuer of a covered cryptocurrency or any entity that provides custodial or safekeeping services for covered cryptocurrencies during the 1-year period beginning on the last day of service of the covered former special Government employee as a special Government employee associated with the Executive Office of the President.

(3) TRANSITION.—Any individual in violation of subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) on the date of enactment of this Act shall, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, come into compliance with the prohibition under that paragraph.

(4) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a violation of paragraph (2) shall be punishable by not more than 5 years in prison and fines of not more than 3 times the monetary value of any earnings related to the violation.

(B) NOT AN OFFICIAL ACT.—A violation of paragraph (2)(A) shall not be deemed an official act if committed by any covered individual described in clauses (i) through (v) of paragraph (1)(C) who is in office at the time of the violation.

(C) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any offense under this subsection unless the indictment for such offense is found, or the information for such offense is instituted, not later than 15 years after the date on which the offense was committed.

(K) FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE REPORTS.—Section 13104(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) DISCLOSURE RELATING TO COVERED CRYPTOCURRENCY INVOLVEMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) COVERED CRYPTOCURRENCY.—The term ‘covered cryptocurrency’ means any cryptocurrency, meme coin, token, non-fungible token, payment stablecoin, or other digital asset that is sold for remuneration.

“(ii) DIRECTLY.—The term ‘directly’ means by virtue of the ownership or beneficial interest of a reporting individual, or the spouse or child of a reporting individual, in a covered cryptocurrency issuer.

“(iii) INDIRECTLY.—The term ‘indirectly’ means by virtue of the financial interest of a reporting individual, or the spouse or child of a reporting individual, in a business entity, partnership interest, company, investment fund, trust, or other third party in which the reporting individual, or the spouse or child of a reporting individual, has an ownership or beneficial interest.

“(iv) PAYMENT STABLECOIN.—The term ‘payment stablecoin’ has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the GENIUS Act.

“(v) PROMOTE.—The term ‘promote’ includes the use of the name and likeness of a reporting individual in any marketing materials, including in the title of the covered cryptocurrency.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—Each report filed pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of section 13103 shall include a statement of whether the reporting individual, or the spouse or child of the reporting individual, as of the filing date, directly or indirectly owns, controls, promotes in exchange for anything of value, or affiliates with any covered cryptocurrency issuer or any entity that provides custodial or safekeeping services for covered cryptocurrencies.”.

SA 2351. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT USE OF DIGITAL ASSETS.

The Federal Government may not make any payment or conduct any official business using a digital asset.

SA 2352. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, to provide for

the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . MAKE SENSE NOT CENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Make Sense Not Cents Act”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress has the sole authority to coin money and regulate currency.

(c) DISCONTINUATION OF 1-CENT COINS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury may not mint or issue a 1-cent coin.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in section 5112—

(I) in subsection (a)—

(aa) by striking paragraph (6); and

(bb) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (12) as paragraphs (6) through (11), respectively;

(II) in subsection (b), by striking the eighth sentence;

(III) by striking subsection (c);

(IV) in subsection (i), by striking “(7), (8), (9), and (10)” each place the term appears and inserting “(6), (7), (8), and (9)”;

(V) in subsection (j), by striking “(7), (8), (9), or (10)” and inserting “(6), (7), (8), or (9)”;

and

(VI) in subsection (v), by striking “paragraph (12)” each place the term appears and inserting “paragraph (11)”;

(i) in section 5113(a), by striking the third sentence; and

(iii) in section 5132(a), by striking “through (6)” each place the term appears and inserting “through (5)”.

(B) Section 408(m)(3)(A)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “paragraph (7), (8), (9), or (10)” and inserting “paragraph (6), (7), (8), or (9)”.

(d) NO EFFECT ON LEGAL TENDER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, or any amendment made by this section, one-cent coins are legal tender in the United States for all debts, public and private, public charges, taxes, and duties, regardless of the date of minting or issue.

SA 2353. Mr. KIM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 99, line 24, strike “OR” and insert “AND”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

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

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to receive testimony in open and closed session.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER MANAGEMENT, FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

The Subcommittee on Border Management, Federal Workforce, and Regulatory Affairs of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 269, S. Res. 270.

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

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

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

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

DETERRING EXTERNAL THREATS AND ENSURING ROBUST RESPONSES TO EGREGIOUS AND NEFARIOUS CRIMINAL ENDEAVORS ACT

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 1136 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1136) to authorize sentencing enhancements for certain criminal offenses directed by or coordinated with foreign governments.

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

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 1136) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1136

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 "Deterring External Threats and Ensuring Robust Responses to Egregious and Nefarious Criminal Endeavors Act" or the "DETERRENCE Act".

SEC. 2. KIDNAPPING.

Section 1201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i);

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

"(h) SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS FOR OFFENSES DIRECTED BY OR COORDINATED WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a) may be increased by up to 10 years if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

"(2) CONSPIRACY.—The sentence of a person convicted of conspiring to commit a violation of subsection (a) as part of a conspiracy under the elements specified in subsection (c) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

"(A) 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

"(B) the person convicted of conspiring to commit a violation of subsection (a) knew that 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

"(3) ATTEMPT.—The sentence of a person convicted of an attempt to violate subsection (a) may be increased by up to 5 years if such attempt was knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.";

(3) in subsection (i), as so designated, by inserting "DEFINITION.—" before "As used in this section".

SEC. 3. USE OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE FACILITIES IN THE COMMISSION OF MURDER-FOR-HIRE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1958 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c);

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS FOR OFFENSES DIRECTED BY OR COORDINATED WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a)—

"(1) may be increased by up to 5 years, if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

"(2) may be increased by up to 10 years—

"(A) if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

"(B) personal injury results.";

(3) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by inserting "DEFINITIONS.—" before "As used in this section".

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2332b(g)(2) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "section 1958(b)(2)" and inserting "section 1958".

(2) Section 1010A(d) of the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 960a(d)) is amended by striking "section 1958(b)(1)" and inserting "section 1958".

SEC. 4. INFLUENCING, IMPEDING, OR RETALIATING AGAINST A FEDERAL OFFICIAL BY THREATENING OR INJURING A FAMILY MEMBER.

Section 115(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a), if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government—

"(A) may be increased by up to 5 years if the offense committed was an assault involving physical contact with the victim of that assault or the intent to commit another felony;

"(B) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

"(i) the offense committed was an assault resulting in bodily injury (including serious bodily injury (as that term is defined in section 1365 of this title));

"(ii) the offense involved any conduct that, if the conduct occurred in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, would violate section 2241 or 2242 of this title; or

"(iii) a dangerous weapon was used during and in relation to the offense; and

"(C) may be increased by up to 10 years if the offense committed was a murder, attempted murder, or conspiracy to murder.".

SEC. 5. STALKING.

Section 2261A of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "Whoever—" and inserting "(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), whoever—"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(b) ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES INVOLVING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government—

"(1) may be increased by up to 5 years if—

"(A) serious bodily injury (including permanent disfigurement or life threatening bodily injury) to the victim results;

"(B) the offender uses a dangerous weapon during the offense; or

"(C) the victim of the offense is under the age of 18 years;

"(2) may be increased by up to 10 years if death of the victim results; and

"(3) may be increased by up to 30 months in any other case.".

SEC. 6. PROTECTION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Section 1114 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) SENTENCE ENHANCEMENTS FOR OFFENSES DIRECTED BY OR COORDINATED WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a) may be increased by up to 10 years if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination

with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.”.

SEC. 7. PRESIDENTIAL AND PRESIDENTIAL STAFF ASSASSINATION, KIDNAPING, AND ASSAULT.

Section 1751 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (f) through (k) as subsections (g) through (i), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f)(1) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (a), (b), or (c) may be increased by up to 10 years if such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

“(2) The sentence of a person convicted of conspiring to kill or kidnap any individual designated in subsection (a) as part of a conspiracy under the elements specified in subsection (d) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

“(A) 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government; and

“(B) the person convicted of conspiring to kill or kidnap an individual designated in subsection (a) knew that 1 or more of the persons involved in such conspiracy were knowingly acting in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

“(3) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (e) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

“(A) the victim was any person designated in subsection (a)(1); and

“(B) such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

“(4) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (e) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

“(A) the victim was any person designated in subsection (a)(2); and

“(B) such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

“(5) The sentence of a person convicted of an offense under subsection (e) may be increased by up to 10 years if—

“(A)(i) the offense involved the use of a dangerous weapon; or

“(ii) personal injury resulted; and

“(B) such offense was committed knowingly at the direction of or in coordination with a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.”.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 11; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of pro-

ceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 173; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to Calendar No. 173 ripen at 12 noon and if cloture is invoked on Executive Calendar No. 173, the postcloture time expire at 2 p.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Long nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed on Monday, June 9, with respect to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, and amendment No. 2307 ripen at 2 p.m. tomorrow; and also notwithstanding rule XXII, it be in order for Senator MURPHY or his designee to make motions to discharge S.J. Res. 53 and 54 at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow and if made, there be up to 2 hours of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees concurrently on the motions and upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the motion to discharge in the order listed.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:49 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. CASTANEDA
BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL P. CRUFF
BRIG. GEN. LESLIE S. HADLEY
BRIG. GEN. JENNIE R. JOHNSON
BRIG. GEN. LORI C. JONES
BRIG. GEN. PRESTON F. MCFARREN
BRIG. GEN. STACEY L. SCARISBRICK
BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN E. SLADE
BRIG. GEN. DEAN D. SNIEGOWSKI

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JOHN B. HINSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. KENT J. LIGHTNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADES INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TODD L. ERSKINE

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID G. BARRETT

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE TO THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 8046:

To be major general

COL. CHRISTOPHER G. TOLAR

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) CHRISTOPHER D. STONE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) DAVID M. BUZZETTI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) DAVID J. FAEHNLE
REAR ADM. (LH) JOAQUIN MARTINEZDEPINILLOS
REAR ADM. (LH) DONALD M. PLUMMER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) KRISTIN ACQUAVELLA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MATTHEW CASE

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT J. HUTT
BRIG. GEN. ANTHONY J. MASTALIR
BRIG. GEN. BRIAN D. SIDARI

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 10, 2025:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DAVID FOTOUHI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

STEPHEN VADEN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ANDREW HUGHES, OF TEXAS, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.